

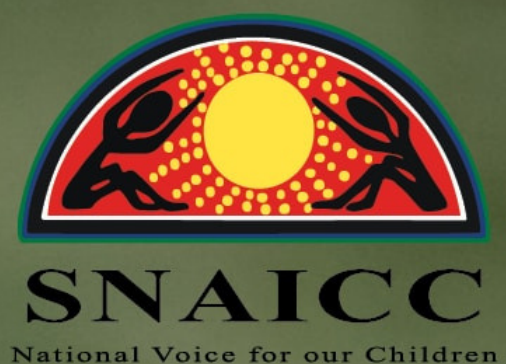
OUR DREAMING, OUR FUTURE

Today is the day to hold story deep
To embrace our ancestors' stories to keep
To look to our family, culture & community
To be still and acknowledge the interwoven intergenerational unity
The connection to place, the connection to culture of Ancestors past
The ever-flowing river that grounds us, that will forever last
We krakani (sit) with the stories of tomorrow and yesterday – they will not frey
As we honour and pay deep respects to the dreaming, the futures interwoven in 2022 Aboriginal
Childrens Day
The dreaming is gifted to our luwutina (children) born into the oldest living culture on earth
The gift of storylines & song lines gifted at birth
Children born into the forever dreaming connected to all that is the vital importance to grow up
strong in culture, to be part of community
To live out the dreaming of our old people, to set spirits & future free
How does the dreaming call to a child, ground a child, surround a child, protect a child
It's a grounding lifelong flowing river of footprints past, embedded in our Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander children's DNA
It's a gift of the dreaming, to live a future that is rich, grounded in family, community & culture, to live
out the dreaming forever surrounded by the stories of Ancestors, Elders, nations across the lands,
now called Australia
A day to know the centrality of culture for healthy, flourishing & futures
When a child is removed from country, culture & community, this bruises the cultural spirit; it doesn't
set the dreaming free
For policies of forced removed, of being taken away
We must all be in the dreaming & the futures for all children on National Aboriginal & Torres Strait
Islander Children's Day
A voice to the dreaming we can collectively call out & state
As each and all become dreaming & future advocates
Connected
Protected
Forever in the then & now
A circle of cultural love & hope
A forever flowing river of dreaming & futures

Written by Alison Overeem, August 2022



**National Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Children's Day
4 August 2022**



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WHAT DOES THIS THEME MEAN TO YOU?



"I dream for a world where children can grow up strong and be proud of themselves and their identity. Where they are nurtured, respected and empowered to be who they are. Dreaming for me is a holistic approach to viewing someone's identity and empowering them to shape their own story. Where their cultural, spiritual, and emotional selves are nourished through the stories of their ancestors."

Nichola Overeem – UAICC Member



"I dreamt for a world free of harm when I was a kid, a world where the fun moments never ran out, a world where culture was always so strong within my community and my heart, now my spiritual dreaming is far and few between. I want a future where the cultural strength that holds a child together, continues to nurture them for the rest of their life, a future where the fundamentals of cultural practice, spirituality and empowerment don't fade. A future which is built on a culturally strong foundation."

Grace Williams – UAICC Community & Cultural Resource Officer



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