



FAMILY MATTERS

Strong communities. Strong culture.
Stronger children.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN



21.5K CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

6%

OF ALL CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA BUT

39%

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME



10 x

MORE LIKELY TO BE LIVING IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE THAN NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

2013

53%



2020

42%

LESS THAN HALF ARE LIVING WITH ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CARERS



LESS LIKELY TO BE REUNIFIED WITH BIRTH PARENTS THAN NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

79%

IN LONG-TERM 'PERMANENT' CARE

40

2015-20



23

2010-15

ADOPTIONS OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

ADOPTIONS OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN



9.4 x

MORE LIKELY TO ACCESS SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

FAMILIES EXPERIENCE INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA FROM THE STOLEN GENERATIONS



FAMILIES EXPERIENCE LOWER EMPLOYMENT RATES AND LOWER LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

70%



MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A LOW BIRTHWEIGHT THAN NON-INDIGENOUS BABIES

35%

0-5 YEARS

LESS LIKELY TO ATTEND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE THAN NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

2.5 x

MORE LIKELY

TO BE DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE IN TWO OR MORE DOMAINS BY AGE 5



2021



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SNAPSHOT DATA

NUMBER OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN IN CARE PROJECTED TO INCREASE BY **54%** BY 2030
 COMPARED TO AN INCREASE OF **19%** FOR NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

CHILD PROTECTION FUNDING

REMOVAL

VS

FAMILY SUPPORT

84% ON INTERVENTION AND OUT-OF-HOME CARE
 BUT
16% ON SUPPORT

THE NATIONAL AGREEMENT

**CLOSING THE GAP
 NEW TARGET**



BY **2031**

REDUCE



BY **45%**

THE OVER-REPRESENTATION OF OUR CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE



ABORIGINAL-LED SOLUTIONS



Family Matters calls for investment in community-led solutions and a national commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to eliminate over-representation of our children in out-of-home care

BLOCK	BUILDING BLOCK 1	BUILDING BLOCK 2	BUILDING BLOCK 3	BUILDING BLOCK 4
	Access to universal and targeted services	Participation and control in decision-making	Culturally safe and responsive policies and practice	Accountable governments and services
SOLUTION	Invest in community-controlled organisations to provide culturally safe early intervention and prevention services	Establish resourced legislative roles for participation of community-controlled organisations in all child protection decisions	Permanency planning that supports Aboriginal child rights. Invest in Aboriginal-led family reunification programs	Establish and resource commissioners and peak bodies for our children. Build partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to oversee data and outcomes for children
EXAMPLE	Aboriginal-led early intervention and prevention services and holistic integrated early years services such as MACS and ACFCs	Delegation of child protection decision-making (Qld and Vic.) and Aboriginal-led out-of-home care and kinship programs (eg NSW, Vic., NT and SA)	Keeping families together sooner, more often, and for longer, through community-led family reunification programs (eg Qld and Vic.)	Aboriginal commissioners for children in each state and territory (SA, Vic., Qld) and deputy guardian (NSW)

2021 REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT	HEADLINE INDICATOR Over-representation in OOHc (rate)	BUILDING BLOCK 1	BUILDING BLOCK 2	BUILDING BLOCK 3	BUILDING BLOCK 4
		Universal and targeted services	Participation, control in decision-making	Culturally safe and responsive systems	Accountability
ACT	13.8				
NSW	9.9				
NT	11.1				
QLD	8.5				
SA	10.8				
TAS	4.6				
VIC	17.2				
WA	17.6				

KEY ■ Very poor ■ Poor ■ Promising/improving ■ Stronger practice/outcomes