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National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing

Brave new world: where do we go from 2020?

Beyond 2020: Empowering Aboriginal Children

Adjunct Professor Muriel Bamblett AM

CEO Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency



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VACCA's History

- 40+ years of service
- 45 programs across the state
- 450 + staff
- VACCA has developed an Aboriginal child and family welfare discourse and practice which includes:
 - cultural programs including the *Narrun Yana Art Collective*
 - outcomes framework
 - therapeutic framework



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Child and Family Welfare Statistics

- \$5.2 billion is spent on child protection
- At 30 June 2017:
 - 17 664 of whom were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. (37%)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make up just 2.8% of the national population. This highlights a vast overrepresentation



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What would
we do
with \$1.8
billion if we
were asked
to redesign
child
welfare?

My vision for the future is our children growing up in their communities on their traditional lands, with their families, knowing their culture, their language and their history. Being educated to be strong and healthy Aboriginal people as well as educated in the ways of the contemporary world



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Brave new world: where do we go from 2020?

- Key principles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities:
 - Self-determination
 - Safe and vibrant communities
 - Treaty, justice & truth telling
 - Culturally based and culturally safe



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Principles and Outcomes

- **Self-determination**
- **Culturally based and culturally safe**
 - Culture as a protective and healing factor
 - Address racism
 - Child safe standards
- **Safe and vibrant communities**
 - Access to universal services (justice, health, family support)
 - Equity of opportunity (education, employment, housing)
 - Identified funding and targets on family reunification



Funding Reform: Outcomes based funding

“..innovation and progress in advancing Aboriginal self-determination is currently hindered by a range of structural and bureaucratic barriers, including fragmented and unsustainable funding for Aboriginal organisations.”



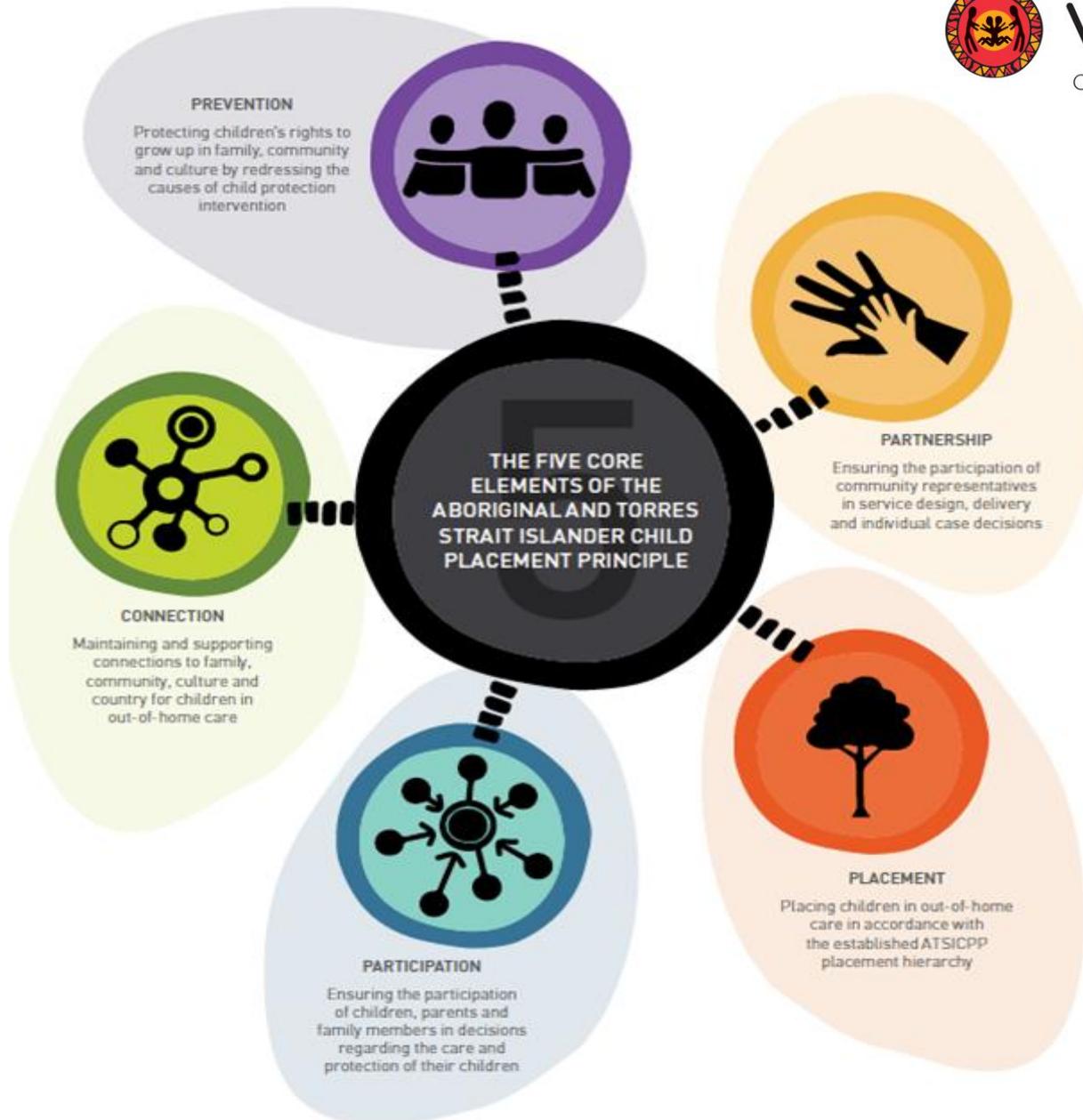
Principles and Outcomes

- Treaty, justice & truth telling
 - Our history is acknowledged and respected
 - Compensation for survivors of stolen generations (Vic) & stolen wages
 - Uluru Statement of the Heart, including the Voice to Parliament is supported by government



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A young woman with long blonde hair and a black beanie stands at night, holding a white sign. She is positioned in front of a large, ornate building that is brightly lit with yellow lights. The scene is set on a city street with other lights visible in the background.

To be safe
No matter
where I am