

SNAICC NEWS

Changing of the guard at SNAICC

Thanks to Muriel & Julian
Welcome Steve & Frank

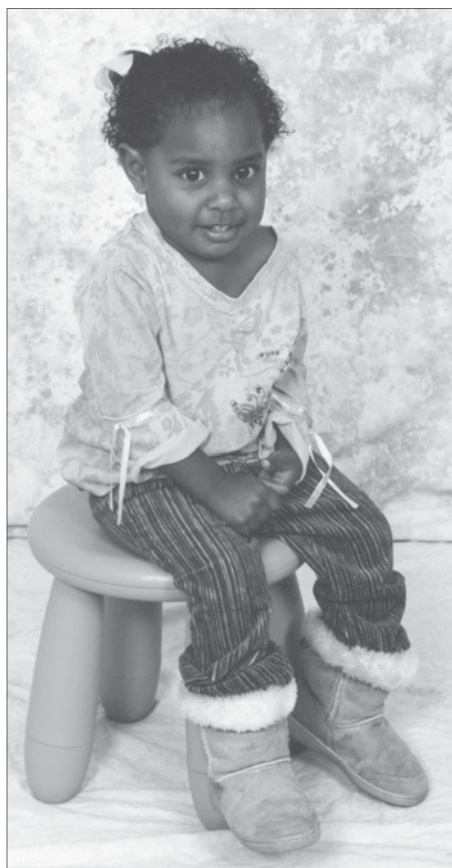
A fine celebratory dinner was held last October in recognition of SNAICC's 25th anniversary. The party followed the SNAICC AGM in the Great Lakes region of NSW.

The party was also a time to celebrate the work of Muriel Bamblett who stood down after ten years as SNAICC Chair; a time to thank Julian Pocock who resigned after ten years as EO; and a time to congratulate the new SNAICC Chair, Steve Larkins.

Continued pages 10-12



Past, retiring and present SNAICC Chairs celebrate the SNAICC 25th anniversary L-R: Brian Butler (Chair 1982-1997), Muriel Bamblett (Chair 1997-2008), Garry Mathews (Dept. Chair 2007 & 2009), Steve Larkins (Chair 2009)



What will recent federal government initiatives in the child and family sector mean for services available to families and children? Photo above Dorothea Tabuai from Cairns courtesy of Bethalia Dingley (Tabuai).

Some recent federal developments child & family initiatives are:

- The new National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children and Young People
- 35 child & family centres
- New federal Family Support Program
- 26 service delivery sites
- New playgroup funding
- Closing The Gap

COAG (Council of Australian Governments) releases the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children and Young People. This new framework is a big step forward, but it's still just the beginning... (See page 6)

SNAICC welcomes the COAG National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development funding at least 35 Indigenous children and family centres nationally by 2014. But where will the centres be located and will they be managed by Aboriginal community controlled agencies? (See page 4)

SNAICC also welcomes the new federal Family Support Program. But what does this mean for the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control sector? (See page 5)

A look at the 2009-10 federal budget (See page 7)

And much, much more...



IN THIS EDITION

Welcome to SNAICC News.

SNAICC News is the newsletter of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc. It is published quarterly.

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Photographs in this publication are intended for illustrative purposes only. No inference is intended or implied that children and adults depicted in the photographs are the subject of any issue(s) raised in this newsletter.

Contributions, feedback and suggestions to *SNAICC News* are welcome. Copy deadline for our July edition is **30 June 2009**.

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After ten years of service, former SNAICC Chair Muriel Bamblett and SNAICC Executive Officer Julian Pocock have stood down. Losing such skilled advocates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families is an enormous loss for our organisation, but their work has been taken up under a new leadership team of new Chair, Steve Larkins and new EO Frank Hytten. This issue tells some of their stories.

With Australia signing on to the U.N. Indigenous Rights Declaration this April, the federal government is committing to a framework which respects Indigenous peoples' rights and creates the opportunity for all Australians to be equal. In accordance with this declaration, the government is later this year introducing long overdue legislation to lift the current suspension to the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*.

This issue of *SNAICC News* covers many of the recent federal initiatives affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait children and families. We ask: Is the new National Child Protection Framework on the right track? Where will the new 35 Indigenous child and family centres be located and will they be managed by Aboriginal community controlled agencies? Are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services assured of retaining and extending their funding under the new Family Support Program? How can the Closing the Gap effort be extended to cover all jurisdictions?

After two years as *SNAICC News* editor Mark Lawrence has moved to another position within SNAICC. Congratulations to Mark on the high standards he has set over the last two years – he has set the bar high for new editor, Rosie Elliott.

Thanks to all the contributors who sent us photos or stories about their rising stars, and especially to Bethalia Dingley (Tabuai) for her beautiful family photos. We hope your organisation sees an opportunity to celebrate your own families, staff and stories to brighten up our often wordy pages. Send a photo with a brief caption, or ring in and we'll write up your story with you. Don't be shy now!

Enjoy. And remember NAICD Children's Day Tuesday 4 August.

SNAICC NEWS – NEXT EDITION JULY 2009

All stories and photos by, about, and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family service providers, and by others working with Indigenous children are welcome. Copy deadline next issues 30 June 2009.

You can download previous issues of *SNAICC News* on
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National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day

Tuesday 4 August

Good Child
Protection

We Do It Better
Together

'This year's NAICD Children's Day theme focusses on the rights and needs of children as paramount and the need to work together to support vulnerable children,' said SNAICC Chair, Steve Larkins.

'Child protection is everyone's role. By local services, families and government working together, we can give all children the safe, happy and healthy childhood that is rightfully theirs.

'SNAICC will be focusing on having the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Child Placement Principle implemented effectively across the country.

'Children who can't remain at home have a right to be safe and well nurtured including having their cultural needs met. To achieve this takes the dedication of extended family and carers backed up by financial and practical support from governments.'

SNAICC is producing leaflets, posters and activity kits to support local services, schools and others get involved in NAICD Children's Day.

Contact: admin@snaicc.asn.au



Both ways transition to school

Recently child care workers in Atitjere (Harts Range), 250km from Alice Springs, launched a Transition to School Kit, developed from an action research project.

Child care workers, Barbara Petrick, Andrena Webb, Joanna White and Noreen Bundy worked with Lyn Fasoli from Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education on a project to help Atitjere children make the transition to school.

Too often young Indigenous children make the transition to school on their own. They must make sense of a place with new rules and new ways of behaving and where their 'normal' behaviour, skills and knowledge are often not recognised or understood by their teachers.

Non-Indigenous teachers may see young Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children as 'at risk' or 'deficient' because they have not had experiences that help them to participate in school practices.

The Atitjere Transition to School Research Project focused on:

- How can we get Atitjere kids ready for school?

- What do they know before coming to school?
- What do they need to know to be successful in school?

Community researchers interviewed elders and other family members to document the important cultural knowledge that Atitjere children learn before they go to school. They also interviewed teachers and principals to find out what they thought children should learn to be successful in school. All the information was recorded and illustrated with photographs.

The resulting booklet can be read both for information about what children already know when they go to school and for information about helping children to learn school practices.

The booklet helps teachers get ready for children when they come to school and helps families get children ready for school.

Action research is a powerful and useful way for communities to share their cultural knowledge with teachers so they will see how competent and skillful young Indigenous children are.

Story by Lyn Fasoli

Contact: research@batchelor.edu.au



2010 National SNAICC Conference 27 – 29 July 2010 Alice Springs

The 2007 Adelaide SNAICC national conference was a huge success, so don't miss the next one, next year, 2010.

See www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/conference

Or join our 2010 conference mail list through emailing sharynlow@pacific.net.au

(with 'SNAICC Conference mailing list' in your subject line.)

Location of proposed child and family centres by state and territory

Centres	NSW	QLD	VIC	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Total
Regional/remote	4	5	1	2	4	0	4	0	20
Urban	5	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	15
Total	9	9	2	3	5	1	5	1	35

35 new child and family centres

SNAICC supports culturally appropriate services that can strengthen families, support them to look after their children, and contribute to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and the removal of children.

Meeting the early childhood development needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is also a strong part of SNAICC's advocacy, research and resource development work.

SNAICC therefore welcomes the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Partnership Agreement regarding Indigenous Early Childhood Development which provides for the establishment of at least 35 Indigenous children and family centres nationally by 2014 with funding of \$292M. Centres will be split between states and territories as shown above.

The Agreement came into being 1 January 2009. Funding is over six years 2008/09 - 2013/14 for both capital works and operational funding.

The Commonwealth Government will allocate the money to state and territory governments who will manage all aspects of its allocation, including the planning and consultation process, and report back to a COAG steering committee.

The funding can be used for existing services as well as to establish new services. The outcomes sought by the agreement are an:

- Increased proportion of Indigenous children in quality early childhood education and development and child care services;
- Increased proportion of Indigenous people using parent and family support services.

SNAICC's view is that good consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities about where the centres should be, what services they should provide and who they should be managed by will determine whether these

outcomes will be achieved.

The Partnership Agreement says consultations with Indigenous communities, non-government service agencies and peak bodies will be an important part of the Agreement's delivery. The consultations are the responsibility of state and territory governments and are meant to be initiated at the early planning stage and continue for the whole six years.

SNAICC's view is that these consultations must start at the very early planning phase and cover, for example how a needs assessment will be made for Indigenous early childhood and family support services.

The consultations must also focus on the management of the new centres. Good outcomes in terms of participation of children and families will only be achieved if these centres are developed and managed by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled agencies. SNAICC supports partnership approaches to develop and run services where this is the preferred community option.

All of the holistic Aboriginal children's centres currently providing successful culturally appropriate programs and services to Aboriginal children and families, such as the MACS centres, are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled.

There is no evidence that non-Indigenous auspiced centre based services can adequately meet the needs of children and families and work well within the communities. Early planning for these 35 (or more) new centres must therefore include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander management as well as planning to meet need.

SNAICC has not yet been advised who state and territory contact people are for those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations who want to find out more about the centres and how to get involved in the planning, or find out how

to submit interest in being funded.

Deidre McNally is the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations contact officer in Canberra. Contact: deidre.mcnally@DEEWR.gov.au
Ph: 02 6240 5365
Fax: 02 6123 5585

SNAICC will keep an information update on our website as we learn more about the centre planning processes.

If you have any questions or any information about consultations or site selections in your state or territory please also contact SNAICC. We will share information with others through the SNAICC website.

SNAICC contact: julie@snaicc.asn.au



Adea, Chris & Talia from Cairns /Saibai Is.

2010 National SNAICC Conference
27 – 29 July 2010
Alice Springs

New federal Family Support Program

30 March, 2009: The federal government has announced the new Family Support Program. This new program will provide broad based family support and targeted, intensive services for the more vulnerable under Community and Family Partnerships.

FaHCSIA & SNAICC talk about it

In March this year, Jennifer Pitcher from FaHCSIA (Playgroups, Indigenous and Early Childhood programs) talked with the SNAICC Executive about the new program. She said that program details are yet to be developed and there will be consultations around program design over the next few months. Existing services were advised of the changes via email in March and services will have two years to move to the new structure.

Principles of the new program are:

- Expansion of the age range for children from 0 – 12 years (previous age range from 0 – 8 years)
- ‘No wrong door’ – better integrated child services and adult services
- Flexibility to meet local needs
- Greater integration across state and federally funded services
- Collaborative local service delivery, seamless referral pathways
- Replacement of multiple service funding agreements to a single Agreement for each Appropriation

Any interested peak body or service provider can be part of the consultation process which will consider the design of the new FSP. This will include revised funding arrangements for existing and new service providers. The plan seeks to dissolve boundaries between service types and open up service provision across programs to better meet needs.

The new Family Support Program will focus more on outcomes than outputs, on relationship management not contract management and a more risk management approach with less reporting requirements for services with proven track record.

SNAICC response to the program

SNAICC National Executive members had both praise and concerns about the new program, and their detailed and robust

response was to:

- Support the simplification of the eight existing programs
- Urge FaHCSIA to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers for their capacity to support local families and children
- Express concerns that the proposed broad-based approach may mean Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations will lose ground
- Negotiate a minimum benchmark as to what proportion of funding will be allocated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled services
- Assert that leaving service provision to the market forces is insufficient and FaHCSIA needs to identify current service gaps across Australia and where more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services are needed (the Executive noted the clear parallel between this family program reform and early childcare services reforms)
- Assert that to work better with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids, mainstream services need support from local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services – otherwise, who will they learn from?
- Express disappointment at lack of significant additional funding streams
- Negotiate a bottom line of service delivery proposal for areas with great need but lacking service infrastructure
- Request FaHCSIA ensure accountability of state and territory governments in negotiating with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and peak bodies in relation to the 35 new DEEWR funded Children and Family Centres (see previous page.)

The Executive also asked FaHCSIA:

- How will potential new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers be made aware of new funding options and how long will they be given to develop their proposals?
- Where can Indigenous early childhood long-day-care services go for urgent additional support for high needs children?
- Can Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations apply for new Family Relationships Centres funding?
- Can FaHCSIA consider those services

which work on the calendar year, not financial year

- How will emergency relief funding fit in with this program?
- Where does SNAICC lie within the new program (being both a peak body and a service provider)?

SNAICC will share FaHCSIA's response to these questions in the next issue of *SNAICC News*.

Programs affected

Existing FaHCSIA programs under the new Family Support Program are:

- Communities for Children
- Indigenous Parenting Support Services
- Invest to Grow Program
- Child Care Links
- Family Relationship Services
- Responding Early Assisting Children
- Indigenous Children Program
- Playgroup Program



Charlotte Tabuai, Kubin Village, Moea Island

New C4C Plus funding

Under the new National Framework for Protecting Children (see over page) the Communities for Children Plus Program is funded by \$10M over 4 years to establish up to eight innovative service delivery sites across Australia to reduce child abuse and neglect. This builds on the Communities for Children initiative, providing intensive early intervention services to an additional 1,200 children and families.

The new National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children and Young People: 'It's just the beginning'

Almost three years after SNAICC and other NGOs started work on a national strategy for child protection, we now have a national framework. Whilst the new framework falls short in some areas – it also moves issues forward.

The new framework:

- Accepts that all governments must do more to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait children
- Acknowledges self determination – that state and territory welfare departments can not and should not seek to protect children for Aboriginal communities, but with them
- Shows longer term thinking (a series of three year action plans up to 2020)
- Makes a commitment to bring down rates of child abuse and neglect
- Has a focus on prevention
- Proposes high level outcomes and progress indicators to ensure how well the framework performs and support the implementation of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle Progress indicators
- Acknowledges that mainstream services are not the sole answer
- Establishes a high level tripartite mechanism to develop the framework including SNAICC and other NGOs
- Contains additional funding measures which, whilst modest, at least make a start. New funds will be directed towards national research priorities, development of national standards for out-of-home care, enhanced Communities for Children projects, improved childcare access for families where children are at risk, and increased financial support for young people leaving care (see FaHCSIA website).

The first three year actions mainly involve existing programs which need to be evaluated, modified, dispensed with or scaled up. The second three year action plan will be critical to outcomes. SNAICC expects to be part of the tripartite arrangements to develop that plan.

Steve Larkins, SNAICC Chair said "SNAICC has been advocating since 1981 for a national approach to child protection and is pleased that finally in 2009 we have a National Framework for Protecting

Australia's Children.

"The well being of children who have experienced abuse or neglect has been too dependent on which state or territory they live in. The framework can start to change this through initiatives like national out-of-home care standards.

"However the National Framework is a beginning, not the end. It will only make a difference to children and young people if backed by long-term funding," he said.

Contact: SNAICC Executive Officer

Developing the framework

Congratulations to all agencies in the Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children who have worked in partnership to get the protection of children and young people on the national agenda.

SNAICC has long advocated a national approach to prevent and protect children from child abuse and neglect.

At a 2006 national conference on the legacy of the institutionalisation of children, a number of child welfare interest groups drafted a national child protection strategy to present to the then Federal Minister Brough.

The organisations included SNAICC, CAFWAA (the Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia), ARACY, National Child Protection Clearinghouse, CREATE, Families Australia and many others. This national strategy proposal was rejected by the federal Liberal Minister.

In 2007 an expanded coalition of 64 organisations sought a commitment from political parties before the federal election that they would establish a National Child Protection Strategy in their first year. The ALP Opposition included this commitment in their 2007 election platform.

In early 2008 the new FaHCSIA Minister, Jenny Macklin MP, met with Coalition representatives and soon after the Minister released a national strategy discussion paper, *Australia's Children*.

Minister Macklin then took the issue to the COAG, presenting it as a framework to be developed and agreed on by all governments with significant input from the community sector Coalition.

SNAICC's 5 principles

SNAICC's principles in relation to the national framework were:

1 Support self-determination and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander shared jurisdiction over Indigenous child welfare and protection. To secure an inescapable commitment from state and territory governments to transfer child welfare and protection decision-making and resources to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations.

2 Negotiate principles for a unified approach to child welfare and protection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children between SNAICC, federal and state/territory governments.

3 Create national outcomes measures relating to the wellbeing of those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families that have been involved with the statutory child protection system. These outcomes are to be independently monitored and linked to measurable performance indicators and targets and to be fed into a trilateral planning mechanism with authority to direct new investments.

4 Leverage significant new federal investment for primary prevention and secondary support services and get commitment from state/territory governments framework linked legislation, policy and funding

5 Transform mainstream service providers from service competitors to service partners working in a framework of cultural respect. (See online the SNAICC Service Access and Cultural Respect Policy.)



SNAICC service policy wins NSW sector support

March 2009: Over 40 NSW community services sector representatives came to the *Caring For Our Children Forum* convened by SNAICC, the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA) and the NSW Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care Secretariat (AbSec). The forum sought sector input into the SNAICC Service Development, Cultural Respect and Service Access Policy.

AbSec EO Bill Pritchard said the forum demonstrated the willingness of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community organisations to engage in a better way.

Under the proposed policy, a new Aboriginal controlled community agency network would be established to provide local culturally safe, relevant and efficient programs to Aboriginal people. The policy is in line with recommendations

contained within Justice James Wood's *Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW*. In his report, Justice Wood welcomed the policy as an important development for the sector.

Julian Pocock, SNAICC EO, told the forum: "We want to get to the point where all out-of-home care programs that are working with Aboriginal kids are run by Aboriginal community controlled agencies, because we want the decision making about what's happening to kids to be returned to those communities as part of a commitment to self determination,"

Delegates examined two case studies demonstrating how NSW Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal service providers are working together to establish new Aboriginal out-of-home care services.

The meeting also heard from NSW

Department of Community Services Director-General Jennifer Mason, who acknowledged the need to enhance the quality of NSW Aboriginal services, saying the over-representation of Aboriginal children in care is unacceptable. The forum identified some key areas to support the establishment of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal service partnerships. See details at www.acwa.asn.au

ACWA, AbSec and SNAICC are following up the forum by writing to the NSW Community Services Minister Linda Burney and DoCS Director General Jenny Mason, seeking their commitment to the *Service Development, Cultural Respect and Service Access Policy*.

By: Libby McCalman

Association of Children's Welfare Agencies

Contact: libby@acwa.asn.au

A brief analysis of the federal budget 2009–10

With the federal budget coming out in the week this SNAICC News came out, we prepared this first look at budget implications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In his post 2009–2010 budget press release, Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner said: "The continuation of efforts in the NT is welcomed, but the sheer amount of resources needed by the NT alone highlights the fact that significant investment in Indigenous health across the country is needed if health equality is to be achieved by 2030. I will look for further significant investments to be made at the July 2 Council of Australian Governments special 'Indigenous-focused' meeting."

Professor Jon Altman of ANU writes in a similar vein in *crikey.com* 14 May 2009: "This Budget is about maintaining the status quo with the hope that economic recovery will see Indigenous re-engagement with the mainstream. This is a limited vision that might in itself not accord with the aspirations of Indigenous Australians. If the goal is to close the gaps, this approach just will not be enough," he said

"Overall the spend on Indigenous-specific programs remains at about 1% of the total Federal Government outlays for about 2.5% of the population, with Indigenous access to mainstream measures still relatively unknown."

He adds, "There is too little support for Indigenous Australians, other than for those living in the NT."

The extra NT funding, particularly in health and community policing, is very welcome, however as Altman points out there is no statistical evidence that the NT Gap is so much greater than elsewhere. He notes that the 16 new initiatives for all Indigenous Australia were allocated \$467M whilst the 18 new NT only initiatives were allocated \$807M ie around 63% focuses on 13% of Indigenous people.

This new budget expenditure adds to new expenditure in Indigenous child and family services, housing and infrastructure announced under the COAG Indigenous National Partnerships in November 2008, which includes \$564M for the Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership (see previous page this issue). The budget provides \$9M for a **Coordinator General** for Remote Service Delivery to help achieve Closing the Gap targets in priority remote communities.

New budget measures include:

New budget measures of \$148.9M over 3–4 years come under the title *Resetting the Relationship between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians* include:

\$10.8M to Reconciliation Australia

\$13.8M to support the social and emotional well-being of the Stolen Generations and their descendants adding to the \$15.7M over four years in the previous Budget providing:

* Up to 140 Return to Country or institutional reunions

* Funds to address Link Up service backlog.

\$26.6M for a Healing Foundation focussing on the needs of Stolen Generations.

A national consultation under a Development Team will create the Foundation's vision and strategic plan. Funding of healing initiatives starts in 2010. The Foundation will:

- * Provide healing program grants
- * Build the evidence base through research for prevention, treatment, care
- * Promote healing practices

Consultations begin in June and will be led by May O'Brien and Gregory Phillips.

26 remote service delivery sites

The 26 sites recently announced by FaHCSIA for the new Remote Service Delivery Strategy are noted below. These communities will receive most of the government funds for new housing and the upgrading of services.

- WA – Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Dampier Peninsula
- NT – Galiwinku, Gapuwiyak, Nguuiu, Gunbalanya, Hermannsburg, Lajamanu, Maningrida, Milingimbi, Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Wadeye, Yirrkala, Yuendumu, Angurugu, Umbakumba
- QLD – Mornington Is, Coen, Aurukun, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Mossman Gorge
- SA Amata, Mimili
- NSW – Walgett, Wilcannia.

Professor John Altman (*crikey.com* 14 May) notes that site seem based on community size and this means, roughly, that the 15 NT communities cover 21% of the NT Indigenous population, 3% in Queensland, 2.8% in WA, 2% in SA and 0.1% in NSW. Victoria, Tasmania and ACT get nothing.

Dubbo NSW C4C meeting & learning

The SNAICC Yarn Up in Dubbo this May was one of many exciting activities under Centacare's Communities for Children initiative. Over 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and 55 local service representatives met to share stories.

Twenty local service providers set up information stands and SNAICC representatives Julian Pocock and Angelique Davis traveled all the way to Dubbo to enrich the day through presentations and an information stall.

Two-time Olympian and Centrelink Ambassador Kyle Vander-Kuyp gave a very motivational speech and song man Johnny Huckle entertained children and parents with his music.

While being in Dubbo Julian and Angelique visited Allira Aboriginal Childcare to congratulate director Shirley Wilson on Allira's 20th birthday.

By: Dorothee Crawley
Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes
Contact: dcrawley@centacarewf.org.au



Two of the four Allira MACS staff members celebrating their 20th year with the service – Barbara Peachey and Shirley Wilson with Allira MACS children and Forum guest speaker, hurdler Kyle van der Kuyp.

\$3M for new Indigenous playgroups

FaHCSIA recently announced for 14 new facilitated Indigenous playgroups as part of a \$13.8 million playgroup expansion for Indigenous families (a 4 year program for 36 playgroups in regional and rural Australia.)

The funding will support:

* **12 Locational Supported Playgroups**, receiving up to \$100,400 in the first year, and \$91,000 each following year, for a coordinator to travel to communities for playgroup sessions.

* **Two Intensive Support Playgroups** receiving up to \$300,000 in their first year and \$200,000 in following years, for purpose built vehicles to deliver services to isolated and disadvantaged families.

Locational Supported Playgroup Service
Narrabundah (ACT)– Marymead Child and Family Centre

- Grafton (NSW) – Playgroup NSW Inc
- Orange (NSW) – Orange City Council
- Bairnsdale (VIC) – Kilmany Uniting Care in partnership with the Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Corp.
- Ardyaloon (WA) – Ardyaloon Inc
- Northam (WA) – Playgroup WA Inc
- Warburton (WA) – Ngaanyatjarraku Shire
- Smithton (TAS) – Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation
- Yuendumu (NT) – World Vision Aus.
- Numbulwar (NT) – Anglicare NT
- Milingimbi (NT) – Anglicare NT
- Whyalla (SA) – Nunyara Wellbeing Centre

Intensive Support Playgroup Service

- Newcastle (NSW) – Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd
- Murray Bridge (SA) – Centacare Catholic Family Services.



PAFT team Yvette Carter, Letitia Murgha & Tom Calma

Parents as First Teachers

Yvette Carter from Parents as First Teachers (PAFT) team for the Weipa Western College, covering Mappon, Weipa, Arukun, Naprunam schools says:

“We give parents a home learning kit to the houses, stuff for parents, recipes for lunch for kids using food from Naprunym Farm. One of our team is a teacher, I am a

Allira Childcare Centre turns 20

Allira Childcare Centre, Dubbo celebrated their 20th anniversary on 20 April.

Allira has catered for countless numbers of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and families throughout Dubbo since the establishment of our centre.

Allira cares for children aged 0 – 5 years and is now caring for grandchildren and great grandchildren from founding members and children whose parents attended Allira.

There are staff employed celebrating twenty years of continual service with Allira. Congratulations go to Maralene Steward, Barbara Peachey, Jennifer Roberts-Clarke and Shirley Wilson.

The Board of Management past and present must take credit for the success and growth of the service along with the staff that have worked previously at the centre with us and the existing staff who are providing quality early childcare programs to our children.

The administrator and board of management wish to thank the parents, children and community who have supported Allira from inception as they have also contributed to the success of this service.

Allira has grown from a 39 place childcare centre to a multi-purpose centre incorporating health and aged care programs.

This day has been a special event for us and in our memories will always remain Maxine Carr-Naden, an Allira founding member.

Story by Shirley Wilson
Contact: allira.childcare@bigpond.com

Gundoo Day Care Centre

Gundoo Child Care Centre (QLD) has just had some good news. Gundoo will receive a further \$300,000 for the extensions, bringing total building extension funding to approximately \$800,000. Work starts this July and should be completed by January 2010.

former drug and alcohol nurse. The families are an untapped resource and we have lovely days with our parents.”

The program provides families with intensive, targeted education and support from the third trimester of pregnancy through the child's third year, with some support through to age five.

Contact: ycart1@eq.edu.au

IPSU News - Indigenous Professional Support Units

1st IPSU Alliance Forum

Judy Tempest from the Indigenous Professional Support Unit NSW and ACT, writes the following report:

Much was achieved in just two days at the second National Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU) Alliance Forum meeting at beautiful Port Stephens NSW November 10–11 last year.

Each IPSU identified three achievements over the previous six months and their next six month focus. A national picture emerged with the following themes and challenges:

- Building and maintaining relationships
- Communicating effectively
- Responsiveness
- Linking services and communities

Challenges identified were:

- Getting right community connections
- Planning only goes so far...community issues drive changes to the best-laid plans
- Getting to remote communities, gaining permission, continuity to ensure implementation
- Workforce issues: 'Who mans the phones', consistency in staffing, rebuilding relationships and educating new people; and unclear protocols in a changing environment.

A Terms of Reference for National IPSU Alliance Forums was agreed upon with meeting procedures to be developed at the May 2009 National IPSU Alliance Forum.

On day two DEEWR talked about the new IPSU directions in the Inclusion and Professional Support Program (IPSP) and IPSUs gave feedback to DEEWR on:

- IPSU participation in the state forum
- Role of IPSP forum
- IPSU professional development
- IPSU reporting template

Having a facilitator kept us on task and allowed myself and Natalie (the host IPSU staff) to participate fully in the forum. It would have been great to have more time to yarn, but we had other business that took precedence and I believe our input into has been taken on board by DEEWR.

Nineteen representatives came from across Australia: WA – Yorganop: SA – ARMSU: Tasmania – Lady Gowrie: QLD – NCOSS: NT – RRACSSU North and Central: interim IPSU for Victoria – Community Child Care Co-Op Victoria. Representatives also came from the National PSC Alliance (PSC NSW – CS Central), SNAICC and DEEWR (both national and NSW). The event was hosted by the NSW and ACT IPSU, which is sponsored by Lady Gowrie Child Centre, NSW.

Contact: ipsu@gowrie-sydney.com.au

2nd IPSU Alliance Forum



The NT Regional and Remote Aboriginal Children and Services Support Unit (RRACSSU) is hosting the next IPSU Alliance Forum in Darwin

26–29 May this year. This second national forum will be four days long, with two talk-together days, one day talking with DEEWR, SNAICC and the PFC and a day-long tour of Yera MACS and Batchelor campus. It seems everyone is looking forward to the extra talking and thinking time.

Contact: veronica.johns@batchelor.edu.au

IPSU newsletters

Congratulations to the IPSUs for their great newsletters which combine personal stories, training, activity ideas and great photos. The SNAICC website is making a page linking to all the IPSU newsletters and we hope to put all their great activity ideas in the Clearinghouse in one place.

New IPSU for Tasmania

Over the last 2–3 years Lady Gowrie Child Centre Inc Melbourne has been acting as both the Victorian and Tasmanian Indigenous Professional Support Unit. Congratulations to the Lady Gowrie Child Centre Inc Hobart who has now won the Tasmanian IPSU tender.

Contact: monique@gowrie-tas.com.au

New IPSU for Victoria

It is with great pleasure that Yappera Children's Service Cooperative Ltd. announce the selection to undertake the Indigenous Professional Support Unit within Victoria. Yappera will forming strong partnerships with many agencies and services to offer Professional and Inclusive Support including: SNAICC, VAEAI, Community Childcare and the Free Kindergarten Association.

Yappera advertised the position in February and welcomes Judy Kirby to the team. Yappera are extremely enthusiastic about this new role and are looking forward to working with the MACS services and playgroups as well as the Professional Support Providers. This role will empower all services and staff for quality provision of programs, services and professional development for all staff.

Contact: stacey.b@bigpond.net.au

Rising star, Kimberley Kerr

Congratulations to Kimberley Kerr, Assistant Child Care Worker at Gooddo Day Care Centre, Palm Island. Kimberley was Queensland finalist in the Fisher Price Child Care Awards in the 'Rising Star' category.

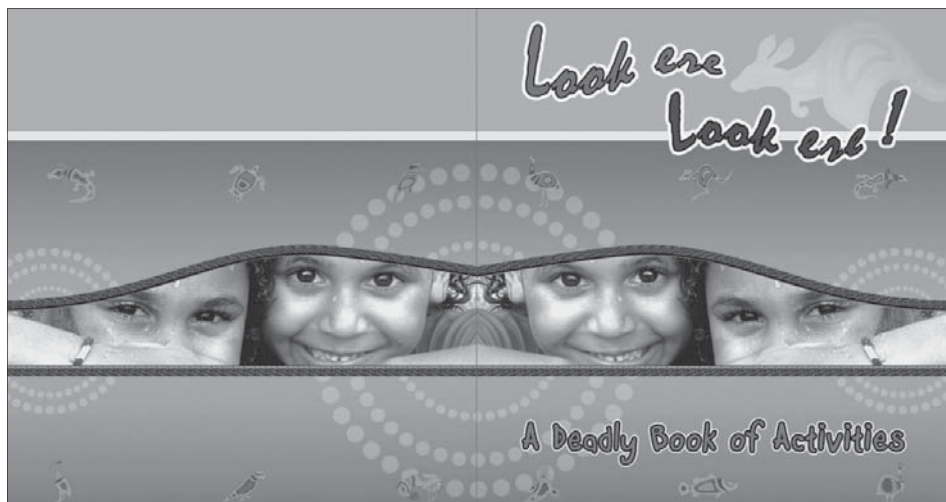
"She is simply is one of the best young child care workers in the state," said Kim Adams from the Queensland Indigenous Professional Support Unit.



Look ere, Look ere

The QCOSS Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU) has produced a new Resource Book *Look ere, Look ere: a deadly book of activities*. See a picture of the book cover below. The book is a collection of activities from Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Services focussing on promoting pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, languages and traditions. It provides practical activities with instructions and great photos. It also links the activities to skill development, poses questions to promote learning and suggests additional cultural considerations.

Contact: www.ipsu.com.au



Introducing new SNAICC Chair, Steve Larkins



L-R: New SNAICC Chair, Steve Larkins, is congratulated by SNAICC member Ray Burrows.

Nov. 2008 25th SNAICC AGM – Steven Larkins was elected as the new SNAICC Chair, replacing Muriel Bamblett who stood down after ten years at the helm. Stephen (or Steve) has a wealth of experience working with Aboriginal children and youth. He's done, and continues to do, both the hard yards on the ground and been a driver in complex policy initiatives. Steve tells his story here.

Steve is a proud Worimi man from the Great Lakes region of NSW. He has been the General Manager of the Hunter Aboriginal Children's Services NSW since 2000. Under his leadership, HACS has grown from strength to strength.

Steve started at Newcastle University in 1986 in a Bachelor of Teaching (Maths) and then moved to the University of Western Sydney's Aboriginal Rural Education Program. He then worked for the Newcastle Education Department under the Priority Schools Program teaching Aboriginal dance, stories and art to primary and early secondary children and Year 11 and 12 Aboriginal Studies.

Rural Education Program funding cuts meant Steve moved into welfare, working as senior youth worker at the Newcastle Worimi Detention Centre then house parent at St. John of God Kendall Grange – a boarding school for children with severe behavioural problems.

'I remember being fairly generally abused as a regular occurrence,' said Steve,

'But I had some wins, like with a boy who often hit others. One day the boy was really angry over a meal he didn't like and went to hit another child. But he must have remembered all the training we had done with aggression. So he punched the brick wall instead. He broke his hand, but he did not hit the other child. You have to look for any positives no matter how small.'

As government policies shifted from boarding schools to foster care models Steve became house parent to 120 Aboriginal youths at Yirara College in Alice Springs. Steve remembers his first day:

'The house parents emptied the boys' clothes while they showered and got into Yirara clothes. The amount of red dirt and even old kangaroo in some of the pockets was surprising!' He also had to adjust to the fact that some of boys were initiated and considered men. 'It was best to just call everyone fellas,' he said.

By 1999 Steve had returned to the NSW Central Coast, working between crisis refuge Woy Woy Youth Cottage and Umina Youth Angle, a medium to long term refuge. By 2000 he was coordinating the Hunter Aboriginal Children's Services. 'The rest is history', said Steve.

Since then, Steve has been instrumental in the formation of AbSec, the Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat (NSW) Inc, the NSW peak body for Aboriginal child welfare. He has also been a trainer and board member of Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA/CCWT).

Steve joined the SNAICC National Executive in 2004, has been on the SNAICC policy sub-committee, has been SNAICC Secretary and has represented SNAICC on the board of Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia.

Steve's plans

Said Steve: "As SNAICC Chairperson I want to ensure that governments and others don't just ask for SNAICC's opinion's about

early childhood or child welfare because it is politically correct to do so, but because they want our advice. SNAICC is in a fantastic position to speak up for Aboriginal Australia as we have a strong National Executive representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from across Australia.

'My plan is to ensure all of SNAICC's National Executive members are heard and that National Executive listens to those we represent.'

Some favourite things:

Food: Bangers and mash

Music: Anything 70's/80's.

Activity: Playing computer games

Movie: Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings

TV: West Wing, Boston Legal, Two-And-A-Half Men

Thinking place: A riverbank from childhood memories.

Some things SNAICC Executive members said about Steve are...

'Steve is a gentle, caring man who has worked for many years in the area of out of home care for young Aboriginal people. Steve is a natural leader and his commitment to his role as SNAICC Chairperson has already gained the trust and respect of the other executive members. Steve has a quiet and well-mannered disposition with wonderful people skills and the ability to make each of us feel part of the team and encourage us to take part in discussions and voice our opinions

'I have just discovered his keen love of technology and gadgets, including his mobile phone and computer games. He also loves to wear hats and looked pretty good in one recently on his way to Alice Springs. I look forward to working with and alongside Steve as we take the SNAICC Executive into the future.'

Debbie Bond, ARMSU Supervisor, Network SA Resource, Advisory & Management Services Inc.

SNAICC Chairs & EOs past & present

1981	SNAICC formed Nat. Supervisor: Marjorie Thorpe EO: Bill Bellings*	1988	Chair: Lionel Bamblett
1982	Chair: Brian Butler	1988	Chair: Brian Butler
1983	Chair: Eric Kyle*	1997	Chair: Muriel Bamblett
1984	Chair: Brian Butler EO: Nigel D'Souza	1999	EO: Julian Pocock
		2008	Chair: Steve Larkins
		2009	EO: Frank Hytten (* now deceased)

'Steve brings to the Chairperson's position another style of leadership. Taking over from Muriel Bamblett was always going to be difficult, but Steve has decided to lead SNAICC, embracing the whole wealth of knowledge available to him.'

Garry Mathews, SNAICC Deputy Chair
EO Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Family
Community Care Centre

Introducing new SNAICC EO, Frank Hytten

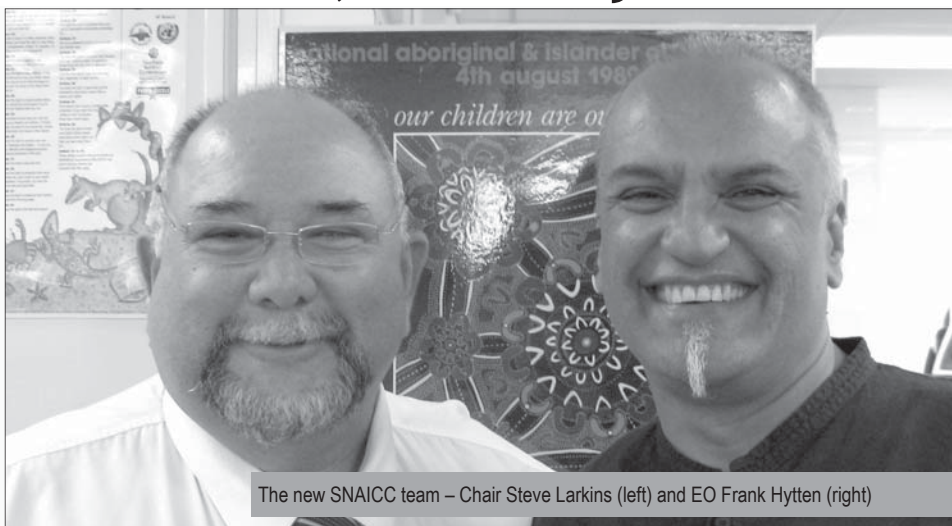
SNAICC welcomes Frank Hytten, who takes over as new SNAICC EO in early June. Frank replaces Julian Pocock, who leaves SNAICC after ten years.

Frank started his working life as a Youth Worker in community development in the early 1970s and has continued in the social and community services as a manager, policy bureaucrat, sector based trainer and consultant – always with a focus on social justice and human rights. His work has been primarily in the youth and psychiatric disability support sectors, with people confronted by the issues that arise from poverty and exclusion.

For the last eight years Frank has been the Coordinator of ANTaR Victoria and CEO of Reconciliation Victoria.

‘I think my main strength is listening to people – a fundamental principal of community development - and working with them in developing the best strategies by which to achieve their goals. I think my experience with various similar agencies will stand me in good stead in terms of the work of SNAICC and my role with the organisation.

‘Injustice is a big issue for me’ he said, ‘and racism is one of the many bases of injustice. To create a just society we need to learn about ourselves and others. This means seeing life as an adventure about self-reflection, personal challenge and communication, personally, professionally and in organisational development; and of course, always learning. It also means being



The new SNAICC team – Chair Steve Larkins (left) and EO Frank Hytten (right)

engaged with ideas and issues, being ‘policy political’ and being active in our families, our work, and in society.”

‘To be working for SNAICC is a great opportunity and privilege. To be working for children and families is working at the very heart of building stronger and healthier communities.

‘I see my first six months as doing a lot of listening and discussing; working with SNAICC members and getting a feel for what is needed by Aboriginal and Islander communities around the nation. I will also need to familiarise myself about the role of SNAICC and the political and policy context in which we work.’

Frank was born in South India on a military base near Ooty. ‘Being military meant that we travelled all over the place,’ he said. ‘I went to boarding school from age of nine until we migrated to Melbourne.’

Despite Frank’s long residence in Melbourne however, he is not in fact a Collingwood supporter, but has more recently become a keen supporter of the Fitzroy Stars Football Club, a primarily Aboriginal club whose motto is: ‘It’s not just about football’.

Some favourite things:

Colour: Red and yellow but mostly wears black

Food: Thai

Music that says something interesting e.g. Bob Dylan, Kev Carmody, Pink Martini

Activity: Trying to make sense of things, reading (non-fiction)

Movie: Life of Brian

TV: Don’t watch a lot of TV

Thinking place: My study at home

Family: My partner

SNAICC 25th anniversary dinner



2008–2009 SNAICC National Exec and former Chair Brian Butler celebrate 25 years of SNAICC working for Aboriginal and Torres Strait children and families. L–R: Back: Ian Davidson, Donna Klein, Garry Mathews, Julian Pocock, Kathleen Pinkerton. Dawn Wallam, Ray Burrows, Debbie Bond, Steve Larkins, Lisa Coulson, Dot Bagshaw, Sharron Willams. Front Desley Thompson, Muriel Bamblett, Rose Bamblett, Brian Butler.

12-14 November 2008, Salamander Bay NSW.

It was time to dress up and celebrate at the SNAICC 25th anniversary dinner following the 2008 AGM and members policy forum. It was also time to praise and thank retiring SNAICC Chair, Muriel Bamblett.

Uncle Neville Lilley and Auntie Lorraine Lilley gave a warm welcome to Worimi country which included an excellent presentation about the local area, with photos, maps, yarns, history and hopes, which was much enjoyed by everyone.

Brian Butler, past Chair of SNAICC, was there to congratulate retiring Chair Muriel Bamblett, congratulate new Chair Steve Larkins and tell stories.

And of course Muriel Bamblett talked about her ten years as SNAICC Chair and about Julian Pocock’s plan to resign...

A great celebration of some significant milestones in SNAICC history.



Goodbye Julian and Muriel - many thanks from very many people

The SNAICC Executive and staff and member services all wish former EO Julian Pocock and former Chair Muriel Bamblett well in their post SNAICC life and thank them for their ten years of dedicated work and skilled leadership. Thanks also to their families for supporting them over so many years.

With so many stories to tell, we asked Julian and Muriel to interview each other. Their recording is now being edited – it's a great read, covering many ministers, victories and failures, friends, tall tales, political plays and future hopes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Some great stories from some cool operators! So you will

have to wait a little to hear their story until the edit is done. But meanwhile, here's one Julian story to go with the picture. It was Julian's second last day at SNAICC, 12 May. He cleared out his shelves, and was wandering through the office towards the paper recycling bin carrying **The Books**. That's when we got the shot!

Now Julian always had his A4 note books when he spoke of work. Sometimes he wrote notes. He always seemed to find what he wanted if some point from the past needed clarifying – the important details, the things to be done, the resolutions and agreements. And the picture shows the whole ten years of books! How economical and well organised is that!

Goodbye to SNAICC staff Nikki, Liz, Carmen

Nikki Butler, Liz Orr and Carmen Isherwood (Dunn) have recently left SNAICC. It's been sad for us staying back here...but best wishes in your new worlds.



Nikki Butler has gone home to Darwin to work with a very lucky NT Department of Health and Families and

is having a fine time. Nikki is passionate about Indigenous child and family welfare and over the years has developed valuable knowledge and skills in the areas of child protection and out-of-home-care. We have heard plenty of NT folk are really keen to hear about things she has learnt in the deep south. Her Cape Barren Islander fiancé Shaun is said to have completely fallen for the Top End.

Then there's **Liz Orr**, who worked for three and a half years at SNAICC as an internal evaluator on the PARE project with our children's services workforce in



Queensland, WA, SA and elsewhere (see page 14 in this issue). Liz's community development and networking knowledge will be missed at

SNAICC, but be gained in her new work place – The Brotherhood of St. Lawrence.

And there's **Carmen Isherwood (nee Dunn)** who worked at SNAICC from when the office staff was small, in many roles and with many people. Carmen has now moved on to set up her own business. Carmen says she grew up with SNAICC. It's not too long before her little daughter Sienna will need her Year 10 work experience ...



SEEKING PARTICIPANTS FOR THE CREATE FOUNDATION YOUNG PEOPLE'S SURVEY 2009 TRANSITIONING FROM CARE

The CREATE survey for 15–25 year-olds about leaving care and after-care.

**Survey period
May 25 – 30 June**

The survey can be done online or by phone 1800 655 105 or 02 9267 1999 or download & post.

Contact: christine.flynn@create.org.au

Coming soon... Become a member

ACATLGN

The Australian Child & Adolescent Trauma, Loss & Grief Network

Based at the Australian National University, ACATLGN links people across Australia concerned with the trauma, loss and grief experiences of children and adolescents.

www.earlytraumagrief.anu.edu.au

SNAICC national executive Q & A

Three SNAICC executive members share their ideas about two questions

The Apology one year on

It's like husbands and wives renewing their vows. Every year the Prime Minister needs to renew that commitment to reinforce the message and reassure our people that the apology is a real thing, that it's alive and the government will continue working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country to bridge that divide between black and white.

Something good



I got married this January to my beautiful man from St. Paul Mission, Moa Is.

Donna Klein
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Child Protection Peak Ltd
donna.klein@cqaicca.
org.au

The Apology one year on

I don't think anything much has changed from a material point of view. 'Sorry' was a good thing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and everyone appreciated having it said, but we thought things would move faster. Our biggest problem now is the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act by the Howard government in the NT Intervention. It's affected how Queensland government has introduced a new alcohol strategy to Cherbourg. There was no consultation.

Something good

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now see hope under the Federal Labor government. You see that hope being shown when you talk to people – you see that emotion has built up.



Ray Burrows
Gundoo Day Care
gundoodaycare@bigpond.com

The Apology one year on

'Sorry' – it's silent isn't it! The Apology was heartfelt and touched the right cords. But as a nation you would never know it happened – maybe there are small things, little events and people talking.

It started out like a rushing tide, a wave of excitement. But now it seems the wave has petered out. Maybe it needs to be picked up again, but who will take it up?

It shouldn't be left to Aboriginal people alone, but to the broader Australian community.

Something good

Our Noongar kids – my kids, my four little grandchildren. They are the source of my complete happiness. Children are such happy little souls, so easily consoled – you just have



to acknowledge their trouble and they are happy again.

Dawn Wallam,
SNAICC Yorganop
Association Incorporated,
Perth.
dawnwallam@
yorganop.org.au

SNAICC Resource Service evaluation

SNAICC evaluates SRS resources and projects as part of our commitment to continuous quality improvement, contributing to the evidence base about Aboriginal child and family well being, accountability to our members, the sector and FaHCSIA – our primary funding body.

SNAICC has recently engaged the consultancy Success Works to collaborate with us on a three year participatory action research evaluation of the SRS.

Success Works have conducted evaluations with a number of Indigenous organisations and communities, including the Katherine and Timber Creek alcohol management plans, a review of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Regional Activities Program and the Koori Drug Diversion component of the National Illicit Drug Strategy.

Success Works will engage Indigenous consultants to lead in this SRS consultation processes with communities.

They will use an action learning approach, with five cycles of site visits to selected SNAICC partners over the next two and a half years to learn how useful services find SRS resources.

Your support of the evaluation will be appreciated.

The Success Works members are: team

leader Debbie King who has worked with many Indigenous communities, including the aforementioned projects; Patrick Lyons, who has recently conducted the service evaluation for the Victorian Stolen Generations; and consultants Benny Hodges, who has both Aboriginal (Waanyi-Garawa & Kaureg) and Torres Strait Islander heritage (Erub Bam Le) and Tracey Whettnall, a Bidjagal woman from the Dharrawal nation (La Perouse, Sydney).

Contact: www.success-works.com.au



Success Works evaluation team:
Top L-R: Patrick Lyons, Debby King
Bottom L-R: Tracey Whettnall Benny Hodges

Corporate reconciliation

Melbourne based solicitors Arnold Bloch Leibler (ABL) launched their Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) launch in March 2008. SNAICC went along and a good partnership has since developed.

ABL emphasises practical contributions to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and are doing some pro-bono legal work for SNAICC to better access philanthropic support outside of government funding.

The ABL RAP seeks to 'recognise, respect and celebrate Indigenous culture and the unique relationship of traditional owners with their lands and waters, and to work towards a society where all Australians enjoy the same standard of living while each community retains its own cultural identity.'

ABL acknowledges the reconciliation journey is long, requiring passionate and principled commitment. They support communities through the arts, land claims, work closely with Tarwirri (the Indigenous Law Students' and Lawyers' Association) to create clerkship and scholarship opportunities and provide pro bono legal services to Indigenous groups and supporters. ABL say: 'We are in it for the long haul.' And SNAICC says thanks to ABL for their work.

See the ABL Reconciliation Action Plan www.abl.com.au/ablattach/ablrap08.pdf

www.snaicc.asn.au

SNAICC Partners in Action Research Evaluation (PARE)

SNAICC initiated the Partners in Action Research Evaluation (PARE) project in 2006. It has now sown the seeds for continued evaluation capacity building within Aboriginal child, family and community services programs in QLD and SA. PARE aimed to:

- Deliver accredited community based evaluation training
- Get feedback on SRS resources/activities
- Develop evaluation tools.

In 2008 PARE workshops were held in Queensland and SA, strengthening partnerships between SNAICC and Indigenous Professional Support Units.

Forty-four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants completed accredited modules at Certificate 4 or diploma level, children's services workers, management committee reps, and child and family wellbeing workers amongst them. Five participants are completing additional units.

The training and follow-up work provided invaluable feedback for SNAICC

resource development and the evaluation of the SNAICC Resource Service. It also developed 16 local posters, two general evaluation posters, evaluation training workbooks and learners guides (produced with the Aboriginal Health Council of SA), evaluation plan guides and national presentations on action research evaluation. All resources are on the SNAICC website.

SA PARE 2009

In 2009 short action research and evaluation courses will be run by the Aboriginal Health Council of SA for:

- Aboriginal researchers doing the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Families Survey (for the Murdoch Child Research Institute)
- APY Amata Aboriginal workers in partnership with the University of SA.
- Aboriginal Child Care Workers partnering with ARMSU Network.

This short course draws on competencies from the Certificate 4 in Indigenous

Research Capacity Building which can be credited towards other certificates in health and community services. The full Certificate 4 course has been funded by the SA Department of Further Education Employment, Science and Technology. Fifteen Aboriginal people from agencies around SA are enrolled.

QLD PARE 2009

The October 2009 Palm Island PARE workshop saw 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants completing an accredited module of study through RMIT. The success of the workshop, the pride and fun, is shown in the photos below,

Roslyn Von Senden from QLD IPSU, who first attended the Cherbourg PARE workshop and then co-facilitated the Palm Island workshop, is now discussing with DEEWR continuing the project in QLD. Whilst SNAICC is no longer steering this project, it has well and truly grown wings!

See www.srs.snaicc.asn.au/projects



The Queensland PARE mob were all there when Palm Island Mayor Alfred Lacey gave the welcome and received a local parenting poster from Carmel Moylan, director of Gooddoo Day Care Centre. The poster was planned by



Gooddoo workers at the previous Cherbourg PARE workshop. The very next day they had already been posted on the council chamber! It seems Mayor Lacey was a former SNAICC exec member!



Above: Perth 2008: six students, a mentor and a facilitator presented on their evaluation and action research projects to the Australasian Evaluation Society conference include Cassie Taylor, Sonya Taylor, Merridy Malin, Ursula Montgomerie, Bec Kimlin, Vincent Bizzell, Joelene Rankine and Debbie Moyle.



Congratulations to SNAICC PARE manager Liz Orr and the PARE working and reference groups for this innovative action research evaluation.



SUPPORT FOR *THROUGH YOUNG BLACK EYES* WORKSHOPS

SNAICC recently sent the *Through Young Black Eyes Workshop Kit* free to community controlled services Australia wide. The kit contains information and activity sheets, posters, pamphlets and films to run workshops about family violence and develop child-safe communities.

Funded from a one-off additional FaHCSIA grant, the SNAICC Resource

Service can support 8 – 12 workshops Australia wide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations to run workshops using the kit. Grants will be \$5000 to \$10,000 per workshop and involve minimal paper work. They were advertised by SNAICC e-Bulletin. Successful applicants will be announced in our next newsletter.

Contact: catriona@snaicc.asn.au

SNAICC Resource Service news

Supporting Family Relationship Services to work well

SNAICC has been commissioned by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) to work on a cultural inclusion resource for Family Relationship Services to:

- Provide culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- Develop positive and respectful partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities in delivering services
- Use Participatory Action Research Evaluation to document and learn from the progress of your organisation's community engagement.

SNAICC is working with Family Relationship Services Australia, the national peak body for these services, on this project.

This resource will target Family Relationship Services practitioners, support staff and managers. It will be developed around a strengths based approach and include cultural information and recommended resources, plus case studies of Family Relationship Services' success stories in providing effective services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

The resources were field tested with Family Relationship Service staff in April. Final release will be later this year with FaHCSIA having publication responsibility.

Contact: mark@snaicc.asn.au

Looking After Children (LAC) & cultural care planning project

SNAICC is undertaking a LAC and cultural care planning project partnership with Barnardos Australia. This project has two elements:

- To ensure that the LAC case management system can meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care in those states where LAC is in use
- To examine the status and application of cultural care planning tools in all states and territories

The project will make recommendations in relation to improvements to these tools and their application.

Looking After Children (LAC) is a case management tool designed to improve outcomes for children who are cared for in foster care and residential care. LAC is currently used by a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies in Victoria, New South Wales and ACT.

The Victorian Department of Human Services is also undertaking a project to improve the LAC assessment and action records, and will be working with SNAICC to combine overlapping aspects of the projects.

SNAICC is currently planning consultations with Aboriginal services and other agencies using LAC. The final SNAICC report covering all jurisdictions using LAC is expected to be finished by late 2009/early 2010.

Contact: julie@snaicc.asn.au

Positive child rearing stories project

SNAICC has begun a project to collect and share stories of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families grow up children strong in culture.

The stories will cover many themes like 'how our children learn by watching and listening' or 'why it's cruel to leave a baby to sleep alone' or 'how young ones learn respect from their Elders'. It's about the stories communities want to tell, how they want to tell them and what skill development they need to tell those stories.

One option is for SNAICC to train young people in digital storytelling (a 3 minute movie.) The young people could then interview Elders about their child rearing stories, or the stories could be collected in another creative way, through photo journals, poems, interviews or art. At the end of the workshop there will be a community outcome – a film or exhibition.

The resources developed will remain in the community, as well as being published by SNAICC and shared more widely. These stories will help others understand the many ways Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families grow their children.

SNAICC seeks expressions of interest from community organisations to partner with to provide an arts-based workshop. We aim to provide a respectful process recognising the community's skills and builds capacity. We also invite interested people to join a Child Rearing Stories Internet Interest Group to provide two-way sharing of information.

Contact: jane@snaicc.asn.au

Expressions of interest to join a Child Rearing Stories Internet Interest Group close 30 June

Women's celebration of Indigenous land & spirit

19 March 2009: The Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne held an unveiling ceremony for a beautiful five-panel glass montage in the main foyer of the hospital.

The glass panel featured a Kulin Nation lands map and three panels of a painting by Koori artist Kylie Bird.

Marika Kalargyros, Senior Aboriginal Support Worker, opened the ceremony, outside the Aboriginal Women's Health Business Unit in the main foyer and in sight of the Aboriginal flag out front at the front of the hospital.

'I am really proud to see so many community women here today,' she said. 'There is going to be a really strong Aboriginal presence here in this hospital.'

Lyn Briggs from VACCHO (Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation) was one of the many community women who came along.

'It's fantastic having this Aboriginal art in the main entrance of the new Royal Women's Hospital,' she said. 'It's just wonderful to see all the thoughts from our first Aboriginal Women's Business meeting in 2002 all coming to fruition. For the hospital to recognise the land of the Kulin Nation is very empowering to Aboriginal people and to Australia as a whole.'

'It's a tribute to the work and commitment of all the AHLOs over the many years and especially Marika and Tori.'

'The artist, Kylie Bird, is a Yorta Yorta woman, and I am honoured to see her work.'



Marika Kalargyros & Lyn Briggs – art by Kylie Bird

Hospital committee members told SNAICC that since the Aboriginal flag has been flying at the hospital front entrance, the number of Koori women coming to the hospital has markedly increased.

Congratulations to The Royal Women's Hospital on its acknowledgment of its past role in Stolen Generations and its heartfelt and creative walk to a reconciled future



**Oxfam
Australia
Straight
Talk
2009
Women's
Summit**

25-27 Feb. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women gathered in Canberra for Oxfam's Straight Talk Women's Summit. Participants came to learn about the political system, discuss concerns and

design strategies for change. Participants attended a Government House reception and met with parliamentarians and advisors to discuss ways to work together. E: kellynewell@oxfam.org.au

WA Mobile Muster

Late last year the Yorganop IPSU brought together Indigenous Mobile Playgroup Services from across Western Australia in a unique Mobile Muster.

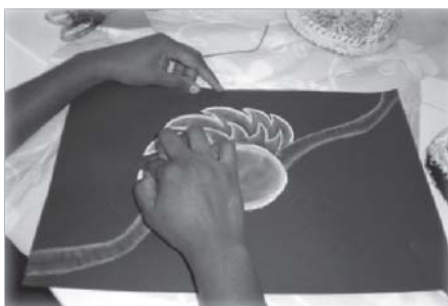
Indigenous Mobile Playgroups provide a range of services and support to remote communities but they find it hard to access training and support for themselves.

The participants agreed that it was a great training opportunity – but perhaps best of all was being able to learn and relax in company with others who were doing the same tough though rewarding job. As someone said - 'It's so good not to have to explain ourselves, we all know what it's like'.

Contact: ipsuanager@yorganop.org.au



Relaxed and working hard – the participant's creativity was awesome.



Australia signs U.N. Indigenous Rights Declaration

3 April 2009

'United we stand – federal government support for the United Nations Indigenous Rights Declaration is a watershed moment for Australia,' said Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Race Discrimination Commissioner.

'The federal government is committing to a framework which fully respects Indigenous peoples' rights and creates the opportunity for all Australians to be truly equal. Support for the Declaration can unleash Australia's potential to be a world leader on how it engages with its Indigenous peoples,' he said.

The SNAICC e-Bulletin – fortnightly in your email

Register free online or send us your news to upload at www.snaicc.asn.au

2nd National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander male researcher meet

February 2009: Sixty men gathered in Alice Springs for the Second National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Researcher meeting. The men met for two days at the Centre for Remote Health and over 90% of participants were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

The group heard from a number of Indigenous key speakers and others presenting on their programs or research.

A key element was the bringing together different groups: health providers, men's groups/sheds coordinators and researchers all united by their underlying concern about the critical status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's health. As some men seek to improve the health of



other Indigenous men through health and other services, others seek to improve the knowledge base for their work or focus on other issues affecting their communities.

The group identified the need for health providers and researchers to work together and in far more collaborative ways than in the past. Similarly, the care and mentoring of those providing these services and undertaking research cannot be separated from the urgency to increase the capacity, health and wellbeing of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.

This meeting brought together twice

the number of men at the 2008 Alice Springs gathering. It continued to identify important networks and initiatives involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.

It also recognised a growing group of male leaders across the nation who are striving to improve the health care offered to Indigenous men and knowledge base of this health care and many other issues.

**Regards,
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Male Researcher Steering Committee**

You're a Dad launch

The new SNAICC Resource Service resource You're A Dad was launched at the 2nd National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Researcher meeting by SNAICC chair Steve Larkins and Craig Hammond from Family Action Centre.

You're A Dad fitted right in with so many of the men's health issues being discussed, relating straight back to men's roles with family. Over 16,000 copies have now been distributed nationwide to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled services. Other agencies can purchase the booklets but hurry, they are going fast!

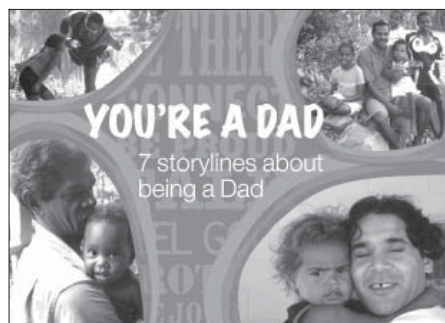
SNAICC has received big feedback for this little booklet of seven strengths based A4 posters focussed on the themes: **Be There; Connect; Be Proud; Talk; Feel Good; Protect; and The Journey.**

Words, emotions, pictures. Great stories and beautiful photos of Real Dads being Great Dads, moulded by the thoughts and stories of many contributors and developed in a partnership between SNAICC and Newcastle Family Action Centre.

You may know some of these men. It may bring a tear to the eye. Read them or just think on the pictures. Good for parenting groups, men's groups, jails, family violence and healing programs. Hang them on the wall. 'You can fit them in your pocket or roll them up like a little telescope.'



L-R: Craig Hammond (Family Action Centre) & Steve Larkins (SNAICC Chair) launch *You're A Dad* booklet IN the Alice Springs.



Contact: publications@snaicc.asn.au

Sunrise Aboriginal Male Health Summit – June '09

Aboriginal males will gather at the Banatjarl, close to Barunga, south of Katherine. On this 21st anniversary of the 1988 Burunga statement the summit will seek to make a statement about the role of Indigenous males in family, community and wider society.

The three-day summit will bring males from the East Katherine Sunrise region and will include six specialist facilitated workshops (physical, family, economic, community and cultural wellbeing) with outcomes and a formal statement presented to visitors, Aboriginal women, the media, and federal and territory politicians.

Contact: 0401 351 251

Mibbinbah Indigenous Men, Health & Indigenous Men's Spaces

A three-year research program about what makes Indigenous Men's Spaces safe and healthy places for men and how this might benefit families and communities.

The program has two distinct but related projects:

A Men's Spaces pilot project

A Men's Chronic Conditions project.

The first pilot project is jointly funded by the CRCAH and beyondblue and involves seven sites located mainly on Australia's eastern seaboard.

www.mibbinbah.org

SNAICC website & clearinghouse news

<http://srs.snaicc.asn.au/resourcing>

The SNAICC website is growing fast and contains a lot of material. We are making it easier to use and have a new graphic and HTML management system to make browsing simpler and faster. It's all good! Have you linked your resources with us?

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Skill Training Network

Last June the Dusseldorp Skills Forum and SNAICC hosted a national roundtable of people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood, community, training and academic networks, to discuss developing a national National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Skill Training Network.

The SNAICC website is part of building this network with introduction pages and a resource collection. We are now growing an exchange group forum for members' easy electronic communication.

For more information on web online networking, we have made an information page called Yarning Resources

<http://srs.snaicc.asn.au/yarning>
and an Internet Technical Tips & Tools page
<http://srs.snaicc.asn.au/resourcing>

SNAICC e-Bulletin

The SNAICC e-Bulletin is a digest of SNAICC's latest initiatives, resources and publications and developments in our sector. It arrives in your email box fortnightly and helps you stay in touch with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's services across Australia. Submit your news and events with the online form and we will do our best to have your news in the SNAICC e-Bulletin. (www.snaicc.asn.au/news)

Some new online resources

The SNAICC clearinghouse is steadily increasing the number of online resources. These are usually linked to the websites of organisations who own the resources. We have chosen here one recent addition from eight of the main clearinghouse topics:

1 Children's activities, games

» Activity ideas

Butterfly painting: Activity sheet – RRACSSU, NT

<http://rracssunorth.batchelor.edu.au/files/Butterfly%20painting.pdf>

2 Culture - picture, story, song, dance

» Storytelling books

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' virtual books – State Library of Qld.

www.slq.qld.gov.au/find/virtualbooks/aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islanders_books

3 Family violence & child abuse

» Community tools and resources

A guide for creating a child-safe organisation – Child Safety Commissioner, VIC (2007)

www.ocsc.vic.gov.au/downloads/child-safe_organisation.pdf

It takes a village (2008) – Rural Health Education Foundation, ACT [DVD]

www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=336&group_id=5

4 Governance, management

» Early childhood education

Beyond empathy, pathways through parenting: A model for improving Indigenous access to maternal, infant and early childhood health and family services (2008) From the National Aboriginal and Islander Early Childhood Network resource page on the SNAICC website & the Dusseldorp Skills Forum

http://srs.snaicc.asn.au/_uploads/rsfil/00289.pdf

» Money

Back to basics, tips to help feed family for less. Northern Sydney Central Coast Health NSW (2008). Order from Northern Sydney Central Coast Health

www.nscchhs.health.nsw.gov.au/about/default.shtml

5 Health, healing & tucker

» Bush tucker and medicine, nutrition

Cooking and learning, play and learning resource sheets . IPSU WA/Yorganop Child Care Aboriginal Corporation, WA (2007)

www.ipsuwa.org.au/Resource%20Sheets/Cooking%20&%20Learning%20Issue%204%20September%202007.pdf

» Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Drinking for two? (A DVD), Rural Health Education Foundation, ACT (2007)

www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=17&group_id=5

» Healing, mental health

Boodjarri business: Maternal mental health

resource for Aboriginal Health Workers – WA Perinatal Mental Health Unit

www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/health_professionals/WA_perinatal_mental_health_unit/resources.php

6 Language, literacy, numeracy

Gudjal Book of Birds – William C. Santo, Black Ink Press, QLD (2006). Small picture word books in Gudjal language (Charters Towers area) with animal, birds and environment paintings.

www.slq.qld.gov.au/find/virtualbooks/aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islanders_books/gudjal

7 Online libraries/collections

Federation for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Languages (FATSIL)

www.fatsil.org.au/

Batchelor Press – Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education NT

www.batchelor.edu.au/bachelor-press/welcome-to-bachelor-press

8 Parenting

» Fathers and Men

Dad's Guide: Social and Emotional Wellbeing. WA Perinatal Mental Health Unit

www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/health_professionals/WA_perinatal_mental_health_unit/resources.php#indigenous

To get your resource link listed, uploaded directly online or contact us

tatiana@snaicc.asn.au



Beyond Post-Sorry – a letter to child carers

By Tina Quitadamo (née Couzens), a Kirraewurrung/Gundjitrara woman



Dear Carer,

As you navigate your way through your life-long learning, I write to help you understand that my son has fundamental human rights, mandating that his well-being and cultural identity is not denied. Along with his family, extended family and language group, I have placed my trust in you to 'grow him up culture strong'.

So let me tell you how I perceive 'quality care'.

Similar to our Dreaming, I see quality care as an evolving, holistic, healing, educative and spiritual process that provides meaningful opportunities for personal growth. It teaches us the rules for living, caring and understanding our environment, our social relationships, the importance of our land and animals, the history of our people, learning messages from our Ancestors and much more. It helps us to realise our potential.

When you acknowledge the significance of our Dreaming to the centrality of our being, you might think more carefully about how and why you read a Dreaming story to all the children in your care and why you must ensure it doesn't become a token effort, something you need to 'demonstrate'.

I want you to challenge the reality of 'whiteness' in all that you say and do to ensure you don't just give lip-service to what working inclusively means. When was the last time you watched an Indigenous specific TV show, read a book by an Indigenous author, attended an Indigenous community event, listened to an Indigenous band or radio station, listened to an Indigenous leader speak, learned some Indigenous language words?

If you can tick these off, does that mean your work is done in acquiring knowledge about Indigenous peoples?

Together, we can work towards minimising this reality, to close the gap between the 'them and us' mentality. Ask yourself, how well has the service included Indigenous perspectives in its practices, routines, environments, philosophies and policies? Have you sought advice from our local Indigenous Elders? I can help you here, but you must be willing to do it. I don't remember being asked to be involved in the service's decision-making processes. I can only hope that assumptions were not made about my literacy, language capabilities and socio-economic status that I don't understand or care about such things.

Of course I care – how you care for and teach my son will leave an indelible imprint on his sense of self.

Please involve me and my family in decision-making from the outset, not after the fact. We just have to find a way to understand each other's language. Tell me, how does making boomerangs, didgeridoos and dot paintings contribute to you relating to him, nurturing and affirming his cultural identity? How does this inform you of all there is to know about him, his strengths, abilities, heritage, family, community, language, interactions, kinship obligations and spirituality?

Please do not classify my son as disadvantaged the minute he steps through the door. Rather, look to and build on his strengths and provide culturally relevant learning opportunities for him to work on any areas of need.

Draw upon research by Australian Indigenous researchers – I can't see how it is relevant for my child when the research is based on European countries. The employment of Indigenous carers is important to my family and me. We would like to drop him off one day and see Indigenous carers working alongside non-indigenous carers as equals, caring for children in a mutually respectful way. How well you enact these things will determine how I recommend your service to others.

I want to thank you for remembering to put his coat on outside on cooler days, for sending me home photos, for providing healthy meals, for carefully applying a band aid to a 'barely there' sore on his thumb.

I thank you for washing his clothes when he squashed food all over them and

for scribbling down his sleep and nappy times for me. I thank you for telling me who he plays with and of the new words he attempts to say.

Please keep doing all these things you do so well, but most of all, I want you to embrace and celebrate his Aboriginality, as this celebrates him.

Yours faithfully,
An Indigenous mother

At the time of writing, Tina Quitadamo was a consultant with Network SA/ARMSU. She has recently moved to DECS, W. Adelaide Region as an Aboriginal Education Coordinator. Reprinted with permission from **Reflections Autumn 2009 Issue 34 (Gowrie Aus)**



5 - 12 JULY 2009

NAIDOC THEME

RESPECTING OUR
ELDERS, NURTURING
OUR YOUTH





SNAICC Resource Service news

The SNAICC Resource Service (SRS) seeks to fill resource gaps across the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family and children's services sector and provide a central information-sharing clearinghouse. The SRS has recently launched three new publications. If you haven't received copies and would like any of the following, visit <http://srs.snaicc.asn.au>

New resources

Through Young Black Eyes Workshop Kit - growing child safe communities

You may want to run workshops on family violence and child well-being, or you may want to work towards making a child safe community. This Kit has activities and resources to develop an approach that suits your community to run workshops, share stories and take local actions to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children be safe and happy.

The kit includes a handbook, a workshop facilitators guide with hand-outs and activity ideas, posters, pamphlets, short films, PowerPoints and a CD of most of the resources for you to adapt yourself.

Connecting Communities - National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Services Directory

Connecting Communities contains agency details of over 5500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family and children's services, health and legal services, government departments, peak bodies and resource agencies from across Australia. This directory is ideal for those seeking to network with other services and for those who cannot easily access material online. The fully indexed entries are ordered by state/territory and service type. The directory is also online: <http://services.snaicc.asn.au/> You can add or update your service details on <http://services.snaicc.asn.au/add/>

You're A Dad - 7 storylines about being a Dad

You're A Dad is a full colour booklet with seven 'storylines' about being a Dad, each told through photographs and personal stories. Use it for home visit ante/post natal visits, parenting programs, men's groups, for early childhood, youth and health services, for offender programs and more. Use it as a conversation starter, as a poster display, or for Dads to take home with them. Beautiful.

Other highlights

The Dreaming Stories - 6 DVDs

A collection of six DVDs of containing 78 animated traditional stories plus Teacher's Guide, published by Aboriginal Nations and available from SNAICC or Aboriginal Nations Australia. These award winning stories are designed and animated by Aboriginal artists, based on stories from across Australia and sources of enjoyment and wisdom for all. *The Dreaming Teachers Guide* includes stories, maps, storyteller profiles and teaching activities for different age levels for each animation.

Foster Their Culture - Caring for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children in Out-of-Home Care

A resource to support non-Indigenous carers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to assist them keep children in care connected to community, culture, identity and family. Foster carers can contact their foster carer association for a free copy.

Coming soon

Talking Up Our Strengths

A set of 22 theme-based strength cards celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Each card a photomontage images illustrating one of 22 strength themes, such as 'Our Country' or 'Our Music'. These cards are designed to promote discussion, build self-esteem, help connect community and facilitate cross cultural dialogue.

ERRATA

Through Young Black Eyes Workshop Facilitators Guide – There is an error on page 89 'Facts about family violence and child abuse and neglect'. The left-hand top four dot points belong to page 88, in the column titled 'Some myths about child sexual abuse'. SNAICC apologises for any offence this error may have caused. A corrections sticker has been sent to those who have received the guide. Email us if you have not received the sticker on publications@snaicc.asn.au

Great partnerships

Thanks to SNAICC staff past and present, our partner organisations and participating community members, for making these resources happen. In particular, the Family Action Centre for their assistance with *You're A Dad*, InfoXchange for our ongoing partnership to keep *Connecting Communities* online up-to-date, St. Lukes Innovative Resources for the *Talking Up Our Strengths* partnership, and our funding body, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Order online

Some SNAICC publications are free to order online. Other resources are free for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community controlled services only but may be purchased at cost price by all. See: www.snaicc.asn.au/publications

Order online – ww.snaicc.asn.au/publications