

AbSec – NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation

Policy area

We work to empower Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities impacted by the child protection system. We also support a quality Aboriginal community-controlled child and family services sector to deliver needed supports in Aboriginal communities across the state.

Introduction

Our vision is that all Aboriginal children and young people are looked after in safe, thriving Aboriginal families and communities and are raised strong in spirit and identity, with every opportunity for lifelong wellbeing and connection to culture, surrounded by holistic supports.

Problem/Issue

AbSec exists to see Aboriginal children and young people culturally strong, thriving and fulfilling their potential. For this to occur, evidence shows that Aboriginal children must be connected and supported in their families, kinship groups and communities, and that families and communities must be empowered to keep their children safe.

New laws passed by NSW Government expand the power of removing children from their families. The reforms contained in the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment Act make removals permanent, while dispensing with core safeguards and transparency measures.

The movement towards forced adoption of children from out-of-home care is broader than just the passing of this legislation. The national House of Representatives Committee released their report into local adoption proposing a national approach to 'open' adoption to end the ongoing crisis in child protection and out-of-home care. The report recommends to promote and streamline adoption, without implementing any safeguards or providing any evidence that it is in the children's best interest. As child protection systems around Australia remove Aboriginal children from their families at 10 times the rate of non-Indigenous children, it is Aboriginal communities who stand to lose the most.

Solution

Aboriginal kinship and families are not like Western families; adoption is not a solution. They need a tailored system, which makes the most of their strengths while addressing factors causing disadvantage and dysfunction.

Self-determination is the key to sustainable change. AbSec advocates for Aboriginal-led services and social systems, with Aboriginal agencies that are capable and resourced.

To reach this outcome, Aboriginal voices must be heard and respected, leading to broad community awareness and government policy that is based on Aboriginal-led decision-making about what works best for Aboriginal children, young people and families.

Until Government and policy decision makers allow a system that is tailored to Aboriginal families, designed by Aboriginal people, and delivered by Aboriginal organisations, Aboriginal communities will continue to suffer.

For additional information – key contacts:

Tim Ireland | Chief Executive Officer
AbSec – NSW Child, Family and Community Peak
Aboriginal Corporation

21 Carrington Rd, Marrickville NSW 2204
Office phone | +61 2 9559 5299
Email | dakota.torrens@absec.org.au
Website | www.absec.org.au

Zoë Mayers | Communications Officer
AbSec – NSW Child, Family and Community Peak
Aboriginal Corporation

21 Carrington Rd, Marrickville NSW 2204
Direct line | +61 2 8123 0745
Mobile | +61 44 858 7318
Email | zoe.mayers@absec.org.au

If you agree, please sign our petition:
<https://absec.org.au/sign>