

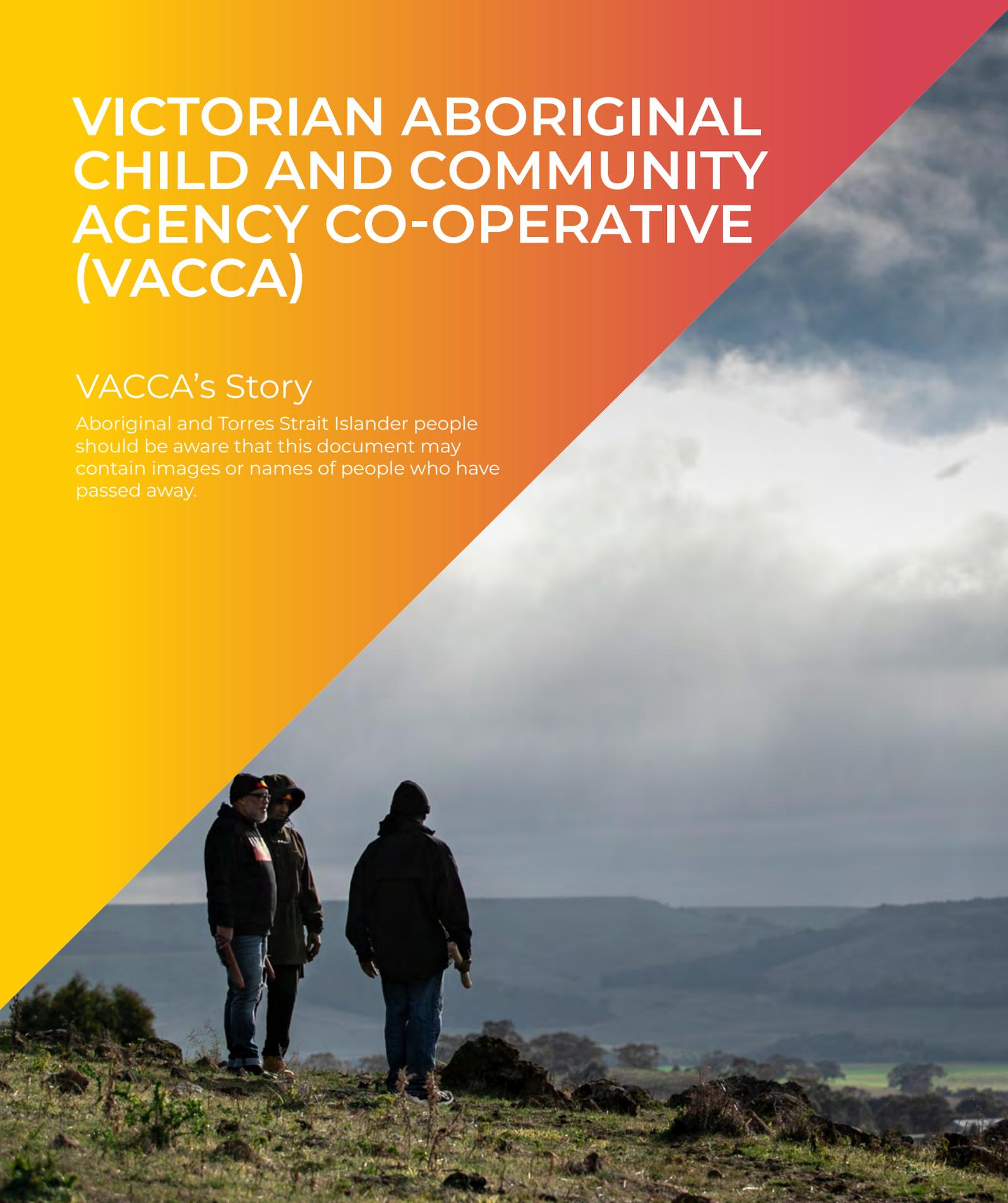


MOORE

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD AND COMMUNITY AGENCY CO-OPERATIVE (VACCA)

VACCA's Story

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this document may contain images or names of people who have passed away.



Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency Co-Operative

About VACCA

VACCA is Victoria's leading Aboriginal Child and Family services organisation and the largest provider of Aboriginal Child Welfare, Family Violence, Youth Justice and Homelessness Support Services.

VACCA is a well-respected and regarded Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) which has been operating for 47 years responding to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, families, Elders and community in Victoria. We are the largest Aboriginal Organisation in Australia and the fifth largest community organisation in Victoria.

We know that strong Aboriginal families and communities means strong thriving Aboriginal children. We focus on creating services, supports, policies and advocacy that deliver solutions for our people now and that make a positive difference for future generations.

Our vision for Aboriginal self-determination is what we strive for.

The heart of our work is the focus on safety, wellbeing and cultural connections for our children, families and community - first, foremost, always.

What excites us is our ability to advocate, change and improve policy systems and structures that have for so long denied Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of their culture, connections, language and basic human rights. We have played



a significant role in Victoria's recent service system reform in relation to Aboriginal Child Protection and we expect this to be a game changer for Victorian Aboriginal families and children over the next 5+ years.

What does it mean for you to be an indigenous owned organisation in Australia?

We are extremely proud of being an ACCO and part of a broader ACCO family across Victoria and Australia. Our Board are all Aboriginal and represent traditional owners groups from across Victoria.

We are extremely proud of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and connections and the mob we represent and advocate for on a daily basis.

Our purpose, supporting culturally strong, safe and thriving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and children, remains steadfast.

To be an ACCO carries many responsibilities and we take this very seriously for our Board, members and community.

Our role is vital and multifunctional today and for future Aboriginal generations; that is to advocate, protect and support our people to thrive, advocating self-determination from a policies and systems level to a local societal level, and as an Aboriginal organisation with in excess of 400 Aboriginal staff and strong workforce development ethos we provide substantial, long term benefits that extend well beyond just the individuals in the workforce such as Aboriginal employment, economic participation and empowerment, improved job opportunities, role modelling, wide ranging training, personal and professional develop, qualification support, sharing knowledge etc.

As an ACCO we not only contribute to strengthened culture, safety and well being of clients but the investment in our workforce and workforce opportunities also has a positive ripple effect in the wider Aboriginal Community and across the Victorian Community in general.

How has the Australian business landscape changed for your organisation/business/enterprise over the last 10 years?

The most significant change to the environment VACCA operates in has been the Victorian Labor Government's Roadmap for Reform in the Child and Family Welfare space introduced eight years ago followed by a strong commitment to Self Determination demonstrated through support of the First Nations Assembly, a Treaty Framework and Yoorrook Justice Commission have helped reform service system changes in Victoria, in particular, Child Protection services. There is still more work to be done however a substantial change namely Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care and Community Protecting Boorai's will be a game changer in the sector and for Aboriginal children and our community. This change will greatly reduce the removal of Aboriginal children from families unnecessarily.

These system reform changes as well as a number of Royal Commissions into Family Violence, Institutional Child Sexual Abuse etc have resulted in exponential organisational growth and service delivery for VACCA over the last 10 years increasing our turnover from approx. \$19m (254 staff) in 2014 to \$140m turnover (1009) today.

VACCA's advocacy, social policy work and research has been instrumental in negotiating with the State Government and bringing about these changes including the Child and Health Legislation Amendment (Statement of Recognition, Aboriginal Self Determination and Other Matters) Bill in June 2023.

What are some of the key trends in your industry that will be affecting your enterprise over the coming few years?

Continued service reform through an Aboriginal lens, implementing Yoorrook recommendations, Close the Gap reforms and undertaking ACCO Treaty negotiations will be the major trends impacting our organisation's services over the coming years which will translate into better funding and capacity building of ACCO's and improved access and service delivery for Aboriginal people in need.

How has Moore Australia made a difference to your organisation?

VACCA's growth has meant that our financial systems need to be robust and we must continuously build learning systems into our management of our funds. Moore Australia has taken the time to learn about us and engage in all aspects of our work. Their involvement ensures transparency, accountability, and responsible financial management.

This case study was provided by and published with the approval of:

Prof Muriel Bamblett, AO.
A Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung,
Boon Wurrung woman.

VACCA is a statewide organisation with 12 main offices in Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western regions including 4 offices in Gippsland and Ovens Murray regions.

More information:

Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency Co-Operative (VACCA)

340 Bell Street Preston, Victoria 3072
PO Box 494, Northcote Plaza,
Northcote Victoria 3070

<https://www.vacca.org>



VACCA
Connected by culture

CONTACT US

ma@moore-australia.com.au
www.moore-australia.com.au



Moore Australia acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

Moore Australia is a network of independent accounting, audit, tax and business advisory firms with offices across Australia, and an independent member of the Moore Global Network, the 11th largest professional services network, globally.



An independent member of Moore Global Network Limited – members in principal cities all throughout the world.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.
The information provided in this document is for general advice only and does not represent, nor intend to be advice. We recommend that prior to taking any action or making any decision, that you consult with an advisor to ensure that individual circumstances are taken into account.