2019 SNAPSHOT DATA

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

37.3% of the total number of children in out-of-home care, but only 5.5% of the total number of children in Australia.

In 2018, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were:

10.2x MORE LIKELY TO BE living in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children.

49.4% LESS LIKELY TO be living with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family members or carers.

7x MORE LIKELY TO BE ON A permanent care order until aged 18 and at risk of permanent separation from their families, cultures and communities.

In NSW, Aboriginal children are nearly twice (1.8x) AS LIKELY to be on a permanent care order compared to the national average.

In 2018, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are living below the poverty line, and people accessing homelessness services are 9.4 times more likely to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

NEARLY 1 IN 3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness are children.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are:

2.6x more likely to be developmentally delayed at the age of 5.

attending child care services at half the rate of non-Indigenous children and being excluded from these services with the introduction of the New Child Care Package and associated Activity Test. far more likely to be reported to a child protection service before they are born. (In WA, as much as 60.9% of unborn reports).

The trauma associated with child removal is inter-generational. Children living with members of the Stolen Generations, when compared with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are:

1.8x AS LIKELY TO HAVE POOR SELF-ASSESSED HEALTH

1.6x AS LIKELY TO LIVE IN HOUSEHOLD WITH CASH-FLOW PROBLEMS
We call on the Council of Australian Governments to work in partnership with SNAICC and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders to:

**Develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander national children’s strategy** with generational targets to eliminate over-representation and address the causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child removal.

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**Building Block 1**
Access to universal and targeted services

*Invest in early intervention and prevention focused child and family services.*

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**Building Block 2**
Participation and control in decision-making

*Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander decision-making through investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations (ACCOs).*

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**Building Block 3**
Culturally safe and responsive policies and practice

*Adopt national standards for implementing all five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle instead of focusing on legal permanent care orders.*

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**Building Block 4**
Governments and services are accountable

*Establish national and state-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people’s commissioners and improved data across the country.*

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**2019 REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT**

**HEADLINE INDICATOR**
Over-representation in OOHC (rate)

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**BUILDING BLOCK 1**
Universal and targeted services

**BUILDING BLOCK 2**
Participation, control and self-determination

**BUILDING BLOCK 3**
Culturally safe and responsive systems

**BUILDING BLOCK 4**
Governments and services are accountable

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**POLICY**
All states and territories have committed to the five elements through the National Framework for Protecting Children but there are no agreed standards to guide policy and practice.

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*Victoria and Queensland fund ACCOs to facilitate family participation across the state. Only Victoria and Queensland fund ACCOs to facilitate family participation across the state.*

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*South Australia and Victoria are the only states to have a dedicated commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.*

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*Tasmania excluded due to poor identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.*

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