

# Aboriginal-Led Commissioning

for better Aboriginal child and family outcomes

---



AbSec – NSW Child, Family and Community  
Peak Aboriginal Corporation



# About AbSec

- © Driving self-determination to build a safe, secure and caring environment for their children and young people, surrounded by culture.
- © Support Aboriginal organisations to deliver quality, holistic supports for all Aboriginal children, young people, families and carers.
- © Provide and support opportunities for continual learning, growth, improvement and change, for organisations delivering Aboriginal child and family supports.
- © Represent the interests and issues impacting Aboriginal children, young people, families, carers and communities.
- © Build a strong Aboriginal workforce to meet the support needs of Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities.



# Aboriginal-Led Commissioning

*for better Aboriginal child and family outcomes*

## **Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2:**

Build the Aboriginal community-controlled sector

## **Socio-Economic Target 12:**

Reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children in OOHC by 45%, securing better outcomes for Aboriginal children and families in the child protection system



# What is Aboriginal Led Commissioning?



# NSW Partnerships

The NSW Government is working in partnership with the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NSW CAPO, includes AbSec) and other partners to achieve better outcomes for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

©**Aboriginal Affairs NSW** will lead and coordinate the work needed to meet the NSW Government's commitments under the National Closing the Gap Agreement.

©**Joint governance arrangements between NSW Government and NSW CAPO**, to develop, implement and monitor NSW's plan to Closing the Gap.

©**The NSW Joint Council (NSWJC)** is the key decision-making group overseeing the planning and implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap in NSW.



# Partners and co-designers

**AbSec**

**Community  
members**

**Sector  
practitioners**

**Families**

**Government  
partners**



# AbSec's Aboriginal Commissioning Framework



- ☉ draws on the well established commissioning approaches of the NSW Government and the Australian Government's primary health network (phn)
- ☉ is a three phase commissioning model of:
  - Design planning – using human centred design methods of discover, define, develop and deliver a co-designed, community –led solution; with resourcing and investment
  - Implementation – open market engagement, procurement and contracting of initiatives
  - Evaluation – monitoring, learnings and outcomes evaluation
- ☉ puts our children and families at the centre and builds in cultural safety in all aspects of the model



**Aboriginal culture is strength,  
and acts as a protective force  
for children and families**



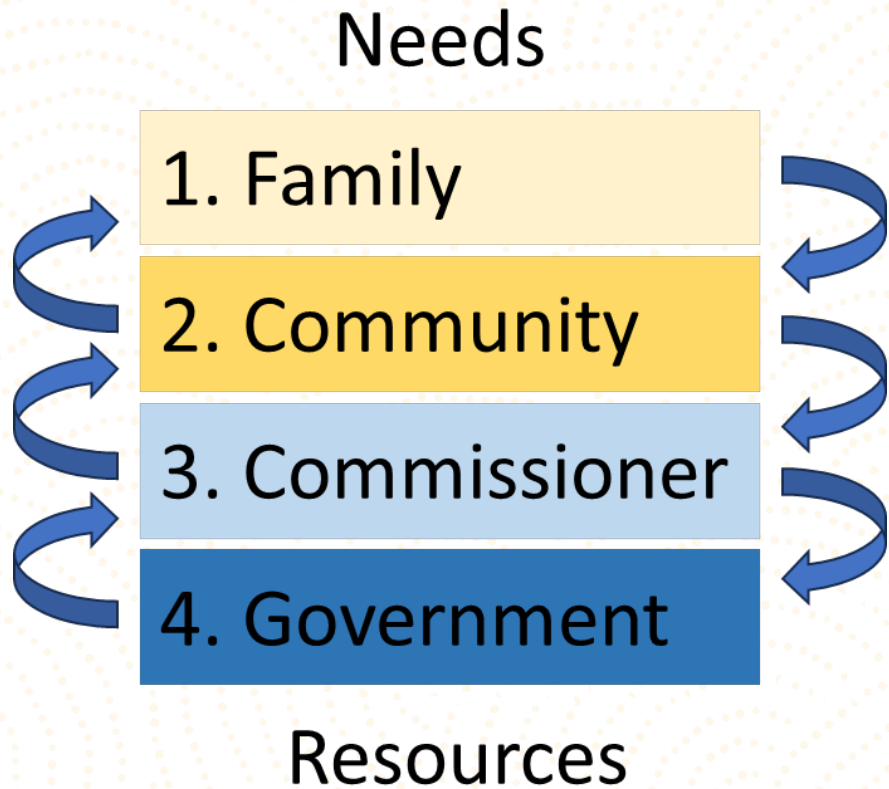
# Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organization – Aboriginal Medical Services

- ◎ The Health lifecycle
- ◎ New directions – Indigenous Australian Health Program – life cycle
- ◎ Waminda – birthing on country
- ◎ Australian Nurse Family Partnership (ANFP) – US trial sites
- ◎ Yerin – Eleanor Duncan
- ◎ The Glen – Residential Rehabilitation
- ◎ Winnunga Nimmityjah Medical Centre - Justice

# *Restorative Practice: Maranguka, Justice Reinvestment, Bourke*

- ⦿ The first Justice Reinvestment site in NSW was called Maranguka and has been operating in Bourke since 2013
- ⦿ 'Maranguka' meaning 'caring for others' in Ngemba language, is the first Aboriginal-led place-based model of justice reinvestment in Australia
- ⦿ Concept emerged from UK and USA with top-down models
- ⦿ Bourke communities re-imagined the concept from ground up and customised to the community's needs
- ⦿ The community devised a local strategy and developed initiatives to achieve positive social outcomes and reduce offending, re-offending and family violence

# Whanau Ora – Maori Commissioning in Action



- ⊙ Family-led decision making
- ⊙ Family Group Conferences are mandated through legislation
- ⊙ Child protection workers must always start by finding family and kinship, not risks
- ⊙ These reforms are legally backed by legislation and treaty to make them enforceable and hold government and agencies accountable.

*Data sovereignty is key*



# Workshop Question 1

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES OR CHALLENGES IN YOUR COMMUNITY THAT ABORIGINAL LED COMMISSIONING MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN TACKLING?



## Workshop Question 2

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO SOLVE THESE ISSUES?  
WHAT RESOURCES AND SERVICES WOULD BE  
NEEDED?



## Workshop Question 3

HOW COULD ABORIGINAL LED COMMISSIONING  
CONTRIBUTE TO SOLVING THESE ISSUES?



TO LEARN MORE AND CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION ON ABORIGINAL  
LED COMMISSIONING, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE TEAM:



[commissioning@absec.org.au](mailto:commissioning@absec.org.au)



[absec.org.au/commissioning](https://absec.org.au/commissioning)

