About Family Matters

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.

*Family Matters* aims to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care within a generation.
NINE AND A HALF TIMES.

In 2014–15, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children were 9.5 times as likely to be living in out-of-home care than non-indigenous children.

Our Strengths

Aboriginal people have been caring for their children for 40,000 years.

The strengths to redress child wellbeing and safety concerns lie within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
Principles

1) Applying a child centred approach

2) Enabling self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

3) Realising cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
Principles

4) Pursuing evidence based responses

5) Supporting, healing and strengthening families

6) Challenging systemic racism and inequities
Building Blocks

★ Secure access to the conditions necessary for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to thrive
★ Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to care for children
★ Ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations participate in decisions that impact them
★ Align legislation, policy and practices to ensure culturally safe and responsive systems and service sector
★ Hold governments and services accountable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
Campaign Strategy

1) Building a coalition for change
2) Securing a national commitment
   - COAG target & resourced national strategy
   - *Family Matters Report Card*
3) Empowering communities through a National Day of Action
4) Supporting state & territory led initiatives
How you can be involved

★ Sign on to the *Family Matters Statement of Intent* and join our Strategic Alliance
★ Promote and support the National Day of Action
★ Become a member of your Jurisdictional Working Group
★ Departmental engagement (state, territory & national)
★ Share your resources
For Discussion:

★ How could your organisation apply the Family Matters principles?
★ How can you positively influence the safety & well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children?
★ Can you think of upcoming opportunities local to you, or in your state or territory, to take action for change?
Making a Commitment

Contact: Fleur: fleur.smith@snaicc.org.au

Website: http://www.familymatters.org.au/

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Family Matters: Kids safe in culture not in care.
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