

## Directory of support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people involved in care and protection proceedings including court-based services and services provided by non-government organisations

---

**INDEX** (click on hyperlinks below to access information by state or territory)

### [New South Wales](#)

- [Children's Court advocacy services](#)
- [Non-government organisations which provide advocacy in care and protection proceedings](#)
- [Early Intervention and post-order assistance](#)
- [Resources for families to conduct family history research](#)

### [Court based advocacy services available in other jurisdictions](#)

- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory](#)

**Note:** other states and territories not listed above do not appear to offer any court-based advocacy services.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### Children's Court services

Presently, in New South Wales ("NSW") there are no court-based advocacy services available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait people involved in care proceedings. Those seeking assistance can contact the care division of the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT (ALS) or one of the other relevant non-government organisations listed below.

### Non-government organisations which provide advocacy in care and protection proceedings

#### AbSec NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation

**Location:** 21 Carrington Road, Marrickville NSW 2204

#### **Link(s) and/or contact information:**

[AbSec Website](#)

**Postal Address:** PO Box 604, Marrickville NSW 1475

**Ph:** (02) 9559 5299 | Aboriginal Carer Support: 1800 888 698 | Child Protection Helpline: 132 111

**Email:** [admin@absec.org.au](mailto:admin@absec.org.au)

#### Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT (ALS)

**Location:** NSW, State-wide (approximately 24 offices across NSW and ACT)

#### How we help

The ALS Care and Protection team provides culturally safe, expert legal and non-legal assistance.

#### Who we help

The Care and Protection team helps Aboriginal women, men, parents and grandparents, uncles, aunties and children with child protection issues.

#### What we do

The team helps clients understand what the Child Protection Agencies are saying and why a particular outcome has occurred. It also helps families understand the court process.

ALS challenges the system so that Aboriginal families can get their children back and so that children's connection to their families and culture can be maintained.

#### The ALS can be help if:

- A care application has been made
- A child was removed a long time ago
- You want to change an order made by the court
- You need help deciding whether you can fight a matter or not
- Your family needs a support plan now, or into the future

**Accessing the service:** ALS will provide some ad hoc services but for more complex matters will require proof of Aboriginality.

Legal assistance is provided subject to a means, merit and conflict test, as well as the availability of ALS Care and Protection lawyers.

#### **Link(s) and/or contact information:**

[ALS Website](#)

**Ph:** 1800 765 767

**Email:** [als-care@alsnswact.org.au](mailto:als-care@alsnswact.org.au)

---

### Binaal Billa Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

**About:** Binaal Billa will provide free legal assistance, in-house case management support for family, domestic violence and sexual assault victims and work with the community and in schools to deliver educational workshops and identify and address deeper problems in the community.

Binaal Billa “provides assistance with Department of Community and Justice to negotiate with the Department, advocacy at Case Plan Meetings, and representation in the children’s court in child protection cases.”

**Accessing the service:** Services are available exclusively to Indigenous people, and non-Indigenous people with Indigenous children.

Services are free and not means-tested.

The case does not need to be in court yet for the family to be eligible for free legal advice and advocacy services.

**Provides outreach services to:** Forbes, Parkes, Peak Hill, Trundle, Tullamore, Tottenham, Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo, Murrin Bridge.

**Link(s) and/or contact information:**

[Binaal Billa Homepage](#)

Ph: (02) 6850 1234

Email: [admin@binaalbilla.com.au](mailto:admin@binaalbilla.com.au)

Address: 18 Spring Street, Forbes NSW 2871

---

### Family Law Service for Aboriginal Communities (FamAC) | Legal Aid NSW

**Provides outreach legal and non-legal services to:** Baryugil, Batemans Bay, Boggabilla, Bourke, Brewarrina, Condobolin, Dareton, Jubullum, Lake Cargelligo, Maclean, Mogo,

Moree, Moruya, Murwillumbah, Muswellbrook, Pottsville, Singleton, Tabulam, Toomelah, Tweed Heads, Wallaga Lake, Yamba.

**Link(s) and/or contact information:**

[FamAC Website](#)

Ph: (02) 9407 2941

Email: [famac@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:famac@legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

---

### Grandmothers Against Removal (GMAR)

**Location:** NSW, Sydney and Lismore

**About:** Grassroots advocacy group led by Aboriginal grandmothers.

Linking families with services, provide advice for grandmothers, and supporting families who are dealing with DCJ, government advocacy and protesting.

GMAR “co-developed the Guiding Principles for strengthening the participation of local Aboriginal community in the child-protection decision-making... with the New England DCJ District Office and the NSW Ombudsman’s Office.”

**Accessing the service:** Services are free. Families can access support services at any time, not just when child is already involved in Court proceedings.

**Link(s) and/or contact information:**

[Communities and Justice information webpage](#)

[GMAR Guiding Principles](#)

For further information, contact Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes

Email: [TAO-CareandHousing@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:TAO-CareandHousing@facs.nsw.gov.au)

---

## Public Interest Advocacy Centre | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Project

**Location:** Level 5, 175 Liverpool St, Sydney  
NSW 2000 Australia

**Link(s) and/or contact information:**

[Public Interest Advocacy Centre Website](#)

**Ph:** (02) 8898 6500 | (02) 8898 6555

**Email:** [piac@piac.asn.au](mailto:piac@piac.asn.au)

---

## SNAICC National Voice for Our Children

**Location:** 27 Budd Street, Collingwood, VIC,  
3066

**Link(s) and/or contact information:**

[SNAICC Website](#)

**Ph:** (03) 9419 1921

**Email:** [info@snaicc.org.au](mailto:info@snaicc.org.au)

---

## Thiyama-Li “Tee-a-MAH-lee”

Locations:

**Moree:** Shop 5/96 Balo Street, Moree NSW  
2400 – provides outreach services to  
Mungindi, Boggabilla and Toomelah

**Walgett:** 48 Wee Waa Street, Walgett NSW  
2832 – provides outreach services to  
Goodooga, Collarenebri, Lightning Ridge  
and Grawin

**Bourke:** 59A Mertin Street, Bourke NSW  
2840 – provides outreach services to  
Brewarrina, Wanaaring, Weilmoringle and  
Engonia

**About:** Provides culturally appropriate  
assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander adults and children who are victims  
of family violence with a range of legal and

support services, including in Care and  
Protection proceedings.

Accessing the service:

Services are available in child protection  
matters where family violence is involved.

Services are available to Indigenous people  
and non-Indigenous people with Indigenous  
children.

Services are free and not means-tested.

Services are available at any stage including  
before a case gets to court but families  
usually access the service once they have a  
case in court.

**Link(s) and/or contact information:**

[Thiyama-Li Website](#)

**Ph:** (02) 6752 1188

**Email:** [legal@thiyamali.com.au](mailto:legal@thiyamali.com.au)

---

## Waminda South Coast Women’s Health and Wellbeing Aboriginal Corporation

Locations:

- Yila Murnawar Durung Gunyah Health  
and Wellbeing Centre, 79 Plunkett  
Street, Nowra NSW 2541
- Minga Bunaan Gunyah Clinic Services  
and Nabu, 122 Kinghorne Street,  
Nowra NSW 2541
- Nabu Gunyah Case Management  
Services, 3A and 3B Nowra Lane,  
Nowra NSW 2541
- Mulligah Gunyah, Case Management  
and Counselling Services, 46 Baan  
Baan Street, Dapto NSW 2530
- Kareela Ngura, Traditional Garden, 5  
Nobblers Lane, Terara NSW 2540
- Buyunga Gunyah Case Management  
and Counselling Services, Shop 21,

The Plaza, 107-109 Princess Highway,  
Ulladulla NSW 2359

***Link(s) and/or contact information:***

Ph: 1800 997 330 | (02) 4421 7400

Fax: (02) 4421 5004

Email: [administration@waminda.org.au](mailto:administration@waminda.org.au)

### Warra Warra Legal Service

**Location:** NSW, Far West (Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Menindee, Wentworth)

**About:** Provides legal advice, representation and assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors of family violence, including in child protection and care matters.

**Accessing the service:** Services are available to Indigenous people and non-Indigenous women with Indigenous children.

Services are free, means testing applies.

Services are available at any stage including before a case gets to court.

Solicitors visit community on a regular basis.

***Link(s) and/or contact information:***

**Address:** 184-186 Argent Street, Broken Hill NSW 2880

Ph: 1800 812 800

Email: [reception@warrawarra.org.au](mailto:reception@warrawarra.org.au)

### Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service

**Location:** Marrickville (drop-in centre); Mudgin Gal Aboriginal Corporation, Chippendale and Emu Plains Correctional Centre (outreach)

**About:** Offer court support and staff regularly attend Court as a support person to

provide assistance to women attending court; and provides advice and casework in Care and Protection and Family Law proceedings

Accessing the service:

Solicitors are available to speak to clients over the telephone or face to face during the advice line times listed [here](#).

Outreach at Mugin Gal Aboriginal Corporate first Wednesday of the Month, 10am to 12pm and a monthly outreach at Emu Plains Correctional Centre.

***Link(s) and/or contact information:***

[Wirringa Baiya Webpage](#)

**Address:** Addison Road Community Centre, Building 13, 142 Addison Road Marrickville NSW2204

**Postal Address:** PO Box 785 Marrickville NSW 1475

Ph: 1800 686 587 (free call) | (02) 9569 3847

Email: [info@wirringabaiya.org.au](mailto:info@wirringabaiya.org.au)

### Early Intervention and post-order assistance

### Aboriginal Family Community Care Centre – Coffs Harbour (Abcare)

**Services:**

- Aboriginal Foster Care
- Healing Centre – Bimirr Darrundaygy
- Winyaarramba – Family Preservation

***Link(s) and/or contact information:***

[Abcare Website](#)

**Locations:**

11 Park Ave Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

Ph: 02 5615 8300

4-10 King Street Grafton NSW 2460

Ph: 02 5615 8315

64 Balo Street Moree NSW 2460  
Ph: 02 5764 000

## Australian Aboriginal Child and Family Services Ltd

### *Services:*

- Emergency Placements: AACAFS is registered with NSW Office Children's Guardian to provide out-of-home-care (OOHC) services. AACAFS can deliver Alternative Care Arrangements (ACA) and Individual Placement Arrangements (IPA) across NSW.
- Aboriginal Family Group Conferencing: AACAFS provides Aboriginal Family Group Conferencing services to other service providers as well as for families and communities.
- Casework Support: A fee-for-service program that delivers supervised contact, supervised transport, mentoring and respite to vulnerable children/young people in out of home care (OOHC) placements.
- Family Finding: Through our Family Finding services AACAFS' program aims to reestablish family connections between Aboriginal children and their family, kin and community.
- NDIS Services: AACAFS offers culturally appropriate NDIS services including clinical, therapeutic, transport and assistance to access community, social and recreational activities. Contact us to find out more.

### *Link(s) and/or contact information:*

[Australian Aboriginal Child and Family Services Website](#)

Ph: 02 8358 2053

## Burrun Dalai Aboriginal Corporation

- Foster care
- Out of Home Care
- Aboriginal Intensive Family Based Service (IFBS): intensive, time-limited, home based program for Aboriginal families in crisis (including extended family).
- Kempsey Aboriginal Youth Worker (KAYW) provide services to children, young people and families whose needs do not meet the threshold for 'risk of significant harm' (ROSH).
- Holistic Aboriginal Preventative Pathways Initiative (HAPPI Clinic): respond to the unmet need for early intervention and therapeutic responses to children and young people with a disability receiving services through Burrun Dalai's Out of Home Care (OOHC) program and Family Support Service (FSS).

### *Link(s) and/or contact information:*

[Burrun Dalai Website](#)

### *Locations:*

**Kempsey:** 21-23 Clyde Street Kempsey, NSW 2440

**Taree:** 86-88 Albert Street Taree, NSW 2430

**Tamworth:** Unit 3, 180 Peel Street Tamworth, NSW 2340

## KARI Australia: Aboriginal Family Support Program

**Service:** clients are paired with a dedicated Family Support Worker from our Early Intervention team to guide them along the way. The program offers ongoing support in the following ways:



- Case Management:
  - Your family support worker will work with you for up to 12 months and offer guidance and support when required, such as making relevant referrals, attending and coordinating appointments.
- Home visits:
  - Your family support worker will regularly visit you at home to support you with a range of services including parenting strategies, advice, and guidance.
- Providing support with accessing childcare.
- Providing access to direct therapeutic interventions
- Providing safer household living conditions
- Providing a direct entry point to the KARI multidisciplinary playgroup.
- Delivering parenting programs in both a one-on-one and group environment.

### *Link(s) and/or contact information:*

[Kari Australia Website](#)

### *Locations:*

KARI Liverpool  
KARI Penrith  
KARI Rosebery

## Muloobinba Aboriginal Corporation

**Service:** Aboriginal Family Preservation

### *Link(s) and/or contact information:*

[Muloobinba Aboriginal Corporation Website](#)

**Address:** 95 Mitchell Road , Cardiff NSW

**Ph:** 02 4969 5299

**Email:** [admin@muloobinba.org.au](mailto:admin@muloobinba.org.au)

**Hours:** Mon – Fri: 9 am – 5 pm

## Ngadhi Family Services

### *Services:*

- Family Time: Support Workers facilitate the child and parent, or child and sibling interaction, while promoting the safety and wellbeing of the child and all involved, in a safe and appropriate environment.
- Mentoring: a 10-week program, tailored to the young person, to help them in developing their skills and help them to get in touch with their culture, build self-confidence and personal development.
- Respite: high quality, safe and appropriate:
  - Short term respite – from one day to 28 days; or
  - Long term respite – for over 28 days
- Transport
  - Transport children and/or young persons to a variety of destinations as required, including appointments, family visits, school, or holiday programs, mentoring or respite.
  - All staff have First Aid Training and equipped with the appropriate child restraints and vehicle safety equipment.
- Carer Assessment: assess whether an individual applicant has the skills and capabilities to become a foster carer – in a culturally sensitive manner.
- Family Group Conferencing
- Leaving Care Program (aimed at young people aged 15 years and over)
- Restoration assessment

### *Link(s) and/or contact information:*

[Nghadi Family Services Website](#)

**Address:** PO Box Macarthur Square, NSW 2560

**Ph:** 0402 330 315

**Email:** [info@ngadhifamilyservices.com.au](mailto:info@ngadhifamilyservices.com.au)

### Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Child and Family Network Inc

#### *Services:*

- Early intervention case management
- Permanency Support Program
- Carers to participate in ongoing training programs.
- All foster Carers will be provided with a fortnightly allowance, scaled with regard to the age of the young people in care and the level of care they require.
- Ngunya Gumaguy: a service aimed at reducing the risk to families, where children and young people have been identified by Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) assessment as being at risk of being removed from the family home. Families can only be referred to the program through DCJ
  - 9 months to 2 years of parenting skill development, advocacy, in home parenting, referrals to other Agencies, access to essential services, or other goals (identified by the families), in a culturally connected manner.
  - 5 and 10 hours per week with the family, listening, understanding, linking and guiding the family toward goals set by the referring Community Services caseworker.
- Bugil Wernbe - Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) program
- Wudjabiny:
  - 10 free visits to your home or a place of your choosing where an Early Childhood workers will bring

along fun and exciting play based learning activities to incorporate learning experiences into daily life at home.

- A learning kit that can be used at anytime to support the growth and development of the child (Jarjum) along with a booklet full of ideas and resources that have been developed by a qualified teacher.

#### *Link(s) and/or contact information:*

[Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Child and Family Inc Website](#)

**Address:** Suite 15 Level 1, 21 Conway Street  
Lismore NSW 2480  
PO Box 580 Lismore NSW 2480

**Fax:** 02 9182 6020

**Email:** [info@ngunyajarjum.com](mailto:info@ngunyajarjum.com) | [balaa@ngunyajarjum.com](mailto:balaa@ngunyajarjum.com)

### Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) – National Voice for our children

#### *Link(s) and/or contact information:*

[SNAICC Website](#)

**Ph:** (03) 9419 1921

**Email:** [info@snaicc.org.au](mailto:info@snaicc.org.au)

**Address:** 27 Budd Street, Collingwood, VIC, 3066



---

## Sydney Aboriginal Family Support Service (SAFSS)

### *Programs include:*

- Aboriginal Intensive Family Support: The multidisciplinary team of Aboriginal professionals utilise the Home Builders Intensive Family Support model with an Aboriginal lens.
- Aboriginal Family Group Conferencing - nationally accredited Aboriginal family group conferencing facilitators are available for Family Group Conferencing
- Aboriginal Family Contact and Supervision
- Aboriginal Mentors - female and male Aboriginal mentors are available from a range of professional backgrounds
- Counselling - an Aboriginal Counselling program which offers 12 counselling sessions with an Aboriginal counsellor at home or via phone
- Aboriginal Family Preservation and Restoration

### *Link(s) and/or contact information:*

[SAFSS Website](#)

---

## Wandiyali

### *Services:*

- Out-of-home-care Children's Services: Wandiyali PSP OOHC supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in foster care placements across the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, and the greater Hunter Valley areas.

**Contact Person:** Stephanie Smith, PSP OOHC Operations Manager

**Telephone:** (02) 4957 5900

**Email:** [steph@wandiyali.com.au](mailto:steph@wandiyali.com.au)

**Address:** 116 Lake Road Elmore Vale NSW 2287

**Contact Person:** Sky Bayley, PSP OOHC Casework Practice Manager

**Telephone:** (02) 4957 5900

**Email:** [sky@wandiyali.com.au](mailto:sky@wandiyali.com.au)

**Address:** 116 Lake Road Elmore Vale NSW 2287

- Family Preservation Restoration Program: voluntary home-based program to support children to remain safe in the care of their family (preservation) or to return to the safe care of their family (restoration). Families are supported through intensive home visiting (2-3 times per week) for up to 2 years providing both practical and therapeutic support to increase parenting capacity and to reduce child protection risks in the home.

**Contact Person:** Alicia Sherlock

**Email:** [alicia@wandiyali.com.au](mailto:alicia@wandiyali.com.au)

**Telephone:** (02) 4957 5900

**Address:** 116 Lake Road Elmore Vale NSW 2287

- Multisystemic Therapy – Child Abuse and Neglect (MSTCAN) is a voluntary home-based program that works with families 3-4 times per week, over a period of 6-9 months.

**Contact Person:** Jacqueline Gissane

**Telephone:** (02) 4957 5900

**Email:** [jacqueline@wandiyali.com.au](mailto:jacqueline@wandiyali.com.au)

**Address:** 116 Lake Road Elmore Vale NSW 2287

### *Link(s) and/or contact information:*

[Wandiyali Website](#)

## Yerrin Eleanor Duncan

### *Services:*

- Ngaliya Family Preservation: The team can work with the family for up to 2 years to provide wrap around support services to increase safety and decrease the risk of harm through:
  - Family and parenting support, including family relationship counselling, parenting skills and in-home practical support.
  - Child focused support, including counselling or psychological services according to the level of identified need, services to address health need, educational and learning assistance.
  - Safety monitoring and assessments, including joint home visits with DCJ caseworkers
  - Risk mitigation, including referral to targeted services to address risk factors such as domestic and family violence services, mental health or drug and alcohol services.
  - Permanency support: Respite, short-medium and long term care
- Dhanggan Gudjagang Team provides:
  - Pregnancy care and education
  - Cultural and parenting care plans
  - Gulgul-ba Women's Group
  - Hospital visit after baby's birth
  - Postnatal care: including home visits for you and baby from your Midwife and Aboriginal Health Worker
  - Child Health Nurse and Aboriginal Health Worker for babies from six weeks to eight years of age
  - Mum's, Dad's and baby's yearly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 715 Health Assessment
  - On-Country events
  - Support for clients and families who are at risk of domestic and family violence

- Buridjga Youth Program provides support to high risk, vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, aged between 12 to 24 living on the Central Coast, Darkinjung Country.
- Maliga Safer Families Team provides:
  - Case coordination
  - Referrals and advocacy
  - Culturally appropriate resources
  - Access to social groups
  - Support for children in schools
  - Home visiting
  - Support for clients and families at risk of experiencing domestic and family violence

### *Link(s) and/or contact information:*

[Yerrin Eleanor Duncan Website](#)

**Hours:** 8:30am - 5:00pm (Monday - Friday)

**Ph:** (02) 4351 1040

**Address:** 3-5/56-64 Pacific Hwy, Wyong

### Resources that may assist in family history research

Useful in circumstances where the agency does not intend to undertake any additional research but the family themselves do and seeking some guidance.

#### AIATIS Family History Kit

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-02/aiatsis-family-history-kit-feb-2021.pdf>

#### State Library of NSW Aboriginal Australians Family History Guide

<https://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal-australians>

## State Library of NSW Researching your family history guide

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/using-library/researching-your-family-history>

## NSW Government Family history research guide

[Website](#)

[Births, Deaths and Marriages Search](#)

## State Archives Family History Guide

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/family-history-guide>

---

## VICTORIA

### Children's Court services

Marram-Ngala Ganbu ("we are one" in the Woiwurrung language), is part of the Family Division of Victorian Children's Court in Broadmeadows and was developed in response to the over-representation of Aboriginal children and families in the Victorian child protection system. The pilot program was launched in July 2016, and aims to improve outcomes for Koori children and families involved in child protection proceedings.

In 2019, the Children's Court of Victoria commissioned an independent evaluation ([available here](#)). The evaluation identified sufficient evidence that Marram-Ngala Ganbu is achieving its intended short-to-medium-term outcomes. In 2021, the program was expanded to Shepparton.

### Marram-Ngala Ganbu ("MNG")

**Location:** Victoria, Children's Court at Broadmeadows and Shepparton (2 locations)

**About:** A weekly hearing day at the Family Division of the Children's Court of Victoria at Broadmeadow aimed to improve outcomes for Indigenous children and families involved in child protection proceedings in north-east Melbourne

- Indigenous staff led the design, implementation and day-to-day function of the program
- Staff in the court have a high level of cultural competence
- Provides referrals to Aboriginal-controlled support services in the region
- Hearings are informal, conducted in more collaborative way, sit at round table
- Families are encouraged to bring Elders and other people from the community to provide support and input to hearings.
- A Koori Services Coordinator and Koori Family Support Worker coordinate the hearing list and assist family members in obtaining legal representation and understand the court process. There is also a Koori Conciliation Conference Convenor

The planned extension of Marram-Ngala Ganbu to the Shepparton Children's Court in 2020 was delayed due to the pandemic. Is planned to occur in early 2021

**Accessing the service:** Every family with an Indigenous child that is listed at Broadmeadows Children's Court is heard in MNG unless they wish to opt out.

Link(s) and/or contact information:

**Article of Social Ventures Australia website:**  
<https://www.socialventures.com.au/work/evaluation-of-marram-ngala-ganbu/>

Report (November, 2019) “Evaluation of Marram-Ngala Ganbu: A Koori Family Hearing Day at the Children’s Court of Victoria in Broadmeadows”:

[https://www.socialventures.com.au/assets/Evaluation-of-Marram-Ngala-Ganbu-November\\_SVA-Consulting.pdf](https://www.socialventures.com.au/assets/Evaluation-of-Marram-Ngala-Ganbu-November_SVA-Consulting.pdf)

Information about Shepparton:

<https://www.childrenscourt.vic.gov.au/news/marram-ngala-ganbu-koori-family-hearing-day-opens-shepparton>

---

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### Children’s Court services

In November 2017, the Interim Statutory Review of the *Children and Community Services Act 2004 (WA)* made four recommendations relating to the improvement of the protection and care process. The idea of a therapeutic court was further strengthened in 2018, when the Minister for Child Protection, Women’s Interests, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services visited the Koori Court at Broadmeadows Children’s Court in Victoria. A pilot program was proposed for a separate list, initially for Indigenous families but then open to all families, which aims to take a more therapeutic response to care and protection proceedings.

In 2019, a Working Group was set up to explore the implementation of a specialist list with therapeutic elements for protection and care.

On 10 July 2020, the Perth Children’s Court commenced the pilot.

### **Pilot Program – separate list for children in need of care and protection**

Location: Perth

**About:** Aims to address the issues that cause families to come before the court in a holistic, therapeutic and culturally informed manner.

Representatives from the Aboriginal community and community-based agencies will be able to attend the court at the same time and can be heard.

**Accessing the service:** Pilot was originally opened for Indigenous families but now serves families from all backgrounds.

Families can be referred by the magistrate in the protection and care list (Court 5) OR by solicitors if all parties agree to use the pilot.

**Link(s) and/or contact information:**

[Practice Direction](#)

[Media release](#)

### **Non-government organisations**

#### **Djinda Services (Women’s Legal Service WA)**

Location: Perth

**About:** Djinda Service is the specialist Perth Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service run in partnership with Relationships Australia WA.

The Service provides free specialist legal and non-legal support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the Perth metropolitan area who have experienced or are experiencing family violence and/or sexual assault.

Legal assistance is provided in the form of legal information and advice, limited court representation, advocacy and assistance, referrals and community legal education in the areas of:

- identifying and responding to family violence;

- family violence restraining orders;
- children's protection and care (DCP matters);
- family law (parenting related matters, some divorce); and
- criminal injuries compensation (where it relates to family violence or sexual assault).

### Accessing the service:

In order to access the service, the respondent must be an Aboriginal woman involved in a child protection matter who at some point in their life had been a victim of family or sexual violence.

Women can make an appointment by calling (08) 9200 2202.

Agencies or service providers (such as Legal Aid WA and ALS) wanting to refer a client should complete a Djinda Service Referral Form which can be found on the Webpage.

Legal appointments will usually take place at the Women's Legal Service WA office in Perth.

### Link(s) and/or contact information:

[Women's Legal Service WA](#)

[Djinda Service Webpage](#)

---

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### Children's Court services (Youth Court of South Australia)

The equivalent to the Children's Court of New South Wales is the *Youth Court of South Australia* ("Youth Court of SA").

## Youth Aboriginal Justice Officers

**Location:** Youth Court of SA, Adelaide

**About:** The Youth Court of SA has two Youth Aboriginal Justice Officers ("YAJOs") situated in the Youth Court Registry. The YAJOs are responsible for the development, delivery, monitoring and review of a culturally sensitive service to Aboriginal youth, families and the Aboriginal Community.

The YAJOs also assist the Court by helping Aboriginal youth and their families to communicate effectively and directly with the presiding judicial officer, to ensure that informed decisions can be made regarding the care and guidance of Aboriginal youth.

**Accessing the service:** Youth Aboriginal Justice Officer Trevor Raynor can be contacted at [youthcourt@courts.sa.gov.au](mailto:youthcourt@courts.sa.gov.au).

### Link(s) and/or contact information:

[Youth Court Webpage](#)

[Youth Aboriginal Justice Officers Webpage](#)  
(can access pamphlet on this page)

Ph: (08) 8204 0331

---

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### Children's Court services

**Name:** Care and Protection Intensive List (CPIL)

**Location:** Children's Court Division of the ACT Magistrates Court

**About:** Alternative process to the usual care and protection proceedings. The CPIL provides court supervised intensive management and therapeutic support of parents, to allow them to address their challenges with alcohol and other drugs, parenting capacity, family

violence and other issues which affect their ability to parent their children safely.

The program ensures case finalisation and permanency decisions are made by the sitting CPIL Magistrate to reduce the uncertainty of making permanent care orders, whilst ensuring the process is as least protracted as possible.

Parents will be intensively managed by the court and supporting clinical team throughout a therapeutic program over the period of approximately 12 months. On completion or exit from the program orders will be made in the best interest of the children or young people.

Accessing the service:

Participation is open to any parent who wishes to participate and is approved following a suitability assessment. Eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

Participation is open to all parents, not just ATSI. The CPIL provides for entry into the process by parents already engaged in Indigenous sentencing processes in the criminal court.

***Link(s) and/or contact information:***

[Care and Protection Intensive List webpage](#)

Ph: 02 6207 1746

Email: [Childrens@courts.act.gov.au](mailto:Childrens@courts.act.gov.au)