



Position Statement on Family Matters National Reflective Practice Tool

Prepared by Family Matters Queensland, November 2020

The Family Matters Queensland Leadership Group is committed to driving the continued development and use of the Family Matters National Reflective Practice Tool (referred to as 'Reflective Practice Tool').

Family Matters is Australia's national campaign to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care and ensure children grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture.

Family Matters is led by *SNAICC – National Voice for our Children* and a group of eminent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders from across the country. It is supported by a strategic alliance of over 150 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous organisations.

Signing the Family Matters Statement of Commitment reflects a genuine intent to work collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their organisations to end this over-representation.

The Tool

The Reflective Practice Tool is developed for signatories of the Family Matters campaign to deeply reflect on their practice on an annual basis and identify any strengths, challenges and corresponding actions to effectively implementing the six core principles and four building blocks of the campaign to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are safe, well and cared for in their families, communities and cultures.

The Reflective Practice Tool is an accountability mechanism that assists signatories to reflect on how they are upholding their commitment and to identify actions to take in accordance with each principle as outlined in the tool.

This is currently the only tool that ensures a cultural lens is applied to reflecting on application of the five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP): connection, participation, prevention, partnership and placement. It is complimentary to national and state standards under which we work in Queensland, including the Human Services Quality Framework, the Our Way Strategy and Reconciliation Action Plans.

The Approach

The Family Matters Queensland Leadership Group is using a phased approach to implementation of the Reflective Practice Tool and continuing to seek partnership with stakeholders (including government, non-government organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations) to advance use of tool.

Phase 1. 2019

The tool was released in July 2019 as the Family Matters Self-Audit Tool. Queensland trialed use of the tool from July 2019 – June 2020. The findings from that trial can be read in [Queensland Family Matters Self-Audit Tool Trial Findings](#) (July 2020) available on the Family Matters website, www.familymatters.org.au

Phase 2. 2020 - 2021

The tool has been adapted based on some of the recommendations from the phase 1 Queensland trial with a focus on ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are privileged and partnership approaches are undertaken. Queensland signatories are now welcome to participate in the phase 2 trial of the revised Family Matters National Reflective Practice Tool for further development, under the guidance of the Family Matters Leadership Group.

Phase 3. 2021 and beyond

The National Family Matters Leadership Group will continue to work with Family Matters Queensland to develop the tool further with a goal to launch the tool as an online resource available publicly during the Family Matters National Week of Action in May 2021.

To further discuss the Family Matters campaign or the Reflective Practice Tool, please contact the Family Matters Qld secretariat, Eva Ruggiero, at qldfamilymatters@qatsicpp.com.au or (07) 3518 0071.