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VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE AGENCY



Koorie Families as First Educators

For professionals

Koorie Families as First Educators

Koorie Families as First Educators is an exciting new program for families of young children being provided by the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA).

Family are the most important people in a child's life. They are the first teachers who help children learn their first words and numbers and understand their culture and identity. The *Koorie Families as First Educators* program recognises this and is designed to build on the many ways that families help their children to grow and learn.

What is Koorie Families as First Educators?

The program employs Koorie Educators to provide in-home support sessions with families or carers of Aboriginal children aged 0 to 5 years, including pregnant mums and partners. The Koorie Educators will work with families around ways they can support their child's learning and development and increase their confidence in their parenting skills. The program is available for families living in the Northern metropolitan Melbourne or LaTrobe regions.

Key areas that Koorie Educators explore with families include:

- Everyday tips and ideas to support childhood learning and development
- Supporting connection to Community and culture
- Promoting self-care for families
- Parental skill development
- Connecting to Aboriginal and community services that are available, including warm referrals.

The program provides around 10 sessions with families, however can be flexible depending on each family's needs. It is not a case management service, but rather has a specific focus on supporting children's early learning and development. The program can work alongside other early years' services a family may be accessing, including Aboriginal Cradle to Kinder or playgroup and will support referrals where families require support beyond the scope of the program.

The program uses the approach of the *smalltalk* parenting strategies. *Smalltalk* is an evidenced-based program that has been rolled out across Victoria in supported playgroups and in-home sessions.

If you would like to hear more about the Koorie Families as First Educators program or are interested in making a referral, please contact:

Northern metro region

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LaTrobe/Gippsland region

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