

Bramble Bay Culture in Community

Closing the gap on kindergarten participation

Facilitating a greater understanding of Aboriginal history, culture and people

Building social capital and inspiring leadership

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Kids Capers Clayfield

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The importance of understanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures

A better understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures develops an enriched appreciation of Australia's cultural heritage and helps support the journey towards reconciliation. With this in mind, it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families to see themselves and their culture represented in Australian society and equally important for all Australians to develop an understanding and appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of our First Nations people.



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Building Social Capital

Social capital theory – bonding, bridging and linking

- Social capital provides access to physical, human and social resources as a result of connecting with others
- Access to skills, expertise, knowledge and information
- Reciprocity is established through social relationships based on trust and respect
- Interaction strengthens social ties
- Facilitates collective action
- Base for cooperation across sector and power differences



Inspiring leadership

Who

- DoE regional staff
- ECEC educators
- ECEC service leaders
- School teachers and leadership teams
- Community organisations
- Elders

How

- Strengths based approach
- Capability building
- Relationships
- Collaboration
- Clear vision
- Intention and purpose
- Sharing stories - yarning
- Distributed leadership
- Regular meetings
- Mentoring
- Inspiring confidence
- Culturally safe environments
- Encouraging reflective practice
- Collective action



Our story...

The beginning..

Queensland Department
of Education
Early Childhood
Education and Care

Metropolitan
Region

2016 data:
High numbers of
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander children not
attending Kindergarten
Sandgate: 39 children



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Informing evidence – the issues

FAMILY MATTERS REPORT SNAPSHOT DATA



THE ISSUES



**FAMILY
MATTERS**

REMOVAL



1997 | 20%

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children removed by child protection authorities, and in 2015, it was 35%.

2015 | 35%

2035  **TRIPLE**

IF NO NEW ACTION TAKEN,

the number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children removed by child protection authorities will triple.

IN 2015

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

9.5x **MORE
LIKELY**

TO REMOVED BY CHILD PROTECTION AUTHORITIES THAN NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN.

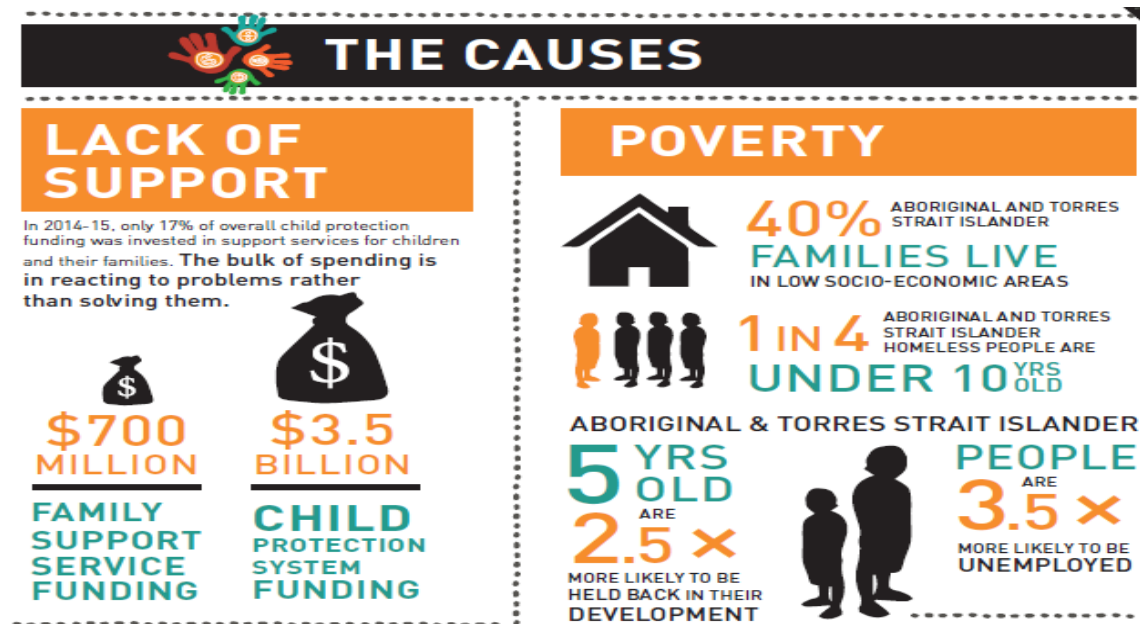


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Informing evidence – the causes



First 1000 Days Australia

First 1000 Days Australia

An evidence-based model conceived of and led by Indigenous people to foster resilience, leadership and innovation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families through focusing on the period from (pre)conception to the age of two.



FIRST
1000
DAYS
AUSTRALIA

The Charter of rights for children yet to be conceived

The First 1000 Days Australia Council appreciates that parenting is a skill learned from being parented and is specific to the demands of a particular way of life. The Council also understands there are families who experience social and health inequities.

First 1000 Days Australia, which focuses on the period of time from preconception to a child's second birthday, believes that every child can rightfully expect to be born into families who:

1. Choose to become parents at a time when they are resourced and supported to provide optimum care for the child who will be born to them.
2. Seek appropriate preventative and early intervention medical and cultural supports prior to, during and after the first 1000 days.
3. Can nourish them in the mother's womb with good quality nutrition, free from alcohol, smoke and the experience of violence.
4. Have loving expectations of them, are hopeful about their future and help them to achieve their life aspirations in powerful and tender ways.
5. Participate in their education from birth to ensure that personal aspirations are nurtured and aligned with our peoples' cultural values, responsibilities and entrepreneurial spirit.
6. Provide an appropriately stimulating environment, age-appropriate games, and the ability to grow with siblings and family members who themselves are capable of experienced and knowledgeable caring and parenting.
7. Know who they are, where they come from, who they are connected to, who loves them, who advocates for them, who listens to them, and who is responsible for them – culturally, morally, physically, spiritually and emotionally.
8. Are part of a healthy, vibrant society shaped by strong kinship relationships and a resilient culture, in which all members thrive, flourish and enjoy the same opportunities as other Australians – without being made the same.
9. Have healed and broken free from transgenerational trauma, and are able to transform harmful experiences into a positive future for their children and grandchildren.
10. Have the capacity to celebrate their children and offer them ceremonies, rituals, language, songs, stories and environments that strengthen their resilience, encourage their growth and support their choice of identity.



www.first1000daysaustralia.org.au



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Protective factors

Enable people to feel strong and resilient

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities these include:

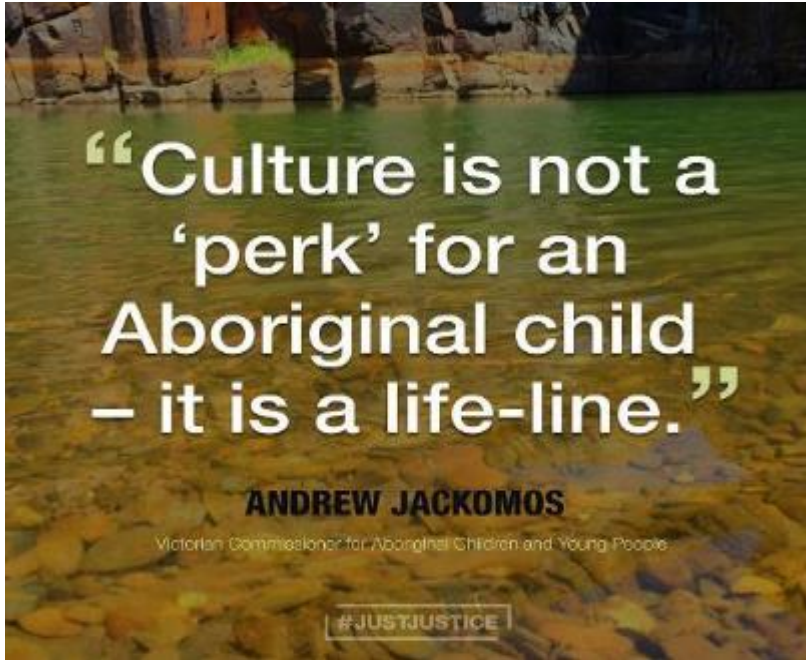
- social connectedness and sense of belonging
- connection to land, culture, spirituality and ancestry
- living on or near traditional lands
- self-determination
- strong community
- passing on of cultural practices

Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: First Results, Australia, 2012-13 (2013)



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“Culture is not a
‘perk’ for an
Aboriginal child
– it is a life-line.”

ANDREW JACKOMOS

Victorian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

#JUSTJUSTICE



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Closing the Gap

Priority: **Families, children and youth**

Outcome: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children thrive in their early years.

Target:

- Increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census to 45% by 2028.
- 95% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander four-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education by 2025.

 Australian Government
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

CLOSING THE GAP



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Reconciliation

RECONCILIATION in Schools and Early Learning acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

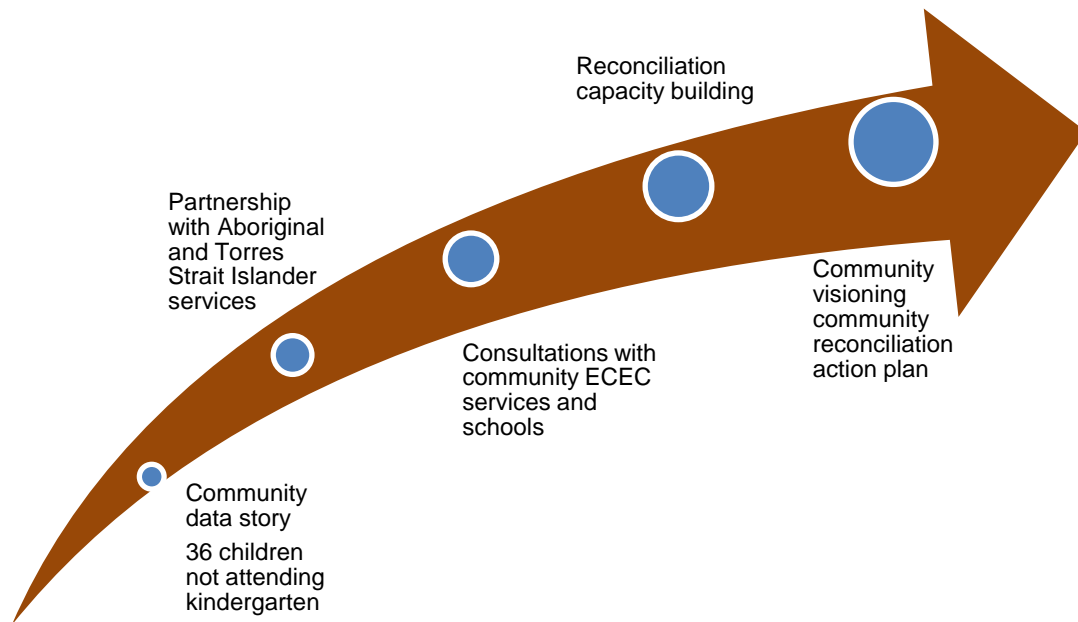
Ancestors have walked this country and we acknowledge their special and unique place in our nation's historical, cultural and linguistic identity.



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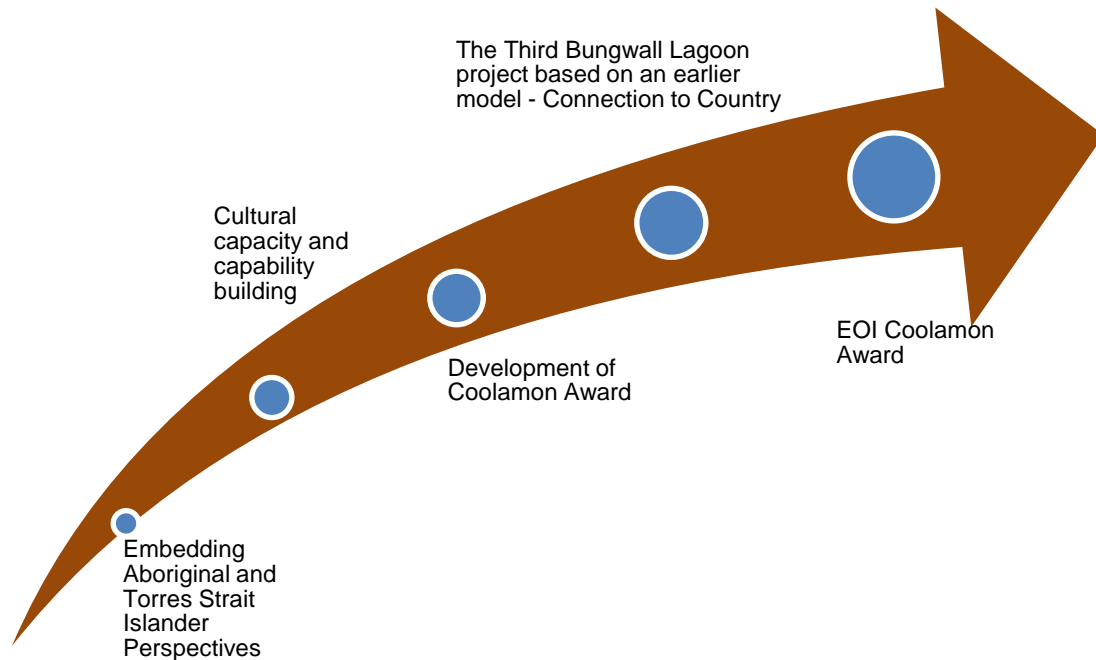
The Journey - 2016



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The Journey - 2017



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Closing The Gap Day 2018

The inaugural Coolamon Award for:

- excellence in leadership in embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in an early childhood service (professional development, curriculum practices, resourcing etc.)
- providing a culturally safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families through everyday practice
- influencing higher levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in a service.



COOLAMON AWARD 2018

AWARDED to: Kids on Craig, Brighton

FOR EXCELLENCE IN:

Displaying leadership in embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in an early childhood service (professional development, curriculum practices, resourcing etc.)
Providing a culturally safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families through everyday practice
Influencing higher levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in a service.

On Closing the Gap Day March 16 2018

This award sponsored by the Department of Education, Early Childhood Education and Care, Metropolitan Region, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Services.

Kerri Giebel (Director ECEC Metropolitan Region)



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Connection to Country



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A personal and professional journey

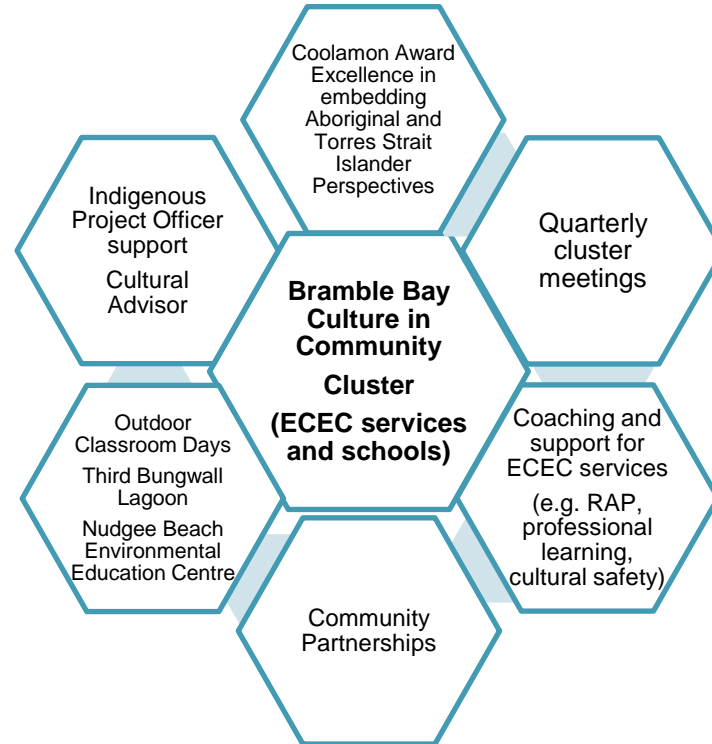
- Lived experience
- An understanding of who we are and where we have come from
- Importance of understanding the past to contribute to a brighter future
- Walking alongside Aboriginal colleagues
- Maintaining integrity and humility
- Relationships grounded in respect, responsibility, reciprocity and trust
- Life-long journey



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A model - Bramble Bay Culture in Community



Bramble Bay Culture in Community Cluster Meetings

- Membership = early childhood educators (Kindergarten, Long Day Care), school staff
- Meet quarterly
- Support to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in early childhood
- RAP development support
- Inspiring leadership
- Additional clusters to be developed across Brisbane Metropolitan Region over the next 12 months



Coolamon Award - 2019

- Introduced in 2018
- Awarded annually to an early childhood service in the Bramble Bay area that demonstrates excellence in embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in early childhood
- Acknowledging the diversity of journeys within ECEC services
- An additional four Coolamons Awards will be introduced in Brisbane Metropolitan region over the next 12 months



Significance of the Coolamon

Traditionally used to cradle our Jarjums as well as to carry bush tucker, the Coolamon supported and cushioned our Jarjums transitions and growth in the early years. This award recognises valuable leadership in embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, empowers improved outcomes and builds cultural capacity in early childhood services in the Bramble Bay Cluster. Meaningful ways of creating an inclusive service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and communities ensures a 'Strong and Deadly' start to their education journey. The Coolamon Award acknowledges placement of culture, language and community as foundational elements in ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children participate and attend a connected kindergarten. The creation of an environment where children and community feel physically, emotionally and spiritually safe to practice culture enhances re-engagement and contributes to a good education.

Rebecca Johnson
Early Years Manager – Inclusive Connections



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Ariba Enuba Art Trail – The Third Bungwall Lagoon

- Launched in 2018
- Commonwealth Games Grant
- Partnerships
- Collaboration
- Use of the space
- Vision for the space



Outdoor Classroom Day – The Third Bungwall Lagoon

- Walking and learning on Turrbal Country - November 2018
- Ongoing annual engagement opportunity for kindergarten aged children attending services in the Bramble Bay area
- Collaborative partnerships



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Outdoor Classroom Day

Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre

- Walking and Learning on Turrbal Country – May 2019
- Collaborative partnerships
- Little Footprints



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Professional learning

- Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre
- Building knowledge and understanding
- A collaborative partnership



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Kids Capers Childcare Clayfield



Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives



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Acknowledgement

Minyaghu jingi wahlu, nunya nyeri Shana Blow.
Mununjali mirangan-gali.

(Hello how are you, my name is Shana Blow. I am a proud
Mununajli women.)

I would like to acknowledge and pay my
respects to the traditional custodians of the land
on which we meet, the Muwinina and Palawa
people. I also pay my respects to Elders past,
present and emerging and extend that respect to
all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



My Journey



Personal and
professional
background

My why



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Our journey at Kids Capers Childcare Clayfield

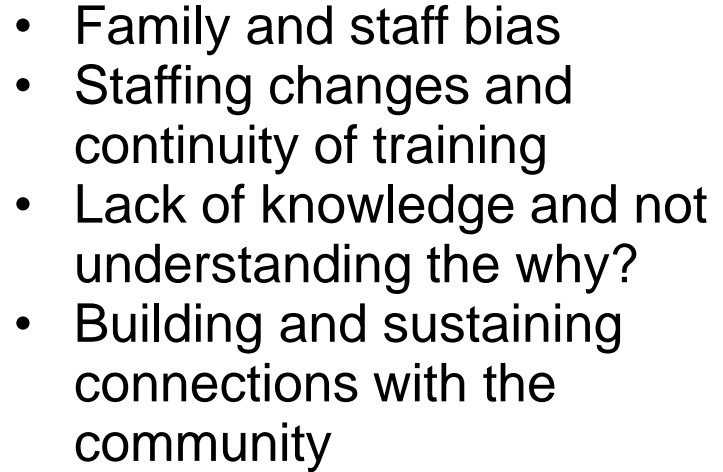


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- Celebrating significant events each month
- Applying the Aboriginal 8 Ways Pedagogy to guide children's learning
- A company Reconciliation Action Plan
- Cultural awareness training for educators
- Cultural resources



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Connecting with community and the Bramble Bay Cluster



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Outdoor classroom days

Warra

Walking and Learning on Country



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Coolamon Award



- How receiving the 2019 Coolamon Award has inspired cultural practice
- How we embed the Coolamon into children's learning
- Our aspirations



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Thank you

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