



Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) Project



A RESOURCE TO SUPPORT
ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
CHILDREN'S CULTURAL NEEDS IN
EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE



Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which this research project was undertaken, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

This resource was developed as part of the Telethon Kids Institute's Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) project, led by Elder Co-Researchers. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions from the Early Childhood Education and Care Elder Sub-group of Aunty Oriel Green and Aunty Doris Hill, and the participating parents and carers who provided invaluable information for this resource.

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Objectives

This resource was developed to help parents and carers to provide advice that will support their child's cultural needs within their early education and care (early education) setting.

It also aims to improve early education staff and community knowledge and understanding of some specific (but not limited to) cultural needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in early education settings, in order to strengthen their connection to culture for good mental health and wellbeing.

Instructions

Parents and Carers:

Please complete and share this resource with your child's Early education provider, School Principal and/or early education centre Manager.

Early education providers, School Principals and/or Managers:

This resource is a starting point to help you better understand the values, wishes and needs of parents and carers in relation to supporting their child's cultural needs within early education settings.



Family Information

1. Where my family and I are from: _____

2. Languages we speak at home: _____

3. Family names we are connected to: _____



Cultural Education

4. Including cultural education (Aboriginal ways of being, knowing, doing etc.) will support my child's cultural needs because:

5. Including Noongar language will support my child's cultural needs because:

6. Celebrating NAIDOC Week will support my child's cultural needs because:



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Staff

7. It is important that my child has access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff because:

Cultural Awareness Training

8. Regular cultural awareness training for all staff is important because:

Communication Preference

9. How I would like to communicate with the Early education provider, School Principal and/or early education centre Manager when yarning about my child's cultural needs (please circle):

Face-to-face
meetings

Phone
calls

Emails

Hardcopy
notes

Other Information

10. Other relevant information that will support my child's cultural needs

You may like to provide:



Days/weeks of national significance that I would like acknowledged and/or celebrated:



Contact details of local Elders who can help within my child's early education setting:



Details about my own experiences in early education settings and/or primary school:



Other important information that will support my child's cultural needs:

Additional Resources and Organisations

| Organisation | Overview |
|---|--|
| <p>Aboriginal Reference Groups</p> <p>Example: www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Community-Support/Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander/Aboriginal-Reference-Group</p> | <p>An Aboriginal Reference Group is comprised of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and community members, who generally meet monthly to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with the local City councils • Strengthen understanding • Celebrate the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| <p>Australian Human Rights Commission</p> <p>www.humanrights.gov.au</p> | <p>‘Building Belonging’ toolkit of resources supports early childhood educators in teaching children about cultural diversity and addressing prejudice in early childhood settings.</p> |
| <p>Champion Centre</p> <p>www.armadale.wa.gov.au/community-facilities-hire/champion-centre</p> | <p>Hosts a range of community based programs for the Aboriginal members of our community, playgroups and service agencies.</p> |
| <p>Langford Aboriginal Association</p> <p>www.laalangford.com.au</p> | <p>Provides services and programs to increase the health, wellbeing, cultural and social connections for Aboriginal people living and working in the Perth metropolitan region.</p> |
| <p>Narragunnawali Reconciliation in Education</p> <p>www.narragunnawali.org.au</p> | <p>Supports all schools and early learning services in Australia to develop environments that foster a higher level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) • Days and Weeks of National Significance |

| Organisation | Overview |
|---|--|
| <p>Noongar Language Centre www.noongarboodjar.com.au</p> | <p>A place where you can find, purchase and learn all about Noongar language and culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noongar language classes • Cultural awareness training • Teacher resources • Posters, books, readers and more |
| <p>SNAICC (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care) www.snaicc.org.au</p> | <p>National voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Exists to see all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children grow up healthy, happy and safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Cultural Needs: Flip chart • Our Land, Our Stories resources |
| <p>Telethon Kids Institute Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) project www.telethonkids.org.au/nknk</p> | <p>Five year project (2016-2020) led by nine Elder Co-Researchers who provide cultural advice and direction to the project team on all aspects of the research. To bring the Aboriginal community(s) of Perth together with service providers and policymakers to develop culturally appropriate strategies to improve outcomes for young Aboriginal children (0 – 6 years) and their families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project resources and reports • Principles and practice recommendations • Frameworks • Videos |
| <p>Wadjuk Northside Community www.wadjaknorthside.org.au</p> | <p>Provides services for the needs of our community, through various engagement programs, which are run weekly for youth and adults alike.</p> |

CONTACT

If you would like more information about the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project and/or this resource, please contact:

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