

**SUBMISSION
TO
INDIGENOUS HEALTH
CONSULTATIONS**

11 APRIL 2017

FamiliesAustralia

14 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Families Australia

15 What type of organisation is it?

Community organisation

16 What is the role of your organisation?

Organisation role:

Policy analysis and development

17 Where does your organisation operate? (select the most appropriate answer options)

National

State/Territory:

Based in ACT with National coverage

postcode:

2600

Suburb/Town/Community:

Barton

18 If you or your organisation are making a representation on behalf of another organisation or group, please tell us who it is and its role.

Other organisation:

N/A

Connection to family, community, country and culture

1 We are looking for experiences, ideas and evidence that show how connection to family, community, country and culture can be enhanced or maintained. Please tell us your story.

Culture story:

Families Australia is a national, peak, not-for-profit organisation that strives to improve the wellbeing of Australian families, especially those who experience the greatest vulnerability and marginalisation. Families Australia does this by providing policy advice to, and working with, the Australian Government and Parliament on behalf of more than 800 member organisations around Australia. In recognition of Families Australia's commitment to improving the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, National Voice for our Children - SNAICC has held at least one position on the Families Australia Board since 2001. The CEO of Families Australia has actively contributed extensively to the development of the Family Matters Campaign, a campaign auspiced by SNAICC. Family Matters aspires to the vision that "All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up safely in their home, receive a good education, and grow up healthy and proud of who they are."

Since 2007, Families Australia has coordinated the Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children, a consortium of around 200 major non-government community service organisations and prominent researchers from across Australia who work closely with the Australian, State and Territory Governments to implement the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 (National Framework).

The development and implementation of the National Framework has built knowledge, commitment and collaboration to improve child and family wellbeing with a strong focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. Working closely with SNAICC and Indigenous academics has been critical in implementing the first and second three year action plans. The second action plan included Ministers' (Comm and State) agreement to 2 workshops on improve outcomes for the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal children (Knowledge Circle, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle). Knowledge and connections gained from these workshops and other consultations led to the focus on Aboriginal children and young people in the Third Action Plan. Families Australia's submission takes into account the learnings identified from the above workshops and work on implementation of the National Framework. The reports on the two workshops, mentioned above, can be provided if needed.

2 What are your key recommendation(s)? (one sentence per recommendation please) What needs to happen?

culture_recommendations:

Recommendations have a child safety and wellbeing focus grounded in a community development approach:

1. Adopt and implement the SNAICC Voice of our Children Family Matter - Strong communities. Strong culture. Stronger children.
2. Fully implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle

3 References: If there is a published paper, a website, a trial or an evaluation that shows the impacts of your recommendation(s), please enter this information below.

Culture references:

www.snaicc.org.au

4 Is this recommendation about...?

Family, Community, Country, Culture, Language

5 If this entry also relates strongly to one or more of the other determinants of health, please select which ones below. There is no need to re-enter the same information under different categories.

Racism, Early childhood development, education & youth, Interaction with government systems, Law and justice, Health choices

6 Upload further supporting documents here, should you wish to.

culture upload:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle Workshop.pdf was uploaded

Racism

1 We are looking for experiences, ideas and evidence that show how racism can be prevented or reduced. Please tell us your story.

racism story:

2 What are your key recommendation(s)? (one sentence per recommendation please) What needs to happen?

racism recommendations:

3 References: If there is a published paper, a website, a trial or an evaluation that shows the impacts of your recommendation(s), please enter this information below.

racism reference:

4 If this entry also relates strongly to one or more of the other determinants of health, please select which ones below. There is no need to re-enter the same information under different categories.

5 Upload further supporting documents here, should you wish to.

racism upload:

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Early childhood development, education and youth

1 We are looking for experiences, ideas and evidence that show how to strengthen early learning, educational engagement and achievement. Please tell us your story.

education story:

Families Australia's collaboration with SNAICC - National Voice for our Children in both the development of the Family Matters campaign and implementation of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 has identified the need to keep children connected to their families and communities to ensure they succeed in early learning, educational engagement and achievement.

2 What are your key recommendation(s)? (one sentence per recommendation please) What needs to happen?

education recommendations:

1. Implementation of the Family Matters campaign

3 References: If there is a published paper, a website, a trial or an evaluation that shows the impacts of your recommendation(s), please enter this information below.

education references:

Family Matters - SNAICC - National Voice for our Children

4 Is this recommendation about...?

Other

5 If this entry also relates strongly to one or more of the other determinants of health, please select which ones below. There is no need to re-enter the same information under different categories.

Connection to family, community, country & culture, Racism, Employment & income, Housing, environment & infrastructure, Interaction with government systems, Law and justice, Health choices

6 Upload further supporting documents here, should you wish to.

education upload:

No file was uploaded

Employment and Income

1 We are looking for experiences, ideas and evidence that show how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can access better prospects for employment, entrepreneurship, professional development, promotion and income. Please tell us your story.

employment story:

2 What are your key recommendation(s)? (one sentence per recommendation please) What needs to happen?

employment recommendations:

3 References: If there is a published paper, a website, a trial or an evaluation that shows the impacts of your recommendation(s), please enter this information below.

employment references:

4 Is this recommendation about...?

5 If this entry also relates strongly to one or more of the other determinants of health, please select which ones below. There is no need to re-enter the same information under different categories.

6 Upload further supporting documents here, should you wish to.

employment upload:

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Interaction with government systems

1 We are looking for experiences, ideas and evidence that show how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' access to and interaction with government systems can be improved. Please tell us your story.

systems story:

Families Australia's work on implementing the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 and its linkages to the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 has shown the need to make government services more welcoming.

Consultation's on the Third Action Plan of the National Framework identified that universal services needed to move from a 'reporting' frame to one of 'responding and supporting'. This would recognise that parenting is a skill that is learnt and encourage parents to be able to ask for help rather than fear the consequences of seeking help.

These ideas around improving interactions with government systems have been further developed during the current round of Third Action Plan forums with the identification of the need for hubs based at schools and/or wrap around service models with maternal child health and child care at the centre of delivery.

2 What are your key recommendation(s)? (one sentence per recommendation please) What needs to happen?

systems recommendations:

1. Better educate universal services to respond and support families reaching out for assistance.
2. In consultation and engagement with the local community implement hubs/wrap around services.

3 References: If there is a published paper, a website, a trial or an evaluation that shows the impacts of your recommendation(s), please enter this information below.

systems references:

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children Third Action Plan 2015-18 (DSS.gov.au)

4 If this entry also relates strongly to one or more of the other determinants of health, please select which ones below. There is no need to re-enter the same information under different categories.

Connection to family, community, country & culture

5 Upload further supporting documents here, should you wish to.

systems upload:

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Law and Justice

1 We are looking for experiences, ideas and evidence that show how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offending and incarceration can be reduced, and ways court and police interactions with Indigenous people can be improved. Please tell us your story.

justice story:

2 What are your key recommendation(s)? (one sentence per recommendation please) What needs to happen?

justice recommendations:

3 References: If there is a published paper, a website, a trial or an evaluation that shows the impacts of your recommendation(s), please enter this information below.

justice references:

4 If this entry also relates strongly to one or more of the other determinants of health, please select which ones below. There is no need to re-enter the same information under different categories.

5 Upload further supporting documents here, should you wish to.

justice upload:

No file was uploaded

Health Choices

1 We are looking for experiences, ideas and evidence that show how structural factors such as income, access and knowledge can be influenced to improve health choices relating to exercise, eating, smoking or drinking. Please tell us your story.

health story:

2 What are your key recommendation(s)? (one sentence per recommendation please) What needs to happen?

health recommendations:

3 References: If there is a published paper, a website, a trial or an evaluation that shows the impacts of your recommendation(s), please enter this information below.

health references:

4 Is this recommendation about...?

5 If this entry also relates strongly to one or more of the other determinants of health, please select which ones below. There is no need to re-enter the same information under different categories.

6 Upload further supporting documents here, should you wish to.

health upload:

No file was uploaded

Food security

1 We are looking for experiences, ideas and evidence that show how food security can be improved to support the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Please tell us your story.

food ideas:

2 What are your key recommendation(s)? (one sentence per recommendation please) What needs to happen?

food recommendations:

3 References: If there is a published paper, a website, a trial or an evaluation that shows the impacts of your recommendation(s), please enter this information below.

food references:

4 If this entry also relates strongly to one or more of the other determinants of health, please select which ones below. There is no need to re-enter the same information under different categories.

5 Upload further supporting documents here, should you wish to.

food upload:

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Other social or cultural determinants

1 We are looking for experiences, ideas and evidence that show how social and cultural determinants of health can improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health. Please tell us your story.

Other story:

Focus on social and cultural determinants of health is key to improving health outcomes and meeting Closing the Gap targets. The role of partnerships with Aboriginal people and their leaders is also key. Without these success in the domains of the implementation plan will not be attained (domains – health system effectiveness, maternal health and parenting, child health and development, adolescent and youth health, healthy adults, health ageing, social and cultural determinants of health).

Life-cycle is a helpful frame but current implementation plan does not address the need to give children the best start in life (first 1000 days) which will lead to improved health equality over the life-cycle. Also very light on identifying and addressing issues related to child wellbeing and child protection that are relevant given continued high rates of removal of children from families.

Overlaps between child and family services – these services impact on health outcomes for children and families. Resolve through maximising connection and partnership with Aboriginal controlled services and communities.

Current Indigenous Health Implementation Plan needs to be updated with input from the National Framework and National Plan third action plans. Both have strong Aboriginal focus. Gaps in links to child wellbeing and child protection need to be addressed – high rates of substantiations and removal, poor health, education and participation outcomes for those who have been in care.

Planned deliverables need to be revisited to reflect growing evidence of need for more attention to social and cultural determinants of health. Maternal health and parenting and Childhood health and development should be revisited in line with work under the National Framework on first 1000 days and its prevention and early intervention focus.

Measures of success need to include measures/targets that include true partnership with Aboriginal communities and families. Social and cultural determinants of health needs measures of success.

2 What are your key recommendation(s)? (one sentence per recommendation please) What needs to happen?

Other recommendations:

1. Clearly identify linkage with National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children and National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.
2. Address the need to give children the best start in life (first 1000 days) which will lead to improved health equality over the life-cycle.
3. include recognition of the issues related to child wellbeing and child protection that are relevant given continued high rates of removal of children from families.

3 References: If there is a published paper, a website, a trial or an evaluation that shows the impacts of your recommendation(s), please enter this information below.

other references:

4 Upload further supporting documents here, should you wish to.

other upload:

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