The First 1000 Days Australia

Advancing children’s development and wellbeing in the first 1000 days

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Overview of presentation:

- Culture and identity are resilience factors
- The role of the family in developing culture and identity
- Working with families to identify protective factors and cracks in the system
- The role of the family in the First 1000 Days
- The First 1000 Days Australia
- Building the evidence of what works
The Australian Model for the First 1000 Days

Family remains the primary and preferred site for developing and protecting culture and identity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

“Culture is not a ‘perk’ for an Aboriginal child – it is a life-line.”

ANDREW JACKOMOS
Victorian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

#JUSTJUSTICE
The role of family in developing culture and identity

“In relation to contemporary identity struggles [for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people], this history is not past or done with. It is present and evident in how we think and what we do today.”

(Carlson 2016:17)
The premise of First 1000 Days Australia

Family remains the primary and preferred site for developing and protecting culture and identity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
1000 Days Movement

Malnutrition affects every country on earth

(yeah) (oui) (Да) (是的) (sí) (ndiyо) (ฮ้า) (yep, here too)

#NutritionReport

Source: www.thousanddays.org

the First 1000 Days is a critical window of development.

Why the period of the First 1000 Days?
First 1000 Days Australia development

An Indigenous perspective of the First 1000 Days

The First 1000 Days Australia
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the First 1000 Days Australia remit

We have been asked to:

• Use Indigenous definition of family - multigenerational
• Include preconception
• **Ensure the process is** Indigenous led with research that is not just passive and observational
  • Include a feedback loop to inform services and families of the outcomes and impacts associated with the activities of the First 1000 Days Australia over time
• **Ensure the representation of** strong and connected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, families from conception onwards
• **Make the outcomes focus on:** Growth and development, health, emotional and cultural wellbeing
• Show successes, engagement and service use
• Future proof as best possible
A coordinated, comprehensive, place based program to address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children prior to conception and to two years thereby laying the best foundation for their future health and wellbeing
The First 1000 Days Australia

Strong Community Governance

The Australian Model will increase both opportunities for community leadership in agenda setting and decision making, and cultural responsiveness and capacity of service systems to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Family environment** is the locus of nation building and the key implementer of health gains for the next generation.

Holistic Interventions for the Life-course

- Community Capacity Profile and Needs Assessment
- Data for evidence
- Pre-conception Longitudinal Study

Service use and provision

- Early years engagement
- Early years engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities includes incentivised programs and home visits.

Service use and provision is focused on capacity building with parents, families and the workforce during the First 1000 Days.

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**Governance**

A national interdisciplinary *Community Governance Committee*

- Oversees and ensure that all strategies developed and/or translated will also be culturally appropriate, safe and embed cultural protective factors (such as knowledge, safety and ritual) for mothers, fathers and children through a strong connection to culture, Country, community and family members/key people.

- The Committee, comprised of members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, community representatives and Elders, and policymakers, will ensure that all First 1000 Days Australia initiatives are led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as co-designers, co-implementers and co-knowledge translators of research and outcomes at national and local levels.

**Local Implementation**

- Regional sites establish a local governance process for program overview and direction within their area.
Leadership in evidence

Scientific Committee

- Provides objective and independent scientific advice, and to assess and review all programs developed and implemented under First 1000 Days Australia
  - Charged with initiating, developing and coordinating the scientific and research of the First 1000 Days Australia
- Is Indigenous-led and independent and is answerable to the Community Governance Committee
Indigenous led

Indigenous methodologies
- Elder wisdom and authority
- Recognition of diversity
- Strengths-based approaches
- Inclusiveness
- Narrative practices
- Valuing of family-centred approaches
- Partnerships and collaborations
- Holistic approach

Indigenous-led interventions
- Indigenous cultural leadership
- Community governance and decision making
- Early years engagement
- Family environment
- Service use and provision
- Data for evidence

Nation building
- Life-course approach
- Multigenerational
- Family and workforce capacity building
- Integrated services
- Cultural strengthening
- Family-led enterprise

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We have only just begun...

Anytime for questions?