

**Submission
No 4**

CHILD PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEM

Organisation: Central Coast Community Legal Centre

Date Received: 10 December 2020

December 8 2020

Mr Mason-Cox
The Chair, Inquiry into Child Protection and Social Service System
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Mason-Cox,

Re: Submission to The Inquiry into child protection and social service system

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry into child protection and social service system.

This submission is presented on behalf of the Central Coast Community Legal Centre (Central Coast CLC). Central Coast CLC is a not for profit Community Legal Centre based in Wyong, NSW. We provide free generalist legal information and advice services to people who are financially disadvantaged and/or face multiple barriers to accessing justice in the region. The Centre provides these services across the NSW Central Coast Region.

In 2017 and in response to the 'Safe Home for Life' reforms, Legal Aid NSW received funding over four years to implement early intervention and alternative dispute resolution initiatives. As part of the implementation, Legal Aid NSW made arrangements for legal aid early intervention care services to be provided by its Care Partners, NSW Community Legal Centres'.

In September 2019 Community Legal Centres' lost this funding. Despite this loss Central Coast CLC maintained its commitment to working in the care and protection space. This decision was largely driven by the number of Aboriginal children in out of home care on the coast (600 at the time of this submission).

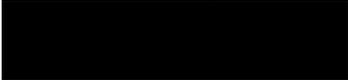
We continue our strong commitment to working with Aboriginal families and we focus on working in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Out of Home Care and family support services to provide legal information and advice on care and protection procedure and legislation to families involved with Department of Communities, Department of Justice and Communities.

We value the opportunity to provide input into the inquiry. Having reviewed the inquires Terms of Reference we submit the following:

- **There is no need for a further inquiry into the Care and Protection system in NSW, The recent report by Professor Megan Davis, Family is Culture Review Report, provided a thorough review of child protection and the social service system in NSW.**
- **Whilst the report focussed on Aboriginal children, these children represent a significant 33% of all those in Out of Home Care**
- **We feel strongly that the 125 recommendations of the recent Family is Culture Review Report: Independent Review into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People in Out of-Home Care in New South Wales be implemented**

- We note specifically Chapters 8: “Public accountability and oversight” and Chapter 9 “Getting early intervention right”

Yours faithfully



Dborah Macmillan
Executive Officer
CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE