

Seminar 5:

Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency



SEMINAR 5:

Guest speakers:

Cath Healy :

**Senior Education Advisor
Capacity Development & Service Reform**

Moderator:

Cultural Mentor:

**AJ Williams-Tchen Mentor
Girraway Ganyi Consultancy**

AGECS presentation: *Understanding VACCA*

Monday May 30, 2022


Cath Healy – Senior Education Advisor



VACCA

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VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE AGENCY



Acknowledgement of Country

Session overview

- Introduction to VACCA
- Why we do the work that we do
- Government policy and initiatives supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children 0-5
- Early childhood supports and services at VACCA



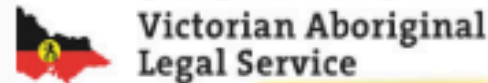
The beginning of VACCA

The fight for Aboriginal self determination

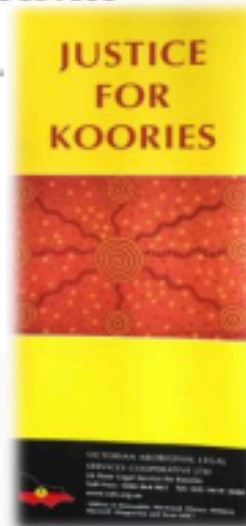
1972 VAHS



1973 VALS



- Criminal Law**
Legal advice/representation if you have to go to court or are charged.
- Civil Law**
Discrimination, police wrongdoing.
- Family Law**
We provide advice about child welfare and family issues.



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The beginning of VACCA - WHY

VACCA was born of an urgent concern in the Victorian Aboriginal community about the large number of Aboriginal children:

- being removed from their families 18-20 times higher than other Australian children
- being victims of non-Aboriginal adoption
- numerous foster care breakdowns
- being placed in institutions

VALS wanted to find placement alternatives and support within the Victorian Aboriginal Community



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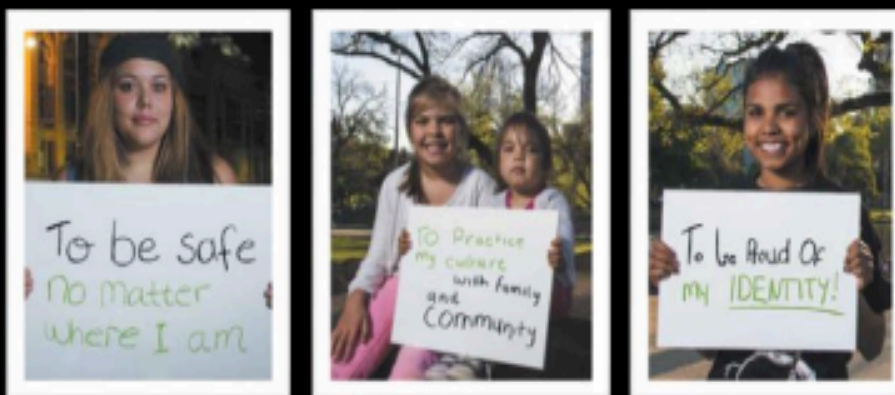
VACCA Strategic Plan 2022 - 25

Respect

Healing and
Empowerment

Our Vision

Aboriginal self-determination – Live, Experience and Be



Best interests
of the child

Our Purpose

Supporting culturally strong, safe and thriving Aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal Cultural
Observance

Self-determination



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Aboriginal Culture Pre-Colonisation



VACCA
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Cultural Heritage



Culture Post Colonisation



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3 Key Effects Of Stolen Generations On Aboriginal Families Today

- 1. Separation from the primary carers**
- 2. Aboriginal parenting skills are undermined and their children are at risk of being removed**
- 3. Loss of culture and connection**



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Healing Foundation – Intergenerational Trauma



<https://healingfoundation.org.au/intergenerational-trauma/>



Cultural Therapeutic Ways

- Combines theories of self-determination and trauma with culture
- Possum skin cloak - wraps services and communities together
- YINGA - Wemba Wemba word for "This Way"



Government Policy and Strategy

- Evidence-based Framework
- What works for ATSI children from a culturally-informed and trauma-informed perspective
- Aligns with Closing the Gap
- Focus on 5 goals

[National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy](#)



Government Policy and Strategy

VISION:

All young children in OOHC in Victoria are supported to reach their potential through engagement with Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services and high-quality early learning programs. They are given age appropriate, diverse and nurturing experiences that enrich their childhood and lay the foundation for success at school and beyond.

[Early Childhood Agreement for Children in Out-of-Home Care](#)



Government Policy and Strategy

Vision:

Victoria will be a state where:

- the rich and thriving culture, knowledge and experience of our First Nations peoples are celebrated by all Victorians
- our universal service systems are inclusive, responsive and respectful of Koorie people at every stage of their learning and development journey
- every Koorie person achieves their potential, succeeds in life, and feels strong in their cultural identity.

Marrung



MARRUNG

ABORIGINAL
EDUCATION PLAN
2016 - 2026



THE
EDUCATION
STATE

VICTORIA
State Government

DET initiatives supporting Aboriginal children 0-5



DET - Aboriginal Early Years
LOOKOUT - Early Years



VACCA Family Services

- Case management support
- Support to families with complex disability needs
- Bring Up Aboriginal Babies at Home program
- Putting Families First program
- Koorie Faces program
- In home parenting support
- Supported playgroups



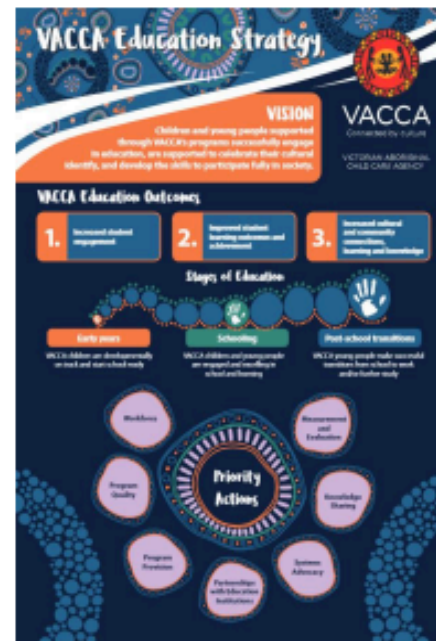
VACCA Education Strategy

Vision:

Children and young people supported through VACCAs programs successfully engage in education, are supported to celebrate their cultural identity, and develop the skills to participate fully in society.

Early Years:

VACCA children are developmentally on track and start school ready.



VACCA Koorie Kids Supported Playgroups

- Provided for over 15 years
- Primary prevention model
- Culturally sensitive, fun and empowering
- Prepares children for kindergarten
- Builds parenting and education skills

[VACCA Koorie Kids Playgroups](#)

[We Connect](#)





Girraway Ganyi

CONSULTANCY

AGECS