

## Expression of Interest

# Members of the First Nations College

### Introduction

The National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse (National Centre) was formally announced in October 2021, on the third anniversary of the *National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse*. The formation of the National Centre is a result of key recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*.

The National Centre will be survivor-focused, incorporating the voice and lived and living experience of survivors of all life stages, backgrounds and communities. It will work in collaboration with major research institutions, state, and commonwealth governments, service providers, schools and law enforcement agencies.

The National Centre is driven by leading expert organisations the Australian Childhood Foundation, Blue Knot Foundation and the Healing Foundation, forming an Australia-first partnership that will commission critical research, raise community awareness, reduce stigma, and build capacity around policy, practice, and services to support improved responses to victims and survivors and prevent child sexual abuse from occurring in the first place.

### The opportunity

This is an opportunity to join the First Nations College to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, experiences and knowledge underpin the work of the National Centre.

We are seeking additional members for the College with an interest in having a strong representation from Western Australia and the Northern Territory. We know how critical it is to have representation on the First Nations College from all states and territories across the country.

### About the College

The First Nations College (College) is one of the three foundational colleges of the National Centre. It provides a forum for this First Nations knowledge and expertise to input into the strategic directions, activities and functions of the National Centre. It recognises the critical value of First Nations knowledge to support enhanced outcomes for survivors from diverse backgrounds who have a range of needs. The College prioritises cultural safety and upholds respect, integrity, resilience and strength.

### Key functions of the position

The position is one in which you will join with others First Nations peoples who are experts based on their work, training or personal experience in the lifelong impacts of child sexual abuse to provide advice to the National Centre as we design, build, implement and review programs. Your advice will be based on the unique and valued experience you bring. The College brings critical knowledge on the historic treatment towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander communities that ensures the National Centre is aware of these events so that we can prevent history repeating itself.

College members convene to meet as necessary to consider priorities and decisions within the scope of the College Terms of Reference. The College will meet mostly online, with in person meetings as required (supported with travel and accommodation costs). There could be up to six meetings per year with out of session items as necessary.

**Note: Learning Opportunity:** The existing College members are offering for young First Nations people to join the group as part of a mentoring opportunity.

## Remuneration

Payment for adult members of the College for attendance and preparatory reading work will be in accordance with the current Paid Participation Policy approved by the National Centre Board. The National Centre is currently reviewing how those under 18 who join the group as part of a mentoring arrangement will be supported and compensated for their valuable time contribution.

## Selection criteria

The College is open to First Nations people with expertise in relation to the impact of child sexual abuse. Previous experience in Committee work or the activities of advocacy and service organisations is an advantage, but not necessary.

The First Nations College encourages applications from applicants:

- who have English as their second language
- with disabilities
- of differing gender and sexual orientation
- from rural and remote communities
- from a range of age groups including Elders
- who have experienced child sexual abuse in different domains or from particular survivor experiences e.g. Stolen Generations survivors, children who have lived in out-of-home-care, children living in institutions.

The tenure of each College member will be two years and a member may be reappointed by the Nominations Committee for a further term of two years, depending on the strategic priorities of the College and the National Centre Board. A College member may not serve more than two consecutive terms as a member.

## Application process

If you are interested in applying to be part of the College, please provide a short expression of interest and ensure to include the following:

- Your name, address, email, and phone details.
- A brief outline about why you would like to be involved in the College.
- Your previous Committee and/or Board involvement if applicable (not mandatory).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Confirmation of Aboriginality, or community support letter.
- If you identify with any of the diverse demographics listed above.

Please submit your expression of interest via email to [governance@nationalcentre.org.au](mailto:governance@nationalcentre.org.au)

To discuss the opportunity or have questions answered please contact Leanne Beagley at [leanne.beagley@nationalcentre.org.au](mailto:leanne.beagley@nationalcentre.org.au)

Expressions of interest close on **Wednesday 31 January 2024.**