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| Aboriginal community controlled organisations (ACCO) services – Family and community services 31260 |
| Outcome objective: Victorians are safe and secure  Output group: Child protection and family services  Output: Family and community services |

# 1. Service Objective

Aboriginal community controlled organisations services – Family and community services aims to promote the health, wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal children, women and families.

# 2. Description of the service

Aboriginal community controlled organisations services (ACCO) – Family and community services comprises the following activities:

* **31165 – Aboriginal family services**
* **Aboriginal family-led decision making**

Aboriginal family-led decision making (AFLDM) is a culturally based approach to decision making and planning with Aboriginal families involved with child protection about the safety needs of their children and how these can be met. Referrals to the program from child protection are considered once abuse or neglect of an Aboriginal child is substantiated. The AFLDM conveners – one from DHHS child protection and one from the Aboriginal community – meet with the family and relevant community members to make decisions about how to respond to protective concerns and keep the child safe in future.

The model utilises traditional Aboriginal approaches to solving family problems and involves Aboriginal elders, the child and extended family. Consideration is to be given to an AFLDM for decision making in relation to best interests planning and placement planning. Funding provides for employment of Aboriginal conveners by ACCOs.

* Aboriginal cultural planning (including brokerage funding)

A cultural plan is a requirement under s.176 of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 and is to be provided to each Aboriginal child placed in out-of-home care. Aligned to the case plan it sets out how an Aboriginal child is to remain connected to his or her Aboriginal community and Aboriginal culture. Funding provides for Senior Advisers – Aboriginal Cultural Planning to be employed by ACCOs to support care teams to develop cultural plans. Brokerage funds are provided to support the implementation of cultural plans.

Funding also provides for statewide coordination of the cultural planning program and for development and maintenance of an online cultural portal to assist in the development of cultural plans.

* **Aboriginal kinship finding**

Aboriginal kinship finding services support connections to family, community and culture for Victorian Aboriginal children in kinship care. Funding provides for  
1. Delivering services according to submission reference number P14441  
2. Establishment of a genealogy database  
3. Establishment of an Aboriginal Kinship Finding Advisory Committee  
4. Establishment and provision of kinship finding services and supports  
5. Outreach services as required.

* **Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care**

Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care (ACAC) is the program name for Section 18 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*. Section 18 enables the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services to authorise the Principal Officer of an Aboriginal agency to perform specified functions and powers conferred on the Secretary in relation to Aboriginal children or young people subject to protection orders. Funding provides for employment of ACAC practitioners, legal services and administration support to deliver the program.

* **31301 – Child protection and family services sector development.**

This service has been created as part of the Flexible funding arrangements, one of three components of the Simplifying funding and reporting for Aboriginal community controlled organisations initiative.

If organisations are not utilising flexible funding arrangements they should refer to the original activities in the Human services policy and funding plan:

* **Aboriginal family services (31165)**
* **Child protection and family services sector development (31301)**

ACCOs, in consultation with department staff, can review and redirect some or all of their funding within this service. This provides Aboriginal community controlled organisations with the opportunity to realign their funding to further meet their community’s needs.

Service changes are to reflect this output group’s objective, the community’s needs, departmental requirements and state and national objectives.

Where a change in service is negotiated; departmental staff within the division, in conjunction with Aboriginal community controlled organisations staff, will document the proposed changes on the Flexible funding planning template.

The department’s Divisional Director is required to endorse the template prior to service changes being implemented.

It is not mandatory for Aboriginal community controlled organisations to implement flexible funding arrangements. Aboriginal community controlled organisations can continue delivering their current service mix or opt to change some or all of their service mix at any stage of the current or future service agreements.

# 3. Client group

The client group this activity is targeted at Aboriginal children, young people and families whose health, wellbeing, safety and development are at risk or those who have come into contact with the child protection system.

# 4. Obligations specific to this activity

In addition to the obligations listed in the Service Agreement, organisations funded to deliver this activity must comply with the following:

## 4a. Registration and Accreditation

* Independent review and accreditation against the department’s Human Services Standards, unless exempted
* Registration under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005

## 4b. Program requirements and other policy guidelines

* [Cultural plans](http://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au/advice-and-protocols/advice/aboriginal-children/cultural-support-plans)

<http://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au/advice-and-protocols/advice/aboriginal-children/cultural-support-plans>

# 5. Performance

Funding is subject to achieving the performance targets specified in Schedule 2 of the Service Agreement. Performance is measured as follows:

## Key performance measure 1: Number of clients

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| Aim/objective | This performance measure is the number of clients receiving service |
| Target | The performance measure target is provided in the Service Agreement. |
| Type of count | Cumulative |
| Counting rule | Count clients in the first quarter of each financial year as:  cases open at the start of the period  new cases opened during the period.  Count cases in the remaining three quarters of the financial years as:  new cases opened during the period. |
| Data source(s) collection | [Simplifying funding and reporting for Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations Planning process template ACCO Services – Family and community services (31260)](http://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-children-care)  <http://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-children-care> |
| Definition of terms | A client is defined as an Aboriginal family with a child/ren aged between 0 and 17 years old or an unborn child who meets the target group requirements. Definition is inclusive of kinship and foster care families. |

# 6. Data collection

The reporting requirements for this service are:

| Data collection name | Data system | Data set | Reporting cycle |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Department of Human Services flexible funding model: ACCO services –family and community services | Manual | ACCO services – Family and community services | Quarterly |

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