

# IDENTITY & CULTURE

## ALUed, LOved & safe

**ANGUS**  
Always ALERT before words to danger.  
Care  
Some environments BUILD you UP... others destabilise you and PUNISH you  
Carers also need good SUPPORT care.  
• Training  
• Stronger support  
• Stable environments  
• Clear RIGHTS for carers

**CALEB**  
Each child needs a stable & constant advocate  
Out-of-home care  
Children enter it in a State of LOSS and invisibility  
I fell apart when no-one was LIVING

**AHMARNI**  
There is a need for EDUCATION  
as children we are SCARED to SPEAK UP. More than half of the young people involved in the Justice system have lived experience of domestic and family violence.

When they go through traumatic experiences such as domestic violence, they need SUPPORT, not punishment.  
You want to LOWER youth crime rates? Start LISTENING to Young People with lived experience.  
BRING YOUNG PEOPLE into the conversation

**LILLY**  
The Courts decide how our life will look  
The system MUST PUT CHILDREN'S Needs 1st  
Having an Independent Children's Lawyer doesn't mean a child will be LISTENED to.  
Community-based solutions like Lilly Pilly work and bring Happiness  
Best interests as a lived Standard

**CHARLI**  
♥ Respect  
♥ Belonging  
♥ Community living between worlds  
As a 12yr old I was told I did not look Aboriginal  
At my School we built respect & Visibility in an environment that started with none

**KANE**  
THE RIGHT to RETURN to COUNTRY  
Healing the history of displacement  
We have the RIGHT to feel that we BELONG and connect with our Ancestors  
Support to navigate the system TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS with Mentorship

Being the 'Poster child' for diversity... but am I truly valued?  
The voices of our Ancestors live on through our young people  
TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE holds our CULTURE  
BELONGING CONNECTION to Country People Elders Ancestors and WELLBEING

**MARIA**  
Sharing my Culture at school was ridiculed  
I only felt safe to share my culture with my people  
we need a safe place to be authentically ourselves  
ASK, LISTEN, APPRECIATE our expression of who we are.

## MATERIAL BASICS

**IZABELLA**  
Living in Regional Qld means our access to health care is inadequate.

**ELISE**  
Dignity, Stability Safety  
Living in a tent, the hardest thing was no access to hygiene feeling respected & valued  
Hygiene & dignity  
Schools should provide hygiene facilities

Specialist care separates families. I can't just walk in to talk with my Mum. These small things are what I miss most

**MADISON**  
A medical grant so students don't need to abandon their studies to pay for their health care  
Medical poverty

**GRACIE**  
Two days on the road to get healthcare

**UNIVERSAL CARE is not just for the city!**  
• The COSTS  
• The strain on marriages  
• The emotional strain & guilt

STOP REVIEWING and START FIXING!

## PARTICIPATING HARMONY

**DIBA**  
The social media ban isn't working  
It cost \$167M - what if that money was spent on SUPPORT instead?  
• Consistent & responsive Counselling  
• More support/training for teachers to implement early interventions  
• Supporting students to navigate the system

Being priced out of the game  
The closer we get to achieving our dreams, the more we doubt them and feel unworthy  
Fundraising  
ACHIEVE their ASPIRATIONS  
We need REAL SUPPORT and a COLLECTIVE RESET so that Young People can

**LILY**  
The ANXIOUS generation  
7.5 hrs on phones each day  
without social media no-one knows we exist  
Do what you can to support PLAY and get us back down to earth

**JESSICA**  
Young people should be actively included at the table... CONTINUALLY  
If we want stronger communities, we must move from consultation to COLLABORATION.  
It should start EARLY and be IMPACTFUL not passive.  
It must be RESOURCED and PRIORITISED!

## Healthy

**CALEB**  
Mental Health  
ASD + ADHD  
Loud classrooms distract me.  
Teachers can HELP when they KNOW HOW.  
Don't 'single us out' Don't overwhelm us  
• Government + schools collaborate  
• Create calming spaces  
• Train teachers  
• Shorten diagnostic pathways

**POPPY**  
Sole trader Carers often have limited training and intervene in the most restrictive way allowed under the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024.  
No young person should have to fight the system harder than their disease!

We don't want SPECIAL TREATMENT - we want to LEARN and be INCLUDED.  
STOP BULLYING and DISCRIMINATION!

A POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR practitioner can provide Excellent support with good PLANNING and good COMMUNICATION.  
They need CONTINUOUS and INDIVIDUALISED training  
This needs systemic Support + resourcing

**COVELLY**  
INVISIBLE ILLNESSES are isolating  
Teachers don't understand that students are dealing with pain  
BELIEVE THEM... Support them... don't leave them to struggle in silence!

**RYAN**  
EARLY DIAGNOSIS and INTERVENTION must be AVAILABLE to everyone!  
GPs need to be proactive and Bulk Billing is crucial  
we need to CHECK those SYMPTOMS NOW

## Learning

**SHEYTEIKA**  
In out-of-home care, I had 15 homes and 12 schools. I had so many new 'lives' to adjust to before I could even think about learning. I reacted to the CHAOS and suffered more trauma and instability...  
1 in 3 of us abandon schooling.

**MAKERE**  
We must include Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander HISTORY, WAYS OF BEING and KNOWING in a MEANINGFUL, EMBEDDED way  
The whole community gets involved

**NAGINA**  
There are SO MANY fears and worries hidden within a child  
Carrying two worlds  
We must HIDE our NEEDS and EXCEL to be valued

**ESTHER**  
In remote Qld we have limited choice in Subjects, poor internet and teacher churn! Students must work hard to stay engaged.  
Education means feeling SAFE and RESPECTED at school  
where you live should not deny you access to education

Trauma doesn't always speak in English  
To be HEARD, to feel SAFE, to BELONG  
Create spaces where young people feel Valued, loved & safe

## ALUed, LOved & safe

**ALEX**  
I've been treated as a number all my life  
Kids are left with the choice of living on the street OR returning to a violent home.  
Don't treat kids as a number.

It's life changing being LISTENED to and RESPECTED, to feel SEEN and SAFE  
My name isn't a number. It's ALEX.

**LILY**  
SAFETY and NURTURE win over 'nature'  
Family consistency love Showing up  
My mum's determination and LOVE shaped me

**TEE**  
To BREAK the cycle, we MUST INVEST in the NEXT GENERATION  
VIOLENCE does NOT start in ADULTS  
Prevention isn't a luxury, it's the FOUNDATION  
emotional literacy + regulation peer-to-peer accountability identity-based prevention

**KORRINNE**  
A heart is both POWERFUL and VULNERABLE  
How many children are learning SURVIVAL instead of LOVE + SAFETY?  
We need a system that works like a GUARDED heart: careful, protective discerning  
where children are safe, loved and deeply cared for