



# Aboriginal Family Preservation and Reunification Response

## The Aboriginal Family Preservation and Reunification Response (AFPRR)

The AFPRR is a new initiative to support vulnerable children and families. The response works in partnership with Child Protection to

- support children to stay safely at home with their family
- prevent children and young people from entering care services
- support children and young people currently in care to safely reunify with their families

Under the response, Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations (ACCOs) support Aboriginal families to create a safe and nurturing environment. The key goals are

- creating safety at home and preventing removal and placement in care (family preservation)
- safely and rapidly returning children to their home (family reunification)

## How are children and families connected to the Response?

Children, young people, and families are identified for referral to the service by

- Child Protection: Child protection Navigators in collaboration with Child Protection practitioners
- Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care (ACAC): ACAC practitioners in consultation with the AFPRR team.
- Child First, Family Services and Orange Door

Connections (referrals) are agreed in consultation with Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Service (ACSASS).

## What kind of support can you receive?

Families receive an initial phase of rapid, intensive, and flexible support (200 hours). This is followed by transition support (40 hours). The Response works with a whole-of-family approach that includes the child considered to be at-risk, and all children in the family aged between 0-17 years. The response includes flexible funding to help families meet their goals.

Each family works with an AFPRR lead practitioner. The support provided is based on the unique needs of the children and family. This includes:

- Working with a family regularly at home or in place where they feel comfortable
- Supporting them to develop their own goals
- Providing them with support and strategies to build their parenting skills and confidence
- Linking families to other services and community supports as needed.

## What makes the Aboriginal Response different?

The AFPRR process is led and delivered by ACCOs. ACCO practitioners lead care team meetings and work closely with other services. Culture underpins the AFPRR practice. Culturally safe engagement tools, reviews and measurement tools are embedded in the Response. Services are trauma informed. Families are the experts in their experience. They are supported to build capabilities and to achieve **their** goals.

All teams delivering the response need to complete training in practice models and Aboriginal cultural elements. Funding is also provided for evidence-based program development.



## Who delivers the Aboriginal Family Preservation Re-unification Response?

Below is a list of ACCOs providing the Aboriginal Response\* (effective from August 2021)

Division	Area	Service provider
East	Goulburn	Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative
	Inner East	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
	Outer East	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
	Ovens Murray	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
South	Southern Melbourne	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
	Bayside Peninsula	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
	Inner Gippsland	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) in partnership with Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation
	Outer Gippsland	Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative Ramahyuck Aboriginal Corporation
North	North East Melbourne	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
	Hume Moreland	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
	Loddon	Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative
	Mallee	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
West	Western Melbourne	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
	Brimbank Melton	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
	Barwon	Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Operative
	Central Highlands	Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative
	Wimmera South West	Goolum-Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative Winda-Mara Aboriginal Cooperative

\*An Aboriginal specific Response is available in each of the 17 areas across the State.

Community Services Organisations deliver the Family Preservation and Re-unification and Response (FPRR). Where they are working with Aboriginal children and their families, they

- actively engage, partner and co-deliver services with local ACCOs and Aboriginal services.
- promote local Aboriginal supports and services
- respect family preferences
- deliver practices aligned with Aboriginal cultural elements.

For more information: [Family Preservation and Reunification Response - DFFH Service Providers](#)

