



Data sovereignty is about story ownership past, present and future and refers to the right of Aboriginal peoples to control the collection, access, analysis and interpretation, and the use of data and information to inform strength-based narratives.

The Child Development Council's statement of recognition acknowledges and supports the right of Aboriginal peoples to self-determination, autonomy<sup>1</sup> and ownership of their own intellectual property, including data and information.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 4, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Council recognises that data and information about Aboriginal children and young people are inseparably connected to their families and communities. Aboriginal data and information are an integral part of cultural identity, and culturally appropriate narrative, for Australia's first peoples.

The Council is legislated to report outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people. The Council publishes a 'score card' of population-level outcomes under the framework, to indicate areas of excellence and where effort is needed. The Council does not collect data, rather it uses secondary data, mainly from government (federal and state) sources, that are already publicly available. The Council proactively seeks to establish connection and liaison with data providers/custodians to address data gaps and pursue access to data which are publicly unavailable.

The Council analyses data and information and seeks to publish these in culturally safe and responsible ways to help improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people in South Australia. By collating and publishing data and information, the Council aims to empower communities for informed advocacy.

The Council's Aboriginal Reference Group advises on the use and publication of data and information regarding Aboriginal children and young people.

In support of the inalienable rights of Aboriginal peoples, the Council aspires to current best practice for the collection, ownership, and application of data and information about Aboriginal peoples, their lifeways and territories.<sup>2</sup>

*About the artwork:*

*In the centre meeting circle are Elders and a Senior Elder meeting as one discussing Law/Lore and other issues. There are both men and women depicted with their ceremonial paint on signifying the importance of the coming together. The other circles represent various communities of varying sizes each having their own individualised meetings and these discussions and in many cases consensus decisions being taken to the larger meeting for discussions. The background is representative of different lands and home-lands.*

*tjukurpa walytjarinanyi (Pitjantjatjara wangka language) – story I'm the owner of  
marerlopepetor paturano (Palawa kani language/ speak) – story that belongs to me*

*Original artwork by Phillip Allen © 2023*

*Phil is a Palawa man of the Poredarme Clan from Lutruwita, living on Kurna Land. Phil is a member of the Child Development Council.*

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<sup>2</sup> Indigenous Data Sovereignty Readiness Assessment and Evaluation Toolkit (2021), Copyright © Lowitja Institute 2021