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Mr Richard Weston
Co-Chair
Family Matters
PO Box 1144
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Via email: ceo@snaicc.org.au

Dear Mr Weston

RE: UPDATE ON THE 2020 FAMILY MATTERS REPORT

Thank you for your letter dated 12 June 2020 to the Hon Dale Wakefield MLA, Minister for Territory Families, requesting an update to inform the 2020 Family Matters Report. The Minister has asked that I respond on her behalf.

I have considered your request and attach an overview of strategies the Northern Territory (NT) Government is implementing to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care and improve outcomes for Aboriginal families. The requested performance and investment data for 2018-19 is also attached. I also draw your attention to our recent response to you regarding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in which we outlined the progress of our reforms that are improving outcomes for Aboriginal children and families.

The NT Government has maintained a strong reform agenda to improve child protection, out-of-home care and youth justice systems, and to increasingly direct investment towards prevention and early support. Our service delivery aims to be culturally responsive, coordinated and targeted, and recognise that families and communities must be involved in the decisions that affect their lives. Building cultural intelligence into program design and building capacity for Aboriginal ownership and control has been, and will continue to be, a major focus of our reform agenda.

While there is still work to do, as these reforms become embedded we are starting to see positive results. We remain committed to transforming the way we work with Aboriginal families and communities to support better outcomes across all life domains, and to reach the Family Matters goal to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care by 2040.

Yours sincerely



Ken Davies PSM
Chief Executive Officer
13 July 2020