



OUR BOORIS
our way

CALL FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Our Booris, Our Way: Independent Review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People in contact with the child protection system in the ACT

Our Booris, Our Way (the Review) aims to inform systemic improvements to child protection systems, policies and practices in the ACT. The Review seeks to understand the reasons for children and young people entering care and to then develop strategies to reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering care, improve their experience and outcomes while in care, and exit children from care through restorations.

The Review will evaluate relevant legislation, policies and practices and identify and recommend opportunities to improve the effectiveness and application of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle.

Our Booris, Our Way is seeking public submissions to support the understanding and analysis of opportunities for change across the ACT child protection system.

The Review welcomes submissions from people with lived experience of Child Protection/Out of Home Care, peak bodies, advocacy groups, academics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and other interested individuals.

This is a formal process enabling stakeholders to make written submissions to the Review sharing their views and experience. Other opportunities to share your experience include:

- Individual one-on-one consultations with the Steering Committee;
- Interviews with the team of Reviewers for parents and carers identified in the file reviews of approximately 350 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The final report will be delivered to the Minister for Children, Youth and Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs in late 2019 and will include recommendations and strategies for change.

To make a written submission, please sign the consent form and complete the template at the end of this document to ensure that your submission can be considered.



Submissions Process

Public Submissions Timeline

2 October 2018	Public submissions open Guidance and recommended template for public submissions available on the Strong Families website
7 January 2018	Public submissions close
January – September 2019	Consideration and analysis of submissions
September/October 2019	Publication of final report

Lodging Submissions

Submissions can be handwritten and mailed, or completed electronically and emailed.

To email your submission, your document must be saved in either Word format or PDF, attached to your email, and sent to: ACTreview@gov.au

You will receive a return email acknowledging receipt of your emailed submission.

Written submissions should be marked CONFIDENTIAL and mailed to:

Our Booris, Our Way
VIA SECRETARIAT
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601

If you are mailing your submission and require a written acknowledgement of your submission, please be sure to include a return address or email.

If you have any questions about your submission please contact Our Booris, Our Way via email ACTreview@gov.au or leave a message on 0466 794 197.



Guiding Questions for Public Submissions to Our Booris, Our Way

The Review is seeking public submissions that address the Terms of Reference and would like people and organisations to have an opportunity to share their experience.

Four submission questions have been provided to help guide you, and you are encouraged to be open and transparent in your recommendations.

You are invited to address any, or all of the following questions:

1. How might the *number of* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering care *be reduced*?
2. How might the experience and outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people *improve while they are in care*?
3. How might we *increase the number of* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people *exiting care, and reuniting with their families*?
4. In relation to the Child Protection system in the ACT, what would self-determination (*choice and control*) in accessing support services look like?

Please note public submissions from organisations may be listed in the Final Report. We also request that organisations honour a limit of five (5) pages maximum in making their submissions.

Freedom of Information Act 2016

Submissions provided to the Review will be analysed by the Review team. The submissions may be captured in a Freedom of Information request, however, as all submissions will be treated as confidential, factors under the Act would include that the disclosure of the information could reasonably prejudice the protection of an individual's rights to privacy and/or prejudice the ability for the directorate to obtain confidential information. More information can be found on the [Community Services website](#)

Further Information

Further information on the Review, current activities and interim recommendations are available on [Strong Families website](#)

Where can I access help and support?

We understand sharing your story may be upsetting to talk about. We appreciate the time you have taken to share your experiences with us. If you need support, please call:

Lifeline: 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention service 13 11 14

Red Cross Support Services for Birth Families: contact during business hours on 02 6234 7600.



Consent

In making this submission, I acknowledge that:

- All content of submissions made to the Review are automatically treated as confidential and will be viewed and read only by the Review team, for the purpose of the Review.
- Organisations may be acknowledged as making a submission in the final report.
- If you, as an individual or an organisation, wishes your information to be considered for use in the final report, you **must** confirm your consent as outlined below.

All submissions must be signed by the individual, nominated representative or principal officer of the organisation making the submission.

If a submission is not signed, it will not be considered.

Full name (please print)

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I am submitting as (please tick to indicate):

Individual

Organisation

I consent to contact from The Review for further information or clarification about this submission

Yes

No

I wish to added to the mailing list to receive the key information from the Review

Yes

No

Signature

.....

Date

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