



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

**OUR
VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 31 July 2020

EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA WELCOMES NEW NATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CLOSING THE GAP

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) congratulates all parties involved in the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This National commitment is an essential step towards overcoming the inequality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities. ECA is pleased that the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisation (the Coalition of Peaks) played a central role in the decision-making process and that the new targets reflect the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

'The National Agreement will bring us one step closer to ensuring that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children receive quality early learning,' says ECA CEO Samantha Page.

ECA believes the commitment to 'strengthen the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector' will have a meaningful impact to reduce the inequalities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-indigenous Australians.

ECA's joint paper with SNAICC—National Voice for our Children published in 2019 '[Working Together to ensure equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in Early Years](#)' also highlights the critical importance of investing in quality, community-controlled, integrated early years services.

'We know that high quality and culturally appropriate community-controlled services set Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children up with the skills they need to thrive.' Mrs Page said.

-ENDS -

ECA CEO Sam Page is available for comment. For interviews, contact ECA Media Officer: Katie Golding
0475 554 999

For a downloadable PDF version of the media release, click
here: www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/media/

-Continue over for useful links-

Useful links:

- **National Agreement on Closing the Gap** <https://coalitionofpeaks.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FINAL-National-Agreement-on-Closing-the-Gap-1.pdf>
- **Working Together to ensure equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in the Early Years** <http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SNAICC-ECA-Early-Years-Position-Paper-.pdf>

Early Childhood Australia is the peak advocacy body for children from birth to eight years, their families and early childhood professionals.