



# ACT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AGREEMENT 2019—2028

Delivering equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

## CORE FOCUS AREA: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GROWING UP SAFELY IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME BY FOCUSING ON:

- Taking every opportunity to maintain children and young people with family.
- Delivering quality services that support the positive development, health and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Every child and young person having access to quality early childhood services to support learning.
- Fostering connection to a safe and strong community.

## TARGETS TO ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME

These targets are indicative and may be updated following the Closing the Gap refresh.

Targets will be monitored and reviewed periodically throughout the implementation of the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028*:

### Closing the Gap

- Increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census to 45 per cent by 2028.
- 95 per cent of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander four year olds enrolled in early childhood education by 2025.
- A significant and sustained reduction in violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children.
- Significant and sustained progress to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care.

### ACT

- Increase the level of early support responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.
- Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people referred to and engaged with preservation services by 2020.
- Increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people referred to and engaged with restoration services by 2020.
- Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under four years old accessing Early Childhood Education Services.
- Increase in the number of families engaged with formal parenting and family support services for detainees and post release.
- Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people provided with the opportunity to voice their views and demonstrate leadership in the broader community.
- Increase in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people accessing early support health services.



## PRIORITY ACTIONS

The Priority Actions will be progressed during the first 18 months of the Agreement. Further actions will be determined over the course of the Agreement.

- Continue to support the *Our Booris, Our Way* review of the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the ACT child protection system, and implement initiatives that address the *Our Booris, Our Way* review recommendations.
- Develop and disseminate mandatory reporter guidance for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.
- Where needed, a renewed focus on referring and engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to preservation and restoration services.
- Develop initiatives to encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student participation in the Education Directorate's student congress.
- Provide pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to access universal quality early childhood education for three year old children as a key part of the ACT Early Childhood Strategy.
- Embed the respect and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through training for Early Childhood Education Services workforce.
- Establish leadership groups for young people to engage in implementation of the ACT Planning Strategy and develop leadership skills on Country.
- Create holiday programs and resource kits through Libraries ACT branches celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.
- Provide options for government to consider that are equitable and meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children when implementing the Child Safe Standards.
- Continued commitment to funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people specific health programs delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers, and increase availability of and access to target programs within the mainstream systems.
- Provide information and support to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre and their families about parenting programs and family case conferences.
- A commitment to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and their representative bodies, including the Domestic Violence Prevention Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, on areas of future work from *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Forum on Domestic and Family Violence* reports to improve the government response to family violence and its impact on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- Design a process to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and boys to develop solutions to support a primary prevention focus on domestic and family violence.

