THE CAUSES

IN 2016-17 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN WERE:

- 10x MORE LIKELY TO grow up in OOHC than non-Indigenous children. Less than HALF of these children were living with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family members or carers.

- 25% of the clients ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS services were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and of those clients, one in four was a child under the age of 10 years.

- 1.3x MORE LIKELY TO HAVE POOR MENTAL HEALTH

- EMOTIONAL ABUSE, which can include exposure to family violence, was the most common primary child protection concern for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

- The trauma associated with CHILD REMOVAL is intergenerational. Direct descendants of the Stolen Generations are 1.3 times more likely to have poor mental health than other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

THE ISSUES

- FAMILY VIOLENCE

- POVERTY

- INTER-GENERATIONAL TRAUMA

- CHILD REMOVAL
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 5 year olds are 2.5 times more likely to be developmentally delayed. And yet they are accessing early childhood education and care at half the rate of non-Indigenous children.

In 2016-17 only 17% of overall child protection funding was invested in support services for children and their families, while 83% was invested in child protection services.

The solutions

Ensuring the best start in life

Investing in child and family services

Participation in decision-making

THE BULK OF FUNDING IS USED TO REACT TO PROBLEMS RATHER THAN SOLVE THEM.

Only two states (Vic & Qld) have a statewide program to support Aboriginal families to participate in child protection decisions. Only the same two states have agreed on a comprehensive strategy to improve outcomes for children that is overseen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives.

**PROGRESS TO TURN THE TIDE ON OVER-REPRESENTATION**

**2018 REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT**

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**KEY**
- Very poor
- Poor
- Promising/improving
- Stronger practice/outcomes

We call upon the Council of Australian Governments to work in partnership with SNAICC and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders across the country, to develop a generational Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Strategy to eliminate over-representation in out-of-home care and address the causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child removal.