



Strong communities. Strong culture. Stronger children.



9 December 2020

SNAICC AND FAMILY MATTERS COMMEND STRONGER POWERS FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA ABORIGINAL CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

SNAICC and the Family Matters National Leadership Group welcome the recent announcement of increased powers for South Australia's Aboriginal Children's Commissioner.

Last week, Minister Gardner introduced the Bill to amend the Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016, to establish the position of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People in legislation. This will place the role on equal footing with South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People.

SA Aboriginal Children's Commissioner April Lawrie will be conducting independent inquiries and formal investigations into issues such as the removal of Aboriginal babies from their mothers at birth and the adherence of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in South Australia – so that our children can grow up safe with their family in community and culture.

SNAICC CEO Richard Weston expressed his support for the amendments.

“We are pleased that the South Australian Aboriginal Children's Commissioner role has been granted appropriate functions and powers to ensure systemic change and accountability for our children as it should always have been.”

The amendment supports the Family Matters campaign that calls for a commissioner in every Australian state and territory, as well as a national commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people to advocate for the rights of children and create accountability for systems and better practice.

Family Matters Co-Chair Sue-Anne Hunter says,

“A commissioner role should conform with the Paris Principles – the human rights guidelines set out by the United Nations. It should be established by legislation and be granted appropriate functions and powers to promote change and accountability through inquiry and investigation.

“We are confident that Commissioner Lawrie can move forward in ensuring our children have the right to be heard and the government are kept accountable to the Family Matters and Closing the Gap targets to reduce the over-representation of our kids in out-of-home care.”

– Sue-Anne Hunter, Family Matters Co-Chair



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SNAICC
National Voice for our Children

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For more information, please visit www.snaicc.org.au and www.familymatters.org.au or contact:

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About Family Matters

Family Matters is Australia's national campaign to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up safe and cared for in family, community, and culture.

The Family Matters campaign aims to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 2040.

Join us on social media and find out more at www.familymatters.org.au