

Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency



Leaving Care Program



James Stubbs



Who Are We and Where Do We Come From?

- VACCA was established in 1977 following the First National Conference on adoption.
- The late Mollie Dyer founded VACCA, the first Aboriginal community controlled child and family welfare service in Australia.
- VACCA is a community based and controlled organisation, our CEO Muriel Bamblett is a Yorta-Yorta woman and our board is made up of Aboriginal community members.
- VACCA is a state-wide organisation and has offices VACCA is a statewide organisation and has offices in Brunswick East, Preston, Ringwood, Dandenong, Geelong, Morwell.



What guides our work at VACCA?

- Our vision:
‘A community that is strong in culture, values children and young people and recognises the importance of the whole community in raising children and keeping the family together.’
- An Aboriginal child’s cultural identity is fundamental to their overall wellbeing.
- Strong families raise strong children.
- Trauma informed therapeutic practice
- The teaching, maintenance and regaining of Aboriginal cultural practices for Aboriginal children is the responsibility of the whole community.

What is Cultural Safety?

- For all people, it is culture which frames identity and provides meaning.
- Our senses see, hear, taste, feel and smell the world through culture
 - Culture is as necessary to a sense of meaning and identity as air is to living.
 - Culture is the air our minds breathe.
 - Culture is our eyes onto the world.
 - Culture explains the world to us and, in many respects, us to the world.
 - Culture is central to identity. Culture defines who we are, how we think, how we communicate, what we value and what is important to us.

Muriel Bamblett – VACCA CEO

What programs and services do we offer?

- Family Services
- Placement and Support programs
- Link Up Victoria
- Lakidjeka ACSASS
- Capacity Building Programs
- Youth Homelessness
- Leaving Care





The Leaving Care Program

- The Leaving Care program aims to ensure a smooth transition for young Indigenous people as they move from “care” to independent living.
- The program is jointly funded through the Department of Housing and Department of Human Services.
- We work with Aboriginal young people between 16-21 years of age.
- Referrals made directly through VACCA or from Child Protection.
- We work with young people that have varying needs.

What We Do and Why We Do It

- Young people leaving out-of-home care among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged
- Relationship building is the key to success
- Case management, support young people negotiate the service sector, housing, drug, alcohol and Mental health services



Leaving Care Program Elements

- Cooking and Life Skills Program
- Leaving Care Camp
- Horse Therapy
- Art Therapy
- Koorie Tiddas Choir



Questions?



Thank you!