

## Overview of SA Government strategies

SA is committed to implementing active efforts, across government and in partnership with Aboriginal communities, to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the child protection system and embed Family Matters principles. Reflecting this commitment, in 2019-20 the SA Government:

- Released [Safe and well: supporting families, protecting children](#) (December 2019) a new whole-of-government framework to better support vulnerable families, protect children from harm and invest in their future. Importantly, Safe and Well commits the Government to shifting the way it works with Aboriginal children, families and communities to reduce overrepresentation in all parts of the system and provide culturally safe services. Implementation of Safe and Well is guided by an interagency subcommittee established to lead activity, underpinned by Family Matters principles, to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and families.
- Undertook a [co-design process](#) of the new Child and Family Support System to support families and parents to keep children safe at home, connected to culture and community. Co-design was informed by extensive consultations with Aboriginal leaders and communities. As part of this process, the Government is re-commissioning all intensive child and family support services, and has committed to 30% of funding to be set aside for ACCOs.
- Opened a [new purpose built unit](#) at the Women's and Children's Hospital. The unit provides a culturally safe space for Aboriginal women, complementing the Aboriginal Family Birthing Program.
- Released the [Youth Justice State Plan 2020-23 Young People Connected, Communities protected](#) which has a focus on addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in the criminal justice system. The Plan recognises the importance of Aboriginal culture, and ensuring Aboriginal participation across service design and delivery.
- Established an interagency committee to support educational outcomes for children in care. The committee developed a 12-month action plan that includes specific actions to support the educational participation of Aboriginal children. This work supports implementation of the [Aboriginal Education Strategy 2019-29](#).
- Provided funding to support the activities of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, and committed to embed the Commissioner's role in legislation.

In addition, the Department for Child Protection (DCP) has:

- Implemented its inaugural [Aboriginal Action Plan 2019-20](#), which utilises the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) as a framework for action with a commitment to active implementation efforts across each of the core principles.
- Established an [Expert Aboriginal Child Protection Advisory Committee](#) comprised of state and national experts to support DCP to increase Aboriginal governance and inform child protection policies, programs and practice.
- Engaged three ACCOs to deliver a [new program to support kinship carers](#) of Aboriginal children and young people as part of efforts to transfer responsibilities for kinship support to Aboriginal providers. With an investment of \$3 million over

two years, the program recognises that Aboriginal organisations are best placed to deliver culturally safe and responsive services.

- Implemented a \$1.6 million [Family Group Conferencing service](#) delivered by Relationships Australia South Australia, with a strong focus on supporting Aboriginal families through its 'Ngartuitya' (Kurna word meaning 'for the children') program.
- Following consultation with Aboriginal communities, announced that the Government will not pursue adoption for Aboriginal children, confirming that the ATSI CPP will continue to provide the framework for permanency planning.
- Increased the percentage of Aboriginal children in care with a completed Aboriginal Cultural Identity Support Tool to 56.5% as at 30 June 2020 (from 20.2%).
- Increased spending with Aboriginal organisations to 5.7% of the department's total expenditure as at December 2019, and released the DCP Aboriginal Procurement Policy setting future targets (6% by 2020-21 and 7% by 2021-22).
- Increased Aboriginal employment to 5.2% of the department's workforce as at May 2020, an increase from 4.8% in May 2019 (driven by implementation of the DCP Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2019-22).
- Continued to provide funding and support to the Family Matters SA Working Group and Reconciliation South Australia.