



# FAMILY MATTERS SA

Strong communities. Strong culture.  
Stronger children.

## Family Matters Campaign South Australia

Visit [www.familymatters.org.au](http://www.familymatters.org.au)



## What is Family Matters?

Family Matters is 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, by 2040. Out-of-home care refers to the care of a child outside the parental home, as required by the state government, including foster, residential and kinship care, family group homes and independent living.

Family Matters is led by SNAICC – National Voice for our Children (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care), the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and supported by a rapidly growing Strategic Alliance of approximately 150 dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous organisations.

## Why is Family Matters needed?

Most Australians take for granted the right to grow up happy, safe and well, learning and surrounded by family. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, growing up with family and culture is not only a human right, but is also crucial to assisting the healing process from intergenerational trauma caused by decades of injustice. Yet in 2016, Aboriginal children are removed from their families, community and culture at a rate nearly 10 times that of non-Indigenous children.

When the ground-breaking Bringing Them Home report was released in 1997, Australia was shocked to learn that 20% of children living within the child protection system were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Now, nearly 20 later, they are 35% of all kids in the system. This is a national crisis that needs urgent attention to redress the underlying causes of removal – poverty, intergenerational trauma and discrimination.



## **Family Matters Six Core Principles**

Family Matters operates under six core principles, which underpin all campaign relationships, strategies and activities. These principles are:

- Applying a child-focused approach
- Ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations participate in and have control over decisions that affect their children
- Protecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's right to live in culture
- Pursuing evidence-based responses
- Supporting, healing and strengthening families
- Challenging systemic racism and inequities.

## **Measuring Success – Campaign sub-targets**

In addition to our overarching goal of eliminating over-representation, members of the Family Matters campaign are working towards a comprehensive set of short and mid-term targets to indicate improved levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child safety and wellbeing:

1. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to enjoy equal access to early intervention and prevention services as non-Indigenous children by 2020.
2. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the out-of-home system to enjoy equal rates of reunification with their parents or family as non-Indigenous children by 2025.
3. To eliminate the over-representation in rates of notification of child abuse or neglect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by 2030.
4. To eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to a substantiation of child abuse or neglect by 2035.
5. To eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to an order of removal into the out-of-home system by 2035.

## Family Matters Vision

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up safely in their family and culture, receive a good education, and have the opportunity to grow up healthy, happy and proud of who they are.

## Family Matters – South Australia

In South Australia a working group has been established and is supported by the Child and Family Welfare Association of South Australia. The Family Matters Working Group South Australia has undertaken to progress and drive change efforts in accordance with the National Family Matters campaign priorities here in South Australia

## How can you support the Family Matters Campaign?

Organisations are encouraged to sign the Statement of Commitment to show their support for the campaign.

Individuals are invited to sign up to the Newsletter and receive regular updates about the campaign.

You can do both of these things by visiting the Family Matters website [www.familymatters.org.au](http://www.familymatters.org.au)

OR

Keep in touch through social media:



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/familymattersau](http://www.facebook.com/familymattersau)



Twitter: [twitter.com/fam\\_matters\\_au](https://twitter.com/fam_matters_au)



Instagram: [instagram.com/familymattersau](https://www.instagram.com/familymattersau)

