



**AbSec – NSW Child, Family and
Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation**
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15 January 2024

Zoë Robinson
Advocate for Children and Young People
NSW Office of Advocate for Children and Young People

By Email: specialinquiry@acyp.nsw.gov.au

**RE: Letter of endorsement of ALS Response to the Special Inquiry into Alternative Care
Arrangements (ACA's), NSW**

Dear Ms. Robinson,

AbSec, the NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation fully supports and endorses the response to the Special Inquiry into Alternative Care Arrangements in NSW submitted by the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT (ALS).

As reiterated throughout their submission, it is shared sector knowledge that the most harmful form of placement arrangement is a temporary or emergency placement in short term accommodation, with rotating workers providing care for children and young people. This compounds the trauma being experienced by children and young people who would thrive with stability, connection, and support. We also fully support the ALS's position that such a placement type is not in alignment with both Commonwealth and NSW Government commitments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.

We understand the complexity of systems transformation and acknowledge Minister Washington's observation in the 2023 Budget Estimates that these placement types have been inherited from previous governments as a part of a "broken care system". Considering this admission, AbSec again offers the hand of partnership to the NSW government. Successful implementation of the 15 proposals for transformative change outlined in the ALS submission requires genuine and effective collaboration in the interests of Aboriginal children and young people.

If you have any questions, please contact the AbSec Policy and Advocacy team via

[Redacted contact information]

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]



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John Leha
CEO, AbSec

CC: Annaliese Gielingh, Policy Officer