# SAFeST Start

## Supporting Aboriginal Families to Stay Together from the Start

### New members Nomination Form

I <FIRST NAME AND SURNAME>

Of <ADDRESS>

would like to invite

from

to become a member of the SAFeST Start Coalition Group.

SIGNED (nominator) DATE

As a new member of the SAFeST Start Coalition Group

will read and follow the **Terms Of Reference** in place to meet expectations of the families, babies and

communities that are supported by the SAFeST Start Coalition Group.

Seconded by <LEADERSHIP GROUP MEMBER NAME>

SIGNED (seconder) DATE

Signed (New member) DATE

## SAFeST Start Coalition Terms of Reference

### Purpose and function

The SAFeST Start Coalition is a broad group of people who work with and/or advocate to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and babies to **stay together from the start**.

The work and advocacy are led by a committee of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professionals, in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. They are known as the **Leadership Group**.

The SAFeST Start Coalition meets quarterly to discuss key issues and concerns, and works to develop strategies and policies to promote the safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families during pregnancy and the first year after birth.

Our goal is to promote rights based, holistic, trauma-informed and culturally-safe systems and practices that work collaboratively with families and communities to safeguard the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies and their families across the life course.

### Functions of the group include:

1. Informing research to understand and expose breaches of human rights and areas where government policy and practice are endangering the well-being and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and their babies.
2. Utilise evidence from research to advocate for change, in line with the five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP).
3. Contribute expert Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspectives to guide the design of new systems and policies to ensure the safety and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies and their families.
4. Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination in developing priorities for change, including processes and practices to effectively partner with and empower families to address the challenges they face and support their children to thrive.

### Chair and secretariat

Representatives of the Leadership Group will lead quarterly SAFeST Start Coalition membership meetings to engage the broader membership of the Coalition in its advocacy and research. The Leadership Group will meet monthly or as it determines necessary to progress its mandate provided by the broader group.

### Membership

The SAFeST Start Coalition is open to community members, academics and professionals working in community-controlled child and family services, health and community services.

Membership of the Coalition is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous professionals working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait families, with the provision that at least 60% of the membership are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons. This is to foster sharing, two-way learning and allyship alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership.

The SAFeST Start members can nominate new members to the Coalition Group and the Group member will put forward the nominee to the Leadership Group at the next monthly meeting. It is an expectation that group members will:

* Be respectful of group members and mindful of impacts of trauma
* Support the purpose of the group with a primary focus on advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

Failure to meet these expectations may result in membership being revoked, following consensus agreement of the Leadership group.