

50 Years of Deadly: what's changed and what must come next



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EVERY CONVERSATION MATTERS

SHIFTING CONVERSATION TO ACTION

NAIDOC WEEK WEBINAR

50 Years of Deadly: what's changed and what must come next

Presenters:

- **Lil Gordon**, Moderator, First Assistant Secretary (First Nations Partnerships, for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts), former acting National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner
- **Dr Shellie Morris AO**, [Musician](#)
- **Jahdai Vigona**, [One Percent Program](#)
- **Daniel Rosendale**, [Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good](#) (DIYDG)

In this webinar on **Monday 6 July 2026** the speakers discussed:

- Reflections on the past "50 Years of Deadly", and how we should strive to move forward.
- The role that youth-led initiatives and ACCO's play in supporting the wellbeing of children and young people and preventing harm.
- How we can 'carry the load' together, and collaborate to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples beyond NAIDOC week.

Overview

This webinar's central message is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have always held the cultural knowledge, leadership and strength needed to keep children and families safe. While the past 50 years have brought progress and greater recognition, First Nations people have often achieved this despite systems that have worked against them. The next phase must move beyond celebrating resilience and instead remove systemic barriers, strengthen self-determination and properly support community-led solutions.

A strong focus was placed on creating environments where children and young people are connected to culture, genuinely included and supported to lead. The speakers called for greater compassion and inclusion, more constructive conversations that move people

forward, and communities that actively nurture young people to access opportunities rather than allowing circumstances or systems to limit them.

Recommendations

- Invest in and follow First Nations-led, community-based solutions rather than imposing externally designed approaches.
- Include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people meaningfully in decisions that affect them.
- Shift conversations into practical action by removing barriers, strengthening cultural connection and creating genuine opportunities for children and young people.
- Approach work with greater inclusion, compassion and a willingness to have conversations that challenge existing systems.

Speaker quotes

"Agency is the ability to influence systems... It's not that we just want to go and hear from young people; agency is that young people are part of the journey." - *Lil Gordon*

"In a utopia I'd love to see a country where we don't have such significant divides in how we see ourselves as Australians... less talk and more action and just really listening to each other." - *Jahdai Vigona*

"Invite us in... Don't do it just in NAIDOC week, because it's the busiest time. Do it throughout the whole year." - *Daniel Rosendale*

"Here in the bush, you go slow, you go gentle... let it be more of an organic process, a gentle process for both parties. Go at the pace of community." - *Dr Shellie Morris AO*

Theme

The theme for National Child Protection Week (6 - 12 September 2026) is

Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation to Action



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

Recordings & Resource Sheets for the National Child Protection Week 2026 webinars will all be available on the [NAPCAN website](#).

Resources and links:

- [Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good](#)
- [One Percent Program](#)
- Zero to one hundred [video](#)
- Shellie Morris' [website](#)
- NAIDOC Week [official website](#)

Social media tiles from the webinar are available on our [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#)

For more information, contact:

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

Child Protection Week 2026, 6-12 September

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