



# The Indigenous Child Placement Principle Project



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# What is the Indigenous Child Placement Principle?

The Indigenous Child Placement Principle is designed to ensure that Indigenous children and young people can:

- be raised in their own culture, and
- understand the importance and value of family, extended family and kinship networks.



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# What is the Indigenous Child Placement Principle?

Under s83 of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, the Department of Child Safety must give proper consideration to the following placement options, in order of priority:

- A member of the child's family
- A member of the child's community or language group
- Another Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander who is compatible with the child's community or language group, or
- Another Aboriginal person or Torres Strait person.



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# What is the Indigenous Child Placement Principle?

The *Child Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2005* amended the *Child Protection Act 1999*. There are now additional obligations for the Department of Child Safety to consider when placing an indigenous child with a non-indigenous carer, including:

- facilitating contact between the child and the child's parents and other family members.
- helping the child maintain contact with the child's community or language group.
- helping the child to maintain a connection with their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture, and
- preserving and enhancing the child's sense of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity.



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# What is the Commission doing about it?

Section 15AA(1)(c) of the CCYPCG Act states that the Commissioner has the function:

*‘to monitor compliance by the chief executive (child safety) with the Child Protection Act 1999, section 83’.*

The explicit inclusion of monitoring the ICPP as a key activity means that the Commission has an ongoing responsibility in this area.



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# What is the Commission doing about it?

To date, compliance with the ICPP has often been expressed as the number of Indigenous children and young people residing with Indigenous carers.



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# What is the Commission doing about it?

This project will allow the evaluation of the placements and placement decisions in accordance with the ICPP, rather than just reporting on the numbers of Indigenous children and young people placed with non-Indigenous carers.



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# Monitoring compliance in other jurisdictions

- South Australia
- Victoria
- Northern Territory



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# Review Activities

A number of review activities will form the current project including:

## *Activity 1*

- Establishing a profile of Indigenous children and young people in out of home care in Queensland that specifically examines:
  - o Demographic details
  - o Child Protection issues
  - o Placement details
  - o Connection to family and community
  - o Service delivery issues.



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# Review Activities

## Activity 2

- File reviews of 28 Indigenous children and young people in out of home care from across Queensland to measure the effectiveness and appropriateness of all placements (since 2000) in accordance with the ICPP.



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# Review Activities

## Activity 3

- Triangulation of current placement for 28 children subject of the file reviews:
  - o Child's perspective
  - o Carer's perspective
  - o Indigenous entity's perspective



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# Review Activities

## Activity 4

- ***Child's History with the Child Guardian Group*** is a questionnaire that will provide data on the subject children's history with the Complaints Unit, Community Visitor Program and the Systemic Monitoring and Review Program.



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# Review Activities

## Activity 5

- A review of the policies, practices and procedures developed by the Department of Child Safety in relation to the ICPP since 2000.



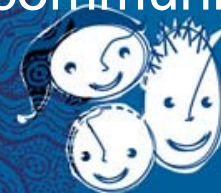
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# Review Activities

## Involvement of departmental staff

Receiving feedback about:

- policy/procedural support
- understanding of the principle and application of the principle
- relationship with recognised entities
- resourcing issues associated with recognised entities
- value of input given by indigenous entities
- cultural training received
- relationship with local indigenous communities



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# Consultation Strategy

To engage the key stakeholders associated with the ICPP Project so that:

- o The project is developed and informed through meaningful dialogue between the project team, internal and external stakeholders, academics, carers and indigenous children.
- o Stakeholders consider the final ICPP Project report and associated recommendations to be both meaningful and useful.
- o Those stakeholders who are required to gather data to measure the compliance with the ICPP will be able to do so or will develop appropriate systems to do so.



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# Stakeholders

- Commission Programs
- Government Departments and Agencies
- Recognised Entities
- NGOs



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# How will the Project affect Queensland's Indigenous children and young people?

The current project is geared to:

- examine how Indigenous children and young people in out of home care are maintaining and developing connections with family and communities, and
- identify ways of making family and community connections stronger.



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# How will the Project affect Queensland's Indigenous children and young people?

The project is expected to enable the Commissioner to make findings and recommendations relating to:

- The appropriateness and effectiveness of the Department of Child Safety's systems for complying with the ICPP.
- The application of the ICPP for the children and young people subject of the file reviews.
- Systemic trends relating to Indigenous children and young people in out of home care.



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# Future ICPP Projects

The ICPP Project is a one off point in time exploration of the Department's compliance of a s83 of the CP Act.

The ICPP Project data will also have the potential to:

- inform and guide SPRP issues papers and research projects; and
- and provide a baseline for the Commission's ongoing legislative obligation to monitor the Department's compliance of the ICPP.



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# Milestones

- ❑ File Collections – September/October 2006
- ❑ Provisional Report to Department of Child Safety – June 2007
- ❑ Public Report – October 2007



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# Contact

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