



How deep connection to culture is keeping children safe and supported

NATIONAL
CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK 2022

NAPCAN
PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

TURNING CONVERSATION INTO ACTION

Presenters:

- [Kylie Captain](#), Author and Educator from Dream Big Education Wellbeing & Consulting, Gamilaroi Aboriginal woman dialing in from Dharug country
- Isaiah Dawe, founder of [‘ID. Know Yourself’](#), Butchulla and Garawa Salt Water Aboriginal man
- Nicole Hucks, Acting [Northern Territory Children’s Commissioner](#), Larrakia/Wadjigan and Arrernte Aboriginal woman dialing in from Larrakia country

In this webinar on **Tuesday 6 September 2022** the speakers discussed:

- How deep connection to culture is keeping children safe and supported
- What culture is, what it means and how it is being used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to create safe and supportive environments for children

The theme for National Child Protection Week (4 - 10 September 2022) was **Every child, in every community, needs a fair go**. The campaign wording is based on the latest Australian research on how to frame the [Core Story for Early Childhood Development and Learning](#).

The following sheet provides links to resources and topics that were mentioned in the above webinar, to help us **turn this conversation into action**.

Recordings & Resource Sheets for the National Child Protection Week 2022 webinars will all be available on the [NAPCAN website](#).



Linking to the speakers:

- Visit [Kylie Captain's website](#) to learn more about her work and her book and journal.
- To contact Isaiah Dawe or learn more about his work visit the [ID. Know Yourself. website](#).
- You can follow the work of NT Children's Commissioner Nicole Hucks on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [website](#).

Overarching points from speakers:

- Aboriginal children are best placed with Aboriginal families.
- Culture is important and culture is safety.
- Connecting to country and going back to country regularly is healing and strengthening.
- Self identity is so important; children need to know who they are, where they come from and who their mob is.
- Keeping siblings together is paramount.
- Need to make an effort to find family and mob and have relationships with the family even if the child can't live with them.
- Aboriginal family-led decision making is best for children.
- We can all support children to open up their worlds to be about thriving, not just surviving. Make sure that they know the positive stories about Aboriginal people and culture, to counteract the ongoing negative stereotypes that we still hear too often (especially in the media).
- We need to support every child to feel that they are enough.
- Having a gratitude practice can be a valuable tool to support healing.

Resources to support us to connect children to culture:

- Learn more about resources available at [SNAICC - National Voice of Our Children](#).
- The [Passing the Message Stick](#) research gives practical advice about the words and framing that we can use to help change the story on self-determination and justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- School resources from the [Healing Foundation](#).
- Indigenous TV and radio stations can be a useful local source of information to connect and prompt conversations about culture.
- [Family Matters](#) Campaign and report are valuable for finding out more and supporting connection to culture.
- Local Aboriginal health networks are an important way to connect children to culture and to offer culturally safe services.

- Link with the local Aboriginal organisations in your area. Seek out supportive individuals and Aboriginal role models, including those working in the Department.
- Celebrate and connect to culture as part of campaigns such as [NAIDOC Week](#) (July), [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day](#) (4 August).
- [AbSec](#) - the peak organisation for Aboriginal children and families in NSW.
- [QATSIF](#) - Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation.
- [QATSICPP](#) - Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak.
- Example of culturally appropriate and responsive [family group homes in Alice Springs run by Tangentyere](#) - the only Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation that is providing Out of Home Care (OOHC) residential services to children in the Northern Territory.
- [Larrakia Nation](#) resources.
- [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#) Child Placement Principles.

Learning more about the topic:

- [The Healing Foundation](#) offers insight into intergenerational trauma and intergenerational resilience.
- [Reconciliation Australia](#)
- [Aboriginal Studies Association](#)
- [AIATSIS](#) - national institution focused exclusively on the diverse history, cultures and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia.
- Rita Pierson, [TED Talk - Every kid needs a champion](#)
- [TED Talk by Kristian Rodd about a community-led housing program](#) in Bawoorrooga community in the Kimberley, WA (shared by webinar attendee).

Quoted quotes:

- *"I have a greater sense of belonging and therefore I'm able to make better decisions in my life,"* young person who attended an ID. Know Yourself Concrete to Country camp
- *"It's good living here. Going out bush everyday and talking about our culture - how strong it is and learning new things from the older people,"* 13-year-old, Minyeri, NT
- *"Culture has a huge impact on people's lives - especially Alice Springs,"* 17-year-old, Alice Springs, NT
- *"In the future I want to work in mining, have a family, staying connected with culture,"* 16-year-old, Katherine, NT
- *"When there is hope in the future, there is power in the present,"* Zig Ziglar

Social media tiles from the webinar: (Available on NAPCAN's [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#))

<p>At the end of the day children belong with their family, I can't stress that enough</p> <p>Nicole Hucks, Acting Northern Territory Children's Commissioner</p> 	<p>Culture is safety. We forget that. We think about safety in an environmental sense, a physical, emotional, and social sense, but I think we really need to be mindful that culture is also a safety for children</p> <p>Nicole Hucks, Acting Northern Territory Children's Commissioner</p> 	<p>Often people will say 'What do you mean when you say connection to culture and country'. It's really difficult to describe, but for me it just sits in my chest.</p> <p>Kylie Captain, Author and Educator from Dream Big Education Wellbeing & Consulting</p> 
<p>Every child deserves a champion – someone who can see their potential and to be there to support them</p> <p>Kylie Captain, Author and Educator from Dream Big Education Wellbeing & Consulting</p> 	<p>Going back on country, meeting my family and hearing the stories was really empowering for me</p> <p>Isaiah Dawe, Butchulla and Garawa Salt Water Aboriginal man, and founder of 'ID. Know Yourself'</p> 	<p>Never give up. It's really important that we never, ever give up on a kid</p> <p>Kylie Captain, Author and Educator from Dream Big Education Wellbeing & Consulting</p> 
<p>I learnt the power of community, the power of caring for the next generation & each other</p> <p>Isaiah Dawe, Butchulla and Garawa Salt Water Aboriginal man, and founder of 'ID. Know Yourself'</p> 	<p>You can't be what you can't see ...</p> <p>If you can see it, you can be it and you believe it and you'll become it!</p> <p>Isaiah Dawe, Butchulla and Garawa Salt Water Aboriginal man, and founder of 'ID. Know Yourself'</p> 	<p>Every state and territory could do better in finding placements for Aboriginal kids</p> <p>Nicole Hucks, Acting Northern Territory Children's Commissioner</p> 

For more information, contact:

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Thank you for your commitment to ensuring every child in every community has a fair go.