



Family Support Newcastle
your family, our community

January 26th Statement

Family Support Newcastle (FSN) acknowledges the deep and enduring trauma of colonisation on the traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this land. January 26 is not a day that brings us together, it is a day that marks the beginning of a painful history of genocide, displacement and trauma. The horrifying and far-reaching impacts of this colonisation continue to reverberate through the generations, with continuing consequences on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and culture. At FSN, we recognise the grief that this day brings. We stand in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and reaffirm our commitment to supporting families as they navigate the challenges that stem from this historical and ongoing injustice.

On this day we reflect on how far we still need to go in our collective journey towards justice, healing, and equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are committed to being part of that journey, and will continue to listen, learn, and act in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as they advocate for systemic change, challenge the structures that perpetuate harm, and navigate the day-to-day challenges that continue to impact their communities.

The statistics are stark and highlight the disproportionate suffering that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities continue to face as a direct consequence of the ongoing trauma caused by colonisation, displacement, and systemic inequality. The legacy of this trauma is seen daily at FSN.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are killed at a rate seven times higher than the national average ¹.

We aim to continue working with partners in the sector to lower this rate in the Newcastle community, we are also committed in our direct work with at risk women and families to support them to leave DFV and create a safe home for themselves and their children.

Aboriginal children are grossly overrepresented of in out-of-home care: as of June 2024, Aboriginal children made up 8% of the population in New South Wales but 45% of children in out-of-home care ².

We will work with families to address the underlying trauma, disadvantage and cultural misunderstanding causing many of the child removals from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

The over-incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is rife with more than 60% of children taken into custody in New South Wales in 2023 being Aboriginal ³.

¹ [sb46_homicide_of_aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islander_women.pdf](#)

² [System review into out-of-home care](#)

³ [THE-CHILDREN-FINAL.pdf](#)



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We are committed to working from the deep understanding of the systemic racism of the criminal justice system towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and will continue to advocate for our communities and individuals throughout our day-to-day work. These are not just statistics — these are real people, children, families, and communities being affected by policies and practices that are rooted in a legacy of dispossession and cultural erasure.

Every day at FSN we also witness the resilience of these families as they confront the ongoing effects of historical and contemporary injustice. Yet we also recognise that resilience should not be a substitute for justice. We believe that reconciliation requires not only an acknowledgment of past wrongs but also a genuine participation in honouring the rights, dignity, and cultural practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In moving forward together, we remember this is Aboriginal land yesterday, today and always.

