

Board Member Opportunity

For a First Nations candidate to join
the Australian Childhood Foundation



An invitation to help shape a safer, fairer future for all children and young people

Following the recent resignation of our longstanding First Nation's Board Member, the Australian Childhood Foundation respectfully invites interested First Nations leaders to consider joining our Board.

Our organisation is guided by a clear belief: children and young people flourish when they are safe, respected, believed, and surrounded by adults, communities and systems that honour their rights, relationships, identities and cultures. Too many children and young people across Australia—especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children—continue to experience harm, trauma and systemic inequity. We are committed to doing better.

We know that meaningful, lasting change can only be achieved in partnership with First Nations peoples, knowledge systems and leadership. We also know that healing is possible when children, families and communities are connected to culture, to each other, and to strong, trauma transformative support systems that truly understand them.

As we work toward our 2030 Strategy, we are deepening our commitment to cultural safety, truth-telling, self-determination and shared decision-making through our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. We seek the guidance and leadership of a First Nations Board Member who can help ensure our strategy, governance, advocacy and culture are aligned with what First Nations children, families and communities have been calling for across generations.

Why your leadership matters

Your voice and wisdom will strengthen our ability to:

- Deliver healing responses that are culturally strong, community-led and grounded in the strengths, rights and identities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.
- Shift systems, narratives and structures that have too often caused harm, toward ones that uphold dignity, justice and belonging.
- Ensure our decisions are shaped by lived experience, cultural knowledges and community priorities, not assumptions.
- Build partnerships that respect First Nations sovereignty and knowledge systems and support long-term, intergenerational change.
- Hold us accountable to our Theory of Change, which centres safety, connections and relationships, capable adults, just systems and trauma-transformative practice.

What you will bring

We are seeking a First Nations leader who:

- Brings strong cultural knowledge, community experience or professional expertise.
- Is deeply committed to the rights, safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Can challenge us, guide us and help us think differently about how we work alongside First Nations families and communities.
- Is an advocate for systemic reform and culturally safe, trauma informed practice.
- Values collaboration, evidence-informed action and integrity in leadership.
- You do not need previous board experience. We will provide governance support, mentoring, and a culturally safe induction to ensure you feel supported and respected in your leadership.



Your role

As a Board Member, you will:

- Contribute to strategic discussions and vote on key governance matters.
- Help guide our advocacy, partnerships and systemic reform initiatives.
- Support the embedding of children's rights and lived experience including cultural identity, connection and relationships into all organisational decisions.
- Ensure our work aligns with our values of Hope, Compassion, Courage, Respect and Integrity.
- Join a Board that is collaborative, values driven and deeply committed to creating a safer world for all children and young people.

This is a voluntary role with all travel expenses reimbursed. The term is two years, with the possibility of renewal.

We would be honoured to speak with you.



How to apply

If this opportunity resonates with you, we warmly invite a confidential conversation. Please contact:



Mark Thomas
Board Chair

OR



Janise Mitchell
CEO

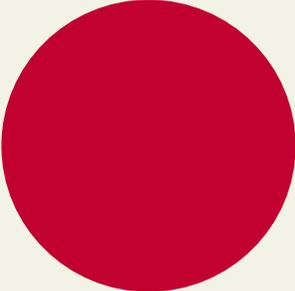
T: 0422 006 732
E: mark.thomas@mmtas.com.au

T: 0409 740 868
E: jmitchell@childhood.org.au

Applications are to include:

- A current curriculum vitae (CV).
- A cover letter addressing why you would like to join our Board and the skills, experience, and knowledge you would bring.

Applications should be forwarded to boardrecruitment@childhood.org.au



1300 381 581
childhood.org.au
boardrecruitment@childhood.org.au



**Australian
Childhood
Foundation**

