



**SNAICC**  
National Voice for our Children



**FAMILY MATTERS**

Strong communities. Strong culture.  
Stronger children.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
**CHILDREN**



**22,297** CHILDREN IN  
OUT-OF-HOME CARE

**42%**

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

BUT ONLY

**5%** OF ALL CHILDREN  
IN AUSTRALIA



**10 x**

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

2013

**53%**



2022

**40%**

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

**80%**

OF ADOPTIONS OF OUR CHILDREN  
IN THE LAST 5 YEARS WERE TO  
NON-INDIGENOUS PARENTS

A RECENT SPIKE IN ADOPTION

**42**

2016-2021



**25**

2010-15

ADOPTIONS OF ABORIGINAL AND  
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN



**10 x**

MORE LIKELY TO  
ACCESS SPECIALIST  
HOMELESSNESS  
SERVICES

FAMILIES EXPERIENCE  
INTERGENERATIONAL  
TRAUMA FROM  
THE STOLEN  
GENERATIONS



EXPERIENCE LOWER  
EMPLOYMENT RATES  
AND LOWER LEVELS  
OF EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING



**2 x** MORE LIKELY  
TO HAVE A  
LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

**1.3 x** EXPERIENCE HIGHER  
RATES OF CHILD  
MORTALITY

THAN NON-INDIGENOUS BABIES

**67%**

0-4 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

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
**FAMILIES**

**A CYCLE OF POVERTY**



2022



**FAMILY MATTERS**

**SNAPSHOT DATA**

# CLOSING THE GAP NEW TARGET



BY **2031**  
**REDUCE**



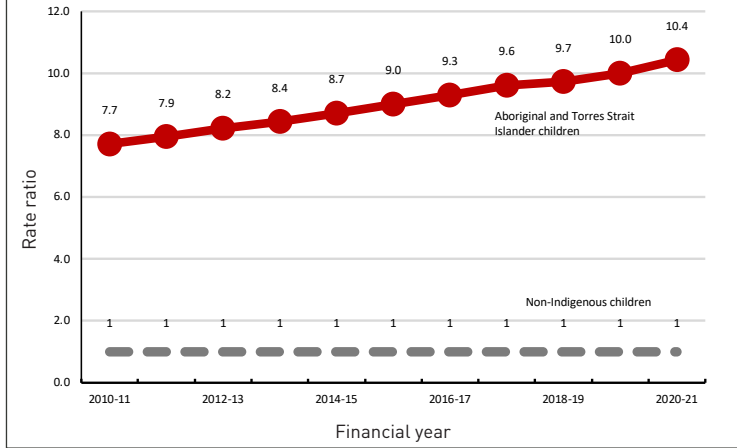
BY **45%**

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

## TURN THE TIDE

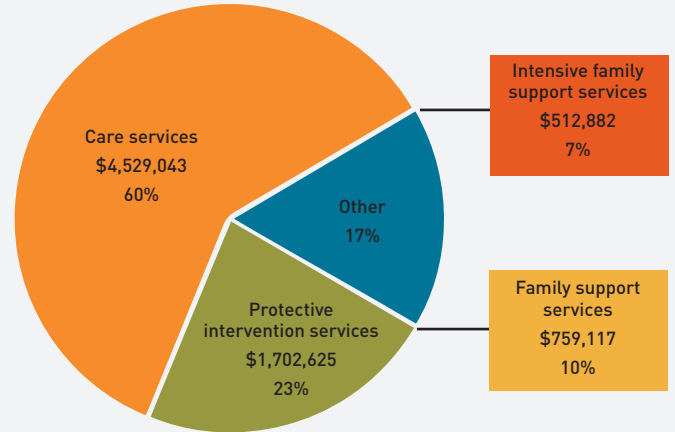
PROJECTED TO INCREASE BY 50% BY 2032

10-year trend of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care



## FAMILY SUPPORT vs REMOVAL

83.1% spent on intervention services and out-of-home care, but only 16.9% spent on support services



# 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 the 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)

2022 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				
NSW	10.5				
NT	13.8				
QLD	8.8				
SA	11.1				
TAS	4.9				
VIC	17.3				
WA	18.2				

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