

Submission on the Care and Protection of Children Legislation Amendment (Every Child Matters) Bill 2026 (NT)

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What is this about?

This submission was written for a Northern Territory parliamentary inquiry looking at the **Care and Protection of Children Legislation Amendment (Every Child Matters) Bill 2026**.

Many community organisations, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, said that the Bill **should not be passed**. We agreed with this position.

What does it say?

In our submission, we said that:

- There was **not enough consultation** with communities and organisations before the Bill was introduced.

- The Bill would **weaken the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle**, which helps Aboriginal children stay connected to their family, Culture and community.
- The Bill could give the government **more power to intervene in child protection matters**.
- At the same time, the Bill does **not do enough to support families** to safely care for their children.

We also highlighted concerns raised by the **North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA)** about these issues.

Our overall view was that the Bill could **increase government intervention** in families' lives **without supporting families** to thrive and help keep children safe.