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| Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Services (ACSASS)  31263 |
| Outcome objective: Victorians have capabilities to participate  Output group: Child Protection and Family Services  Output: Family And Community Services |

**OFFICIAL**

## 1. Service objective

The aim of the Aboriginal child specialist advice and support service (ACSASS) activity is to ensure that a culturally appropriate and effective response is provided in the protection of Aboriginal children from harm. The objective of the service is to ensure that child protection is supported to consider the best interests and cultural needs when making decisions regarding Aboriginal children.  
The service is based on funded Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations providing culturally informed, holistic consultation to child protection , to ensure the ongoing safety, well-being and protection of Aboriginal children and young people.

## 2. Description of the service

ACSASS provides specialist advice and case consultation to child protection regarding an Aboriginal perspective in the assessment of risk and case planning and culturally appropriate intervention for reports of abuse or neglect of Aboriginal children. Child protection practitioners are required to consult with ACSASS at the point a report is received regarding an Aboriginal child and regarding all significant case decisions thereafter, across all phases of child protection involvement.   
The role of ACSASS workers includes case consultation, liaison between child protection and Aboriginal children and their families, participation in meetings and joint visits with child protection practitioners where appropriate.

## 3. Client group

Aboriginal children reported to child protection (including unborn children) or subject to child protection investigation, intervention or a protection order.

## 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

* [Human Services Standards policy](https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/human-services-standards-policy)

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* [Program requirements for the Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Service](https://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/2850%20ACSASS%20program%20requirements%20-%20revised%20February%202019.pdf)

<https://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/2850%20ACSASS%20program%20requirements%20-%20revised%20February%202019.pdf>

* [Child Protection Practice Manual](http://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au)

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## 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** | To ensure that child protection is supported to consider the cultural needs and issues in reaching decisions regarding the best interests of Aboriginal children |
| **Target** | The performance measure target is provided in the Service Agreement |
| **Type of count** | Cumulative |
| **Counting rule** | Count the number of clients receiving this service |
| **Data source(s) collection** | * Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Services |
| **Definition of terms** | Clients are defined as Aboriginal children subject to child protection involvement and families with an Aboriginal child/ren aged 0–17 years or an unborn Aboriginal child. Definition is inclusive of kinship and foster care families. Child is defined in accordance with the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005. Child protection involvement refers to children/young people who are either subject to current report, investigation, intervention or protection order |

## 6. Data collection

The reporting requirements for this service are:

| **Data collection name** | **Data system** | **Data set** | **Reporting cycle** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Services | Manual Data Collection | Aboriginal child specialist advice and support services | Monthly |

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