

# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EARLY YEARS IN FRANKSTON AND THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA

CHAMPIONS

NEED

ONLY APPLY

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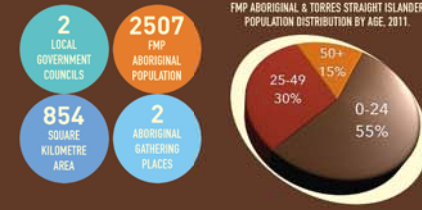
## BACKGROUND

- The Victorian Aboriginal population experiences higher rates of child mortality and perinatal mortality
- Victoria has a high rate of children in out of home care
- A major driver of these outcomes are: the underlying social and cultural determinants of Aboriginal Health such as employment, housing, justice, disability, family, access, culture, intergenerational trauma and discrimination
- Fragmented service provision.



## VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ABORIGINAL HEALTH STRATEGY KOOLIN BALIT

- Koolin Balit Policy 2012-22:
- Strong focus on prevention, early detection, social & cultural determinants of health
- 6 priority areas including Priority #2: Healthy Childhood. Aims are:
  - Increase MCH visits, reduce smoking, improve oral health, improve nutrition, increase breastfeeding rates
  - Improving access and care pathways
  - Ensuring that Victorian Aboriginal communities have access to appropriate information about healthy behaviour and lifestyles, and support in acting on that information
  - Strengthening links between programs and initiatives across departments.



ORGANISATIONS WORKING IN SILOS LIMITED ABORIGINAL WORKFORCE LACKING CULTURAL COMPETENCY



IT'S WORKING FOR YOU BUT IS IT REALLY WORKING FOR ME AND MY FAMILY??

LEVEL OF VULNERABILITY INCREASES IF NOTHING CHANGES!

## WHAT WE KNOW! THE FIRST 1000 DAYS IS THE CRITICAL PERIOD FROM THE START OF A WOMAN'S PREGNANCY TO THE CHILD'S SECOND BIRTHDAY.

### FINDING SOLUTIONS

#### FRANKSTON MORNINGTON PENINSULA EARLY YEARS PROJECT FOCUSES ON IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN FROM 0-5 YEARS OLD



## ABORIGINAL EARLY YEARS PROJECT FRANKSTON/MORNINGTON PENINSULA

- CO-ORDINATION of the Aboriginal Early Years Project - based in the Mornington Peninsula Shire, our work is to foster partnerships and collaborations across FMP to ensure children and their families receive holistic coordinated care.
- MEMBER of the Aboriginal Health Alliance, Peninsula Model - Funding received to provide a Cultural competency program - 20 health and human services organisations engaged to improve the identification rates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification rates.
- CONNECTS to Healthy Start to Life (Peninsula Health), Maternal and Child Health and Beststart (Mornington Peninsula and Frankston Shire Councils), Koolin Liang (Oral Health) project (SMR Oral Health Network), Healthy Lifestyle/Smoking Cessation (Bunarong Healthy Lifestyle Team)
- CULTURAL STRENGTHENING - BOON WURRUNG TRADITIONAL OWNERS, Wilum Warrain and Nairm Marr Djambana (Aboriginal gathering places)



## ACTIONS

- Explore the FIRST 1000 DAYS AUSTRALIA Approach - FMP moving toward becoming an Alliance Site
- Evidence-based programs
- Strengthening communities, families, individuals, children
- Work with organisations to coordinate and strengthen the system
- Community engagement: community advisory group, Early Years Facebook page
- Collaboration: across major stakeholders, academics, community, health, human services, education, justice, ACCOs, ACCOHs, mainstream service providers
- Early Years Stakeholder Forums
- Building resources: Baby Baskets, Pamper Packs for mums, culturally appropriate literature
- Health promotion: Strong Fathers campaign, smoking cessation
- Service delivery: outreach, strengthen Abecedarian program
- Accountability: improvement of data collection.



## GOALS

- The overarching aim is to enable Aboriginal children to develop and flourish to enable a solid start to school on par with non-Aboriginal children
- Stronger Health and well being pathways established
- Increased rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people identifying
- Increase in the % of 3 year olds enrolled in Early start to kindergarten
- All 4 year olds are enrolled in kindergarten
- All Aboriginal children are school ready
- Holistic, coordinated whole-of-family support
- Stronger families and communities
- Families feel safe accessing services
- Strong culturally appropriate resource base
- Increase in the % of babies being breastfed
- The system is working for families (and not the other way).



#### LINKING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND CHILDREN



#### FIRST 1000 DAYS FORUM HELD IN MARCH

17 Major Stakeholders attended. Survey conducted:

- 82% Would change their approach to working with Aboriginal children and families
- 100% Wanted to take action to build better pathways for Aboriginal children and families.
- 100% Wanted more information about the First 1000 Days Australia

#### BUILDING STRONG PATHWAYS/ABORIGINAL FIRST 1000 DAYS AUSTRALIA WORKSHOP

- 2nd Forum/workshop held in August
  - 35 Major Stakeholders attended
  - 90 Participants
  - Need for better collaborations identified
  - Gaps in Servicing Identified
  - Organisations keen to collaborate
- FIRST 1000 DAYS AUSTRALIA gaining momentum

"ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS REALLY KNOW THAT IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD." - PROFESSOR KERRY ARABENA

## THE BENEFITS OF THE FIRST 1000 DAYS AUSTRALIA

**INDIGENOUS LED EVIDENCED BASED MULTI-GENERATIONAL**

**CHILD-CENTRED WHOLE OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FAMILY-LED DECISION MAKING**

**FIRST 1000 DAY AUSTRALIA ACCREDITED ORGANISATIONS WORKING TOGETHER CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND SAFE ABORIGINAL WORKFORCE PROVIDING FLEXIBLE SERVICES (OUTREACH)**

**LED BY PROFESSOR KERRY ARABENA GUIDED BY: FIRST 1000 DAYS AUSTRALIA COUNCIL FIRST 1000 DAYS AUSTRALIA SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**