

About the program

Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care (ACAC) recognises that the needs of Aboriginal children are best met by Aboriginal community services.

It supports the transfer of responsibility for Aboriginal children involved with child protection under Section 18 of the Child, Youth and Families Act (2005)

- **To** Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).
- **From** Child Protective Services (Department of Fairness, Family & Housing: DFFH) and Community Services Organisations (CSOs)

The ACAC program aims to:

- Maintain Aboriginal children's cultural identity
- Promote connection to family, community, and Country
- Support Aboriginal children to return home to parents or extended families where it is safe or support the identification of culturally safe alternative care
- Hand decision making and case management for vulnerable Aboriginal children from the department to the relevant ACCO: in line with self-determination
- Improve the support and decision making for Aboriginal children placed on Children's Court protection orders.

Aboriginal agencies develop and provide a distinctly Aboriginal culturally safe practice approach to service delivery.

Alliance Members providing the program

- **Mutjang bupawingarrak mukman (Keeping our kids safe):** Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative (BDAC) participated in a rural pilot program for the ACAC program in 2016. They have been fully authorised to provide the ACAC program since January 2019.
- **Wala Yarka (Water Children):** Njernda is the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) in the Loddon area with the cultural responsibility and authority for Yorta Yorta children and young people. Njernda is pre-authorized for the ACAC program. They are supporting Aboriginal Children and their families in this program. The name Wala Yarka is from the Yorta Yorta language.
- **Gobata Burrton (To Take Care of Children):** Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative provides ACAC, Kinship Care and First Supports programs as part of their support to Aboriginal Children in care. They are pre-authorized to provide the ACAC program. They are supporting Aboriginal Children and their families in this program. The name comes from the Wathaurong language: Gobata meaning 'Take Care' and Burrton meaning 'Children'.

Other information: Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative and Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative were pre-authorized to provide the ACAC program in 2021. They are in the process of establishing their program.

For more information:

[Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care - Deadly Story](#)

[Department of Health and Human Services Victoria | Aboriginal children in aboriginal care program \(dhhs.vic.gov.au\)](#)