Communique #14

The Steering Committee for Our Booris, Our Way (the Review) met for the fifteenth time on 6 May 2019. This month the meeting was held at the Community Services Directorate (CSD). The meeting focused on finalising more recommendations.

We handed our third set of recommendations (we have now made 14 recommendations) to Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith on Friday 10 May 2019. Most of the new recommendations are about improving practice in the child protection space and cover:

- Access to advocacy and legal representation
- Better cultural planning
- Increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kinship placements
- Support for our Carers
- More pathways for restoring children to families
- Better Father inclusive practice
- Health Assessments

All our recommendations are publicly available here: https://www.strongfamilies.act.gov.au/our-booris,-our-way

The Steering Committee have heard from our Community that there would be a lot of value in holding a forum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles and extended families caring for children involved with the ACT child protection system. We will hold an Aboriginal Kinship Carers Forum on 20 June and would like to see as many of our community members there as possible. Invitations will go out very soon but if you don’t get one please let us know.

We have been informed that a Discussion paper on review of decisions has now been released for comment. This an area of great interest for the Review as there are many decisions that cannot be appealed that have significant impact on our families. For more information, including how you can make a submission, please see: http://cdn.justice.act.gov.au/resources/uploads/Review_of_child_protection_decisions_in_the_ACT_-_Discussion_paper.pdf

The Steering Committee will be providing a submission to this review.

Contact Us:
If you wish to reach out and speak with the Steering Committee, please leave a message via:

Email: ACTreview@act.gov.au
Phone: 0466 794 197

This email address and voicemail are monitored only by the Review Team to keep your information private and confidential. Please note the Steering Committee is part-time so it may take a few days to respond.