VACCA’s Role and Future

VACCA is an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation, serving Aboriginal clients, including children and young people who are vulnerable.

VACCA’s role is to:
- Respond to the needs of the vulnerable Aboriginal people it serves
- Build local social capital in Aboriginal families and communities, to which it remains accountable
- Reconnect children and families to each other, culture, country and Community
- Become a strong organisation that is well respected and well resourced, demonstrating the strength of Aboriginal community control to the Victorian community
- Provide excellence and accountability to the community we serve
- Advocate for systemic change to combat entrenched poverty and promote self-determination and the rights of Aboriginal people

VACCA has always asserted our status and position as Indigenous people to firmly pursue our rights as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples including the right to self-determination. We will represent and advocate for the rights and needs of our people, and act as vehicles for the advancement of our people in a variety of ways including offering services, employment and advocacy.

Many of our staff are connected to traditional owners in Victoria and we will continue to support and encourage them to be part of the dialogue that is occurring around the Treaty with the Victorian Government. Our Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff members have a strong commitment to their work and to our community and to self-determination, social justice and our cultural objectives.

Self-determination along with the recognition and celebration of our unique cultural status, rights and histories of Aboriginal Victorians is central to having strong, empowered and safe Aboriginal families and communities.

The challenge for us is to stay on this path, consolidating and safeguarding change and continuing to develop our own services in line with reform we have been pursuing for many decades.

In recent years we have driven major reforms to services for Aboriginal children, families and communities based on the principle of self-determination. Key developments include the establishment of Ngalu (VACCA) Transitioning Aboriginal Children to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and family violence services.

Our community and its needs are constantly changing and we will need to respond to new unexpected challenges by offering the right kind of services in the right place. VACCA’s six key principles including self-determination will drive further innovation to find better solutions to the issues facing our children, young people, families and communities.

We have key work to progress in service delivery, in continuing our influencing and advocacy leadership, and continuing our partnership work and our work in supporting others to address the needs of Aboriginal communities. We will continue to work with government at all levels necessary to achieve change and better outcomes for our families and children.

Strategic Plan Approach

In 2017 we developed our organisational logic model and outcomes framework that links every service program and activity of VACCA to our Vision and Purpose. The logic model includes five domains important to us as a community controlled organisation with a strong history grounded in political action and advocacy with equally strong community advancement objectives. These domains include self-determination, culture and strong organisation.

Understanding how everything we do links to and supports our Vision has shaped the priorities of this strategic plan. Over time we will use our outcomes framework to assess the value of the work we do for our clients and community. The programmation of our cultural therapeutic practice framework and an agency wide client information management system will support recurrent monitoring, evaluation and learning and enable better practice and better outcomes for children, families and the Community.