

QCPCI

Date: 26.2.2013

Exhibit number: 182



PERSPECTIVES OF ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
YOUNG PEOPLE



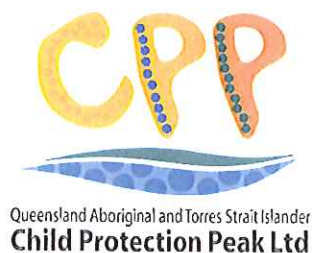
Presented To The Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry

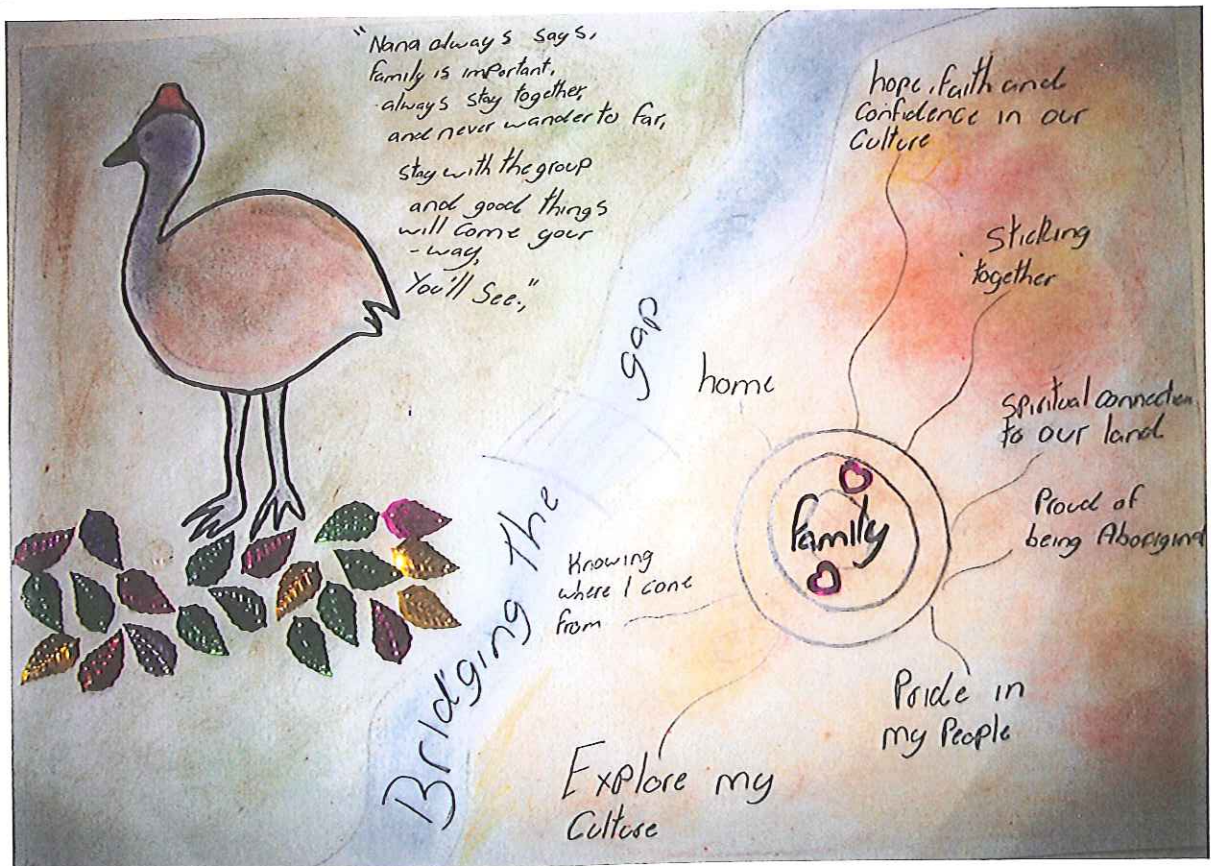
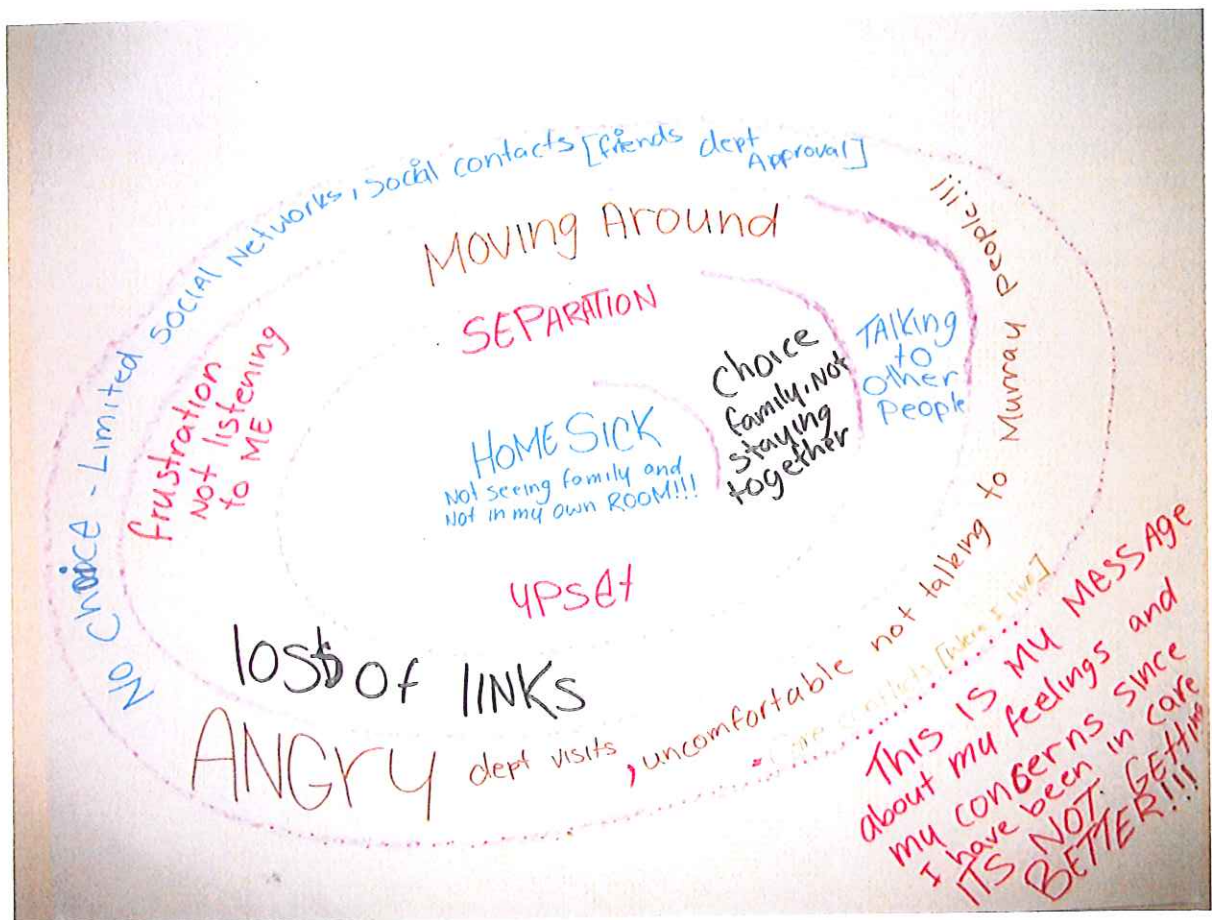
In November 2012, The Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS), the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP) and CREATE Foundation collaborated to have the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people heard in the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry. Using art mediums, the partners consulted with students from the Aboriginal and Islander Independent Community School Inc. Participants consisted of mixed gender young people from grades 7 to 10. Some of these young people identified as living in out-of-home care, others did not.

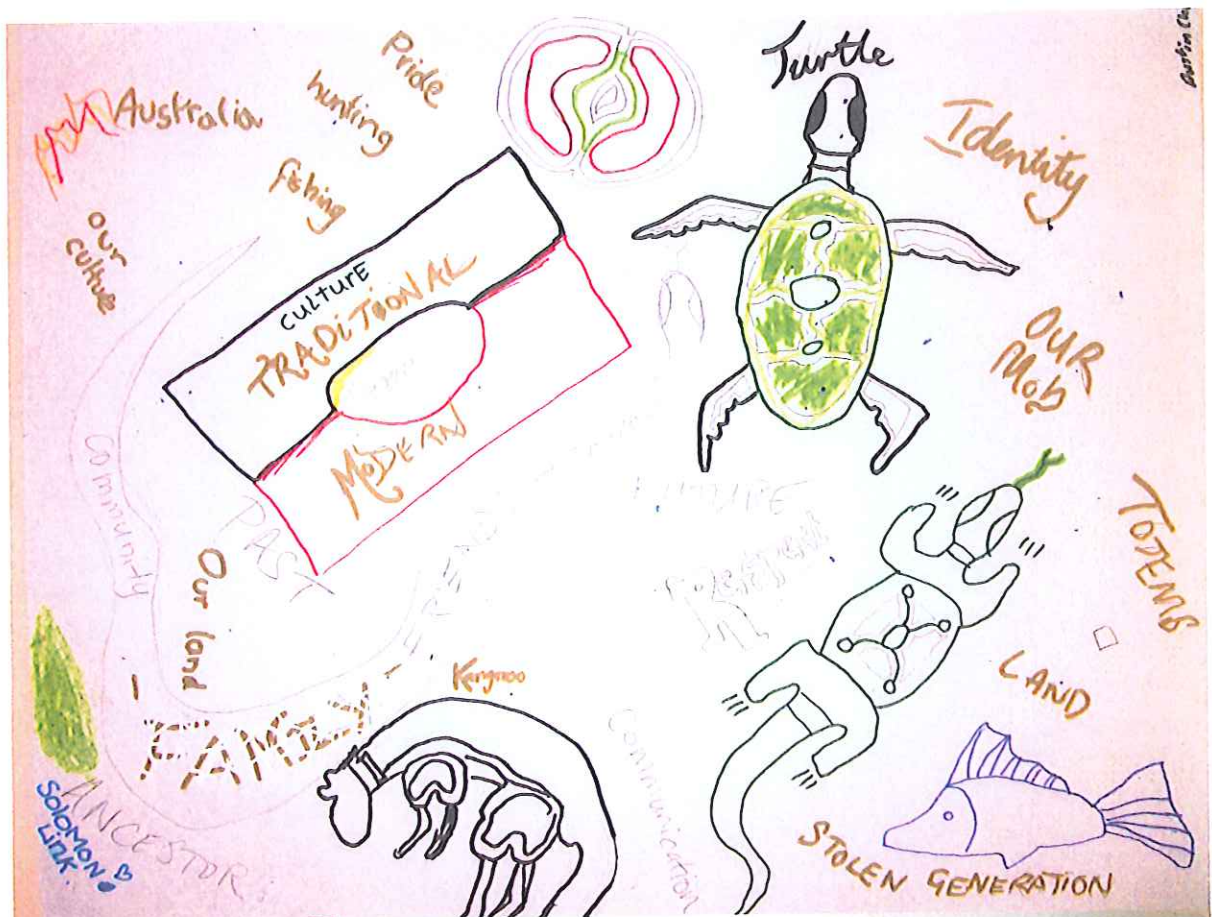
As is well known, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are over represented in Queensland's child protection system. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2012)*, in Queensland, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care is 8.7 times that of their non-Indigenous counterparts. It is also known that the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people living in out-of-home care differ to non Indigenous young people. There has been considerable discussion during the Inquiry about the "Best Interests" of children and young people. It has been made clear that decisions are made and positions justified by practitioners, academics and other professionals on the basis of something being in the perceived best interests of a child or young person. The definition and application, should not be concluded exclusive of the views of children and young people.

The purpose of the consultation with students from the Aboriginal and Islander Independent Community School Inc. was to seek feedback about their experiences of living in out-of-home care and to explore the concept of "Best Interests" from the perspective of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander young people.

The consultation occurred within an environment familiar to the participants. It was conducted within an artistic framework with participants encouraged to express themselves and depict their experiences and needs creatively. The result was a combination of group and individual art pieces each created from within a cultural lens.









KIDS IN Care Have a right to
Play SPORTS Like Every
other KID



