

PRESS RELEASE

20 May 2025



Victorian Aboriginal
Children & Young
People's Alliance

Victorian Government backs the voice of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

The Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People's Alliance warmly welcomes the Victorian Government's commitment in this year's State Budget to funding for the Alliance and the Aboriginal Children's Forum. It's an acknowledgment of 10 years advocating for our Members and a commitment that allows us to continue our significant contribution to Aboriginal led child and family services reform.

"The investment is a nod to the truth our communities have long known—real change for Aboriginal children and young people comes from community-led solutions, grounded in cultural strength, self-determination and deep accountability to mob" said Jason Kanoa, CEO of the Alliance.

The Alliance is the peak body for 15 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) across Victoria. Together, we represent decades of cultural knowledge, local leadership and frontline experience in supporting children, young people and families to thrive.

Funding for the Aboriginal Children's Forum ensures that the cultural governance and an ACCO led agenda continues to grow. It provides space for truth-telling, shared decision-making, and collaborative leadership strengthening the role of Wungurilwil Gapgapdair, the Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement. Wungurilwil Gapgapdair is a tripartite agreement between ACCOs, the Victorian Government and Victoria's community service organisations.

"When you back Aboriginal community knowledge and leadership, you're not just funding a program. You're investing in children and families who are proud of where they come from and strong in who they are." says Karen Heap, Chairperson of the Alliance and CEO of the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative..

Other successful budget outcomes

- Expansion of Community Protecting Boorais and Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care
- Investment in Aboriginal early years including education and support for Mothers
- Aboriginal Community infrastructure
- Early intervention and greater support for young people
- Commitment to support the residential care system

The Alliance will continue walking alongside our Members, holding systems accountable, and working to ensure every Aboriginal child and young person in Victoria grows up safe, loved, and proud of who they are and where they come from.

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