

CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

DAY 1: TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Opening Plenary

9.00am – 10.30am

> **Keynote Address:**
Dr Sarah L. Kastelic PhD, MSW (USA)

Protecting our Children, Preserving our Culture: Recent United States Policy Developments Supporting Effective Implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act

The formal child welfare system in the United States was established about 100 years ago. In Indian Country, however, the formal child welfare system was not established until much later. In 1978, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) acknowledged the authority of tribal governments to be involved in the lives of their member children.

In 2014–2016, a constellation of new federal policies greatly strengthened the implementation of ICWA. The first-ever legally binding regulations addressing state child welfare agencies and courts became effective in December 2016. Implementation guidelines clarifying good child welfare practice and citing specific examples of approaches to meet the standards in the regulations were also developed. Finally, there were new requirements for states to collect data on ICWA-eligible children that track the experience of Native children in the child welfare system, providing a mechanism to monitor compliance with ICWA. Collectively these policies provide increased protections for Native children, keeping more families and communities together.

This keynote address will focus on provisions related to 'active efforts' to provide family support and prevent unnecessary removal of a child, and to reunify a child with their family whenever possible; limitations on 'good cause' not to transfer jurisdiction of a proceeding to tribal court; and different types of tribal intervention in ICWA cases.

Concurrent Sessions 1 – 8

11.00am – 12.30pm

1.1 The Unacceptable Removal of Children from Family

Stop Stealing Our Children: Coordination of Services

Dr Jackie Huggins will speak about the social determinants of child and family safety issues for our peoples and the importance of coordination of services.

Dr Jackie Huggins (Historian and Author & Co-chair, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples)

Our Children Need to be With Us

Grandmothers Against Removal will provide an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective on the best way to care for our children.

Debra Swan, Jennifer Swan & Suellyn Tighe (Grandmothers Against Removal)

1.2 A Community Response to the Care and Protection System in the ACT

Community Advocacy for Aboriginal Children in Care

More than one quarter of children in care in the ACT are Indigenous, and on current trends it is highly likely that the rate of removal of Aboriginal children in the ACT will soon be the highest in Australia.

Julie Tongs OAM (Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services)

2 Early Childhood Services - The Jobs for Families Child Care Funding Package

The Australian Government's New Child Care Funding Package

In this presentation, the Department of Education and Training will explore the key elements of the new Child Care Funding Package. This includes the Child Care Subsidy, a single means-tested subsidy and the Child Care Safety Net which provides targeted assistance to disadvantaged communities and vulnerable at-risk children and their families to address barriers in accessing child care.

Greta Doherty (Commonwealth Department of Education and Training)

Support for Children in Regional and Remote Areas

This presentation will focus on innovative approaches adopted by regional and remote child care services for the transition to the new child care system. Examples may include governance and decision making, attracting new enrolments, and fee policies.

Jane Hayden (Commonwealth Department of Education and Training)

The Community Child Care Fund

This presentation will provide participants with detailed information on the Community Child Care Fund (CCCF), as part of the new Jobs for Families Child Care Package. The presentation will also focus on the Community Child Care Fund restricted non-competitive grant process for Budget Based Funded services.

Wendy Richardson (Commonwealth Department of Education and Training)

Creating Koorie-Inclusive Early Childhood and Child Care Environments

Supporting early years educators across Victoria to develop early childhood and child care (ECCC) services and kindergartens that are welcoming and culturally inclusive for Koorie children, parents, families and community

Geraldine Atkinson (Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. (VAEI))

3.1 Review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in Care in New South Wales

Family is Culture: Independent Review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in Out-of-Home-Care in NSW

This presentation will introduce the Independent review in NSW and discuss how the Aboriginal Child Placement Principles will be used as a framework to explore the high rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Child Protection/OOHC and to rethink reform.

Kobie Mulligan (Independent Review of Aboriginal Children in Out-Of-Home-Care)

3.2 The Legal Process of Child Removal - Problems and Failings

How the Attitudes of Lawyers and the Legal Process can Condemn Rather than Protect Aboriginal Children

How the attitudes of lawyers, and the legal process, can condemn rather than protect Aboriginal children.

Gemma Slack-Smith (Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT))

4 Stolen Generations, Inter-Generational Trauma and Healing

Addressing the Need for Healing Following Multi-Generational Effects of the Removal Policy

The presentation examines the role of healing centres.

Jim Morrison (West Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation)

Stolen Generation – Trauma, Attachment and (Dys)functional Responses

Examining the historical effects of trauma on children as a consequence of their removal (Stolen Generation) from family and subsequent placement in missions and other institutions.

Roy Tester (Relationships Australia WA)

The Grief Feels Real

‘We hug each other like it’s the last time that you could possibly see each other’.

Judith Ahmat (Cue) (Boutique Consultant)

5 Redressing Causes of Removal – Holistic and Community-Based Family Support Services

Redressing Causes of Removal – Working Closely with Families to Develop and Deliver Services that Build the Resilience and Capacity of Families to Keep Children at Home

Innovative and practical ways of working with parents and carers in the development of services and solutions that assist in keeping children and young people in care with their families.

Charmayne Stenhouse & Eunice Bartlett (Aboriginal Family Support Services, SA)

Holistic Aboriginal Child and Family Services

Holistic Aboriginal child and family services.

Paul Gray (AbSec, NSW)

Stronger Communities for Children: Communities Driving Better Outcomes for Children and Families in the Northern Territory

In this presentation, community members from three Stronger Communities for Children sites will talk about how the model is gaining strong support at the local level because of the way it integrates family, community and culture into all aspects of way the program works.

Sharon Forrester (Ninti One), **Taren Williams & Marion Swift** (Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre)

6 Partnerships and Commitments Between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations and Government

Kimberley Aboriginal Children in Care

Collaboration to reduce Kimberley Aboriginal children in state care.

David Wirken & Janine Dureau (Aarnja Ltd, WA)

Beyond Good Intentions – Support to ACCOs and their Kids

Presenting Beyond Good Intentions - a statement of commitment underpinned by seven principles to actively support and advocate for a fair, just and restorative child and family welfare service system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Michael Bell (Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation & Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People's Alliance) & Deb Tsorbaris (Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare)

Strengthening Self-Determination through Case Work Practice

The presentation will demonstrate how the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency's (VACCA) Aboriginal Liaison workers (ALW) support and build on cultural competence within mainstream services to ensure that they are providing Aboriginal people and their families with a culturally safe response; how we strengthen and assess the safety, stability and development of children, and how this is supported through our work from Intake through to Case Management using a strength-based approach.

Phyllis Rose & Samantha Shortis (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency)

7 Successful Cultural and Spiritual Programs

Strengthening Social, Emotional and Spiritual Wellbeing of Families and Children: Promising Findings from the Community Wellbeing Program in Bairnsdale Area (Victoria)

The Community Wellbeing Program is a collaborative community development project that aims to strengthen social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of children aged 3-12 years in five participating primary schools and early childhood services in Bairnsdale.

Shaun Coade & Belinda Blundell (Berry Street Victoria (Take Two - Aboriginal Team) & Latrobe University Social Work and Social Policy)

Connecting to Country, Kin and Culture: Young Mob, Schools and Positive Youth Development

This experiential workshop provides an opportunity to learn from Aboriginal young people and experience firsthand how a positive youth development program, which connects young people to their history and culture, is changing the way they engage with their schools.

Sophia Romano, Mark Thorne & Matthew Webb (World Vision Australia)

8 Parents and Families as First Teachers – Early Intervention and Support Programs

Early Parenting Education to Strengthen Aboriginal Parents in a Remote Area: The Development and Piloting of a Group Programme

This presentation will discuss the Parents As Teacher's project, including how it came about, who was involved in project, the project process, the significance of the project, and the impact it will have upon the Aboriginal children and families accessing these services. The project is an example of a successful collaboration between an NGO focused on developing practice and a University as research partner. Through this collaboration we have been able to work together to adapt a recognised evidence-based parenting program to meet the needs of Aboriginal families in a rural context in a way that is culturally meaningful and respectful.

Jodi Burnstein (Barnardos)

Community Collaboration for Early Intervention

This session will explore the positive journey of the Aboriginal Families as First Educators program, including detailing our success in integrating the Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a) and allow participants to view and trial customised 3a activities.

Lynne Beckingham (Catholic Education WA)

Aboriginal Building Connections – A Community Focused Program Dealing with Entrenched Conflict in Families

ABC is a psycho-education post-separation parenting program that focuses on raising awareness of the risk of harm to children when there are high levels of unresolved and entrenched conflict between separated parents.

Stuart McMinn & Michele Moore (Interrelate)

Concurrent Sessions 9 – 16

1.30pm – 3.00pm

9.1 Early Childhood Services – Jobs for Families Child Care Reforms and the Future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services

Our Early Childhood Services are Essential for Our Children: The Impact of the Australian Government Jobs for Families Child Care Package

A panel and discussion on the impact of policy reforms in the early childhood education and care space on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children through the implementation of the Jobs for Families Child Care package.

Geraldine Atkinson (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children),
Emma Beckett (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children) &
Laura Angus (Commonwealth Department of Education and Training)

9.2 Reconnecting and Returning Children to Country

Walk this way Home, Wamba Wamba Country

Discussing their experience of returning children to country, connecting them to family, culture and land.

Lowana Moore (Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc.) &
Bobby Wise-Moore

10.1 Key Changes and Trends in Child Protection Legislation Across Australia

Key Changes and Trends in Child Protection Legislation Across Australia

This interactive panel discussion will feature speakers from jurisdictions that have recently reviewed and amended their child protection legislation, or are in the process of doing so – such as Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia.

Sharron Williams (Aboriginal Family Support Services, SA), **Natalie Lewis** (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak),
Donna Kickett (Family Matters, WA), **Michael Hogan** (Director-General, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Qld) &
Lisa Coulson (Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc.)

10.2 Monitoring Progress to Reduce Over-Representation in Child Protection

“Our Mob, Our Voice”: Evaluating Child Protection Reform in Queensland

‘Our Mob, Our Voice’ combines community narrative and statistical data to present the first QFCC annual report with an exclusive focus on progress made toward reducing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the Queensland child protection system.

Cheryl Leavy (Queensland Family and Child Commission)

11 The Voice of Community – The Voice of Children

Empowering Communities and Youth

This session will outline AbSec’s recent efforts to include and empower Aboriginal communities within the child and family sector, within the context of significant government-led reform.

Stevie Kirby (AbSec, NSW)

KiDs SAY Cards – Keeping KiDs SAFE – Growing Them Strong

The Winangay KiDs SAY workshop will showcase the latest KiDs SAY participation resources and provide opportunities for participants to use them.

Aunty Suzanne Blacklock AM, Paula Hayden, Gillian Bonser & Karen Menzies (Winangay Resources Inc.)

12 Kinship Care, Therapeutic Kinship Care and Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Carers

Building Capacity Through Genuine Partnership and Collaboration

Using a Group Program for Kinship Carers that is reflective and respectful, and assists them in reconnecting children to their community and culture.

Pat Jewell (Australian Childhood Foundation) & **Bianca Williams** (Aboriginal Health Service)

Woon-yah Ngullah Goorlanggass: Towards a Model of Culturally Strong, Therapeutic Kinship Care for Aboriginal Children, Young People and their Families

Woon-yah Ngullah Goorlanggass which means ‘Caring for Our Children’ in the Nyungar language, is an innovative therapeutic kinship care program which focuses on supporting Aboriginal kinship carers address a critical gap in service provision to the vulnerable group.

Glenda Kickett & Shaun Chandran (Australian Childhood Foundation)

“Other Home Care” – Keeping our Kids on Country and in Culture

This paper will provide an overview of the partnership models used to provide culturally appropriate “Other Home Care” for Aboriginal kids on country.

Jennifer Hannan AM & Delvine Davis (Mackillop Family Services) & **Francis Khan** (Mackillop Family Services/Woolakabunning Kiaka Incorporated)

13 Transition to School – Continuing Support for Children and Families

Journey to Big School: Experiences of Implementing an Effective Transition to School Process

This presentation will provide an overview of the success and challenges to trigger positive change in how the primary schools in Halls Creek in Western Australia, and Cherbourg in Queensland, welcome and prepare for the enrolment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Tiana Woodhouse (Wunan), **Judith McKay-Tempest** & **Shannon McLeod** (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children)

Deadly Beginnings-Deadly Futures: Providing Continuity of Support Through the Homework Club Model

This presentation will explore an innovative model for a homework centre that enables continuation of support for playgroup children and their families as they move into the school system.

Julie Bertram & **Renee Chalmers** (Bankstown Community Resource Group)

Multidisciplinary School Readiness Program at Oorunga Wandarrah MACs Centre

A review of the school readiness outcomes for children, resulting from the partnership between Tharawal AMS Oorunga Wandarrah MACs Centre and South Western Sydney Local Health District.

Joanne O'Brien & **Mary Chatfield** (Oorunga Wandarrah MACs Centre)

14 Working in Partnership – Experiences Supporting Families and Early Childhood Development

Palm Island Children and Family Centre – The Impact of Genuine Locally Grown Services: “Successful Families, Successful Communities”

This presentation draws on the experience of the Palm Island Community Company over nearly a decade to explore the factors contributing to success in strengthening families, early childhood development and dramatically reducing the number of Palm Island children taken into state care.

Rachel Atkinson (Palm Island Community Company)

Together for the Long Haul: Sustainable Partnerships on Palm Island

Partnerships between Cathy Freeman Foundation, HIPPY Australia and the Palm Island community and how the longevity, trust and mutual respect between the community and these organisations contributes to program outcomes and long-term positive change.

Sandra Andrews (HIPPY Australia), **Boleen Gorringe** & **Lekara Wallis** (Cathy Freeman Foundation)

What’s Working in Early Childhood Education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families – An Integrated Service Approach

Family Support and Integrated Services. What’s Working? What’s Not?

Charlie Wicking (Mackay Children and Family Centre)

15 Developing Culturally Competent Practice

Keeping Family, Community and Culture Front and Centre in Community Practice

This discussion will explore the challenges that workers face when tackling the child or young person’s right to connect with their family community or culture, share stories and discuss some of the successes across both our metropolitan and Dampier Peninsula sites.

Heidi Holmen & **Amanda Sheehan** (Save The Children)

Footprints to Success – Kids and Families in the West

Aboriginal and mainstream service agencies working together in the western suburbs of Melbourne to give families and children the opportunity to succeed.

Karen Jackson (Moondani Balluk Victoria University)

Respectful Partnerships Provide a Brighter Outlook

This presentation will outline ways in which KU Children’s Services has established collaborative partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and members of communities to support the ongoing connection with family and community of Aboriginal children living in out-of-home care environments and attending KU centres.

Gisella Wilson (KU Children’s Services)

16 Working Together for the Cultural Connections of Children in Out-of-Home Care and Youth Detention

Working Together to Ensure Aboriginal Children in Out-of-Home Care in NSW are Culturally Connected

Working together to ensure Aboriginal children in Statutory out-of-home care in NSW are culturally connected.

Annette Michaux & **Daniel Barakate** (Department of Family and Community Services, NSW), & **Annette Toomey** (Burrun Dalai)

Innovative Practice Change in Ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People are Connected to Culture, Family, Community, and Country in South Australia

Operationalising the intent of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in South Australia through the Aboriginal Cultural Identity Support Tool.

Cindy Paardekooper & Ben Sanderson (Department for Child Protection, SA)

Wiridjirbin Nura: Respect, Patience, Observation

A different approach to engaging youth in custody.

Rhett Burraston & Robert Patruno (Department of Education NSW)

Concurrent Sessions 17 – 24

3.30pm – 5.00pm

17 Permanency Planning Trends – Achieving Stability for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

Achieving Stability for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

This interactive panel discussion will feature speakers from jurisdictions across Australia who have witnessed the introduction of new permanency planning measures and the initial impacts on their communities. Speakers from New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria will discuss how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander conceptions of stability and permanency are fundamentally at odds with many current legislative and policy approaches to permanency. Speakers will discuss potential solutions, including safeguards needed to ensure the best interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are at the centre of decisions that promote their stability of care and identity.

Sharron Williams (Aboriginal Family Support Services, SA), **Tim Ireland** (AbSec, NSW), **Donna Kickett** (Family Matters, WA), **Kathleen Pinkerton** (Yorganop, WA), **Andrew Jackomos** (Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Vic) & **Muriel Bamblett** (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency)

Rethinking “Permanency” for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, and the Responsibilities of the Children’s Legal Representative in Care and Protection Proceedings

How does the legal concept of “permanency” give proper consideration to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander world-views and child-rearing practices, and what considerations are required when examining the responsibilities of the children’s legal representative in Children’s Court proceedings.

Gemma Slack-Smith (Aboriginal Legal Service, NSW/ACT)

18 Cultural Connections for Children in Out-of-Home Care

Cultural Support Planning: Keeping Children Connected with Family, Community and Culture

This presentation will provide a case example to highlight the integral role of cultural support planning for Aboriginal children in out-of-home care and its key role in case planning.

Stacey Moate (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency)

Connection to Culture – Keeping Children and Young People in the Out-of-Home Care System Connected to Their Family, Community and Culture

An innovative and practical approach to keeping children and young people (in out-of-home care) connected to family, community and culture.

Barb Falla & Leeanne Witenko (Aboriginal Family Support Services, SA)

Cultural Support in Practice – The Importance of Cultural Identity

Presentation of Life Without Barriers commitment to Keeping Culture through our Cultural Support planning.

Leoni Lippitt & Pamela Thorley (Life Without Barriers)

19 Supporting Families – Wrap-around Supports and Integrated Models in the Early Years

A Whole of System Support for Redressing Causes of Removal

Overview of a wrap-around model for supporting children and families.

Kathy Crouch & Rhonda McInnes (Mallee District Aboriginal Services)

Berrimba Childcare Centre & Early Years Service

From its early beginnings, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation’s Berrimba Childcare Centre has grown and now provides wrap-around Early Years Services to Aboriginal Families and Children in Echuca Victoria.

Leona Cooper, Joycie Ronan-Ward & Kym Warde (Njernda Aboriginal Corporation)

Pathways to Change – Engaging and Supporting Aboriginal and Vulnerable Families

Strategies and success stories for working with Aboriginal and vulnerable families.

Allison West & Wayne Griffiths (Winanga-li Aboriginal Child and Family Centre)

20.1 Early Years Education and the Transition to School

Little J & Big Cuz Early Years Panel

This panel will focus on the importance of the early years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Geraldine Atkinson (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children),
Priscilla Reid-Loynes (ACER) & **Taryn Marks** (NITV)

20.2 Family Matters Advocacy

Family Matters Workshop – Using Narrative in Advocacy

Narrative is a very powerful advocacy tool and this interactive workshop will explore the power of narrative case studies in advocacy and outline how these have been created and promoted, through the Family Matters campaign.

Peter Nathan (Save the Children) & **Fleur Smith** (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children)

21 Songlines, Art and Connections to Culture in Early Childhood Education

“Weaving Our Songlines Home Wherever we are... and Wherever we May Travel”

Sharing my Story as an Early Childhood Teacher with a disability yet through culture and art bringing both our Children and me as an Educator home to our Belonging as A&TSI Peoples.

Jinneeka Don (Creche & Kindergarten Association)

Bringing our Children Home... Our Present... Their Journey, our Elders Guidance and Wisdom

Sharing our Story as a remote Western Cape York Community who has brought a 21st Century model of self-determination for our Early Childhood Campus, anchoring our Children's Belonging with their timeless Culture that our Elders Knowledge Wisdom Guidance and Counsel bring into all our lifelong learnings.

Trisha Schuh (Creche & Kindergarten Association)

Our 21st Century Song line home... Our Children, Our Country; Our Knowledge; Our Tomorrows...

'Bringing the Children Home' for our remote Gulf Community, has been about unique, place-based, self-determination strategies for Early Childhood Education, together with reconnecting our young People with their land, their time, their Songlines, their culture and their identity... .

Patricia aka Laylee Armstrong (Creche & Kindergarten Association)

Quilting Hands... Heart and Spirit

I am honoured to be able to share my passion and also look forward to being with other Artists and Quilters at the Conference and learning so much more about art techniques, the role of art in our Cultural Songlines and myself and my identity as an Artist.

Jinneeka Don (Creche & Kindergarten Association)

22 Engaging and Supporting Families through Yarning – Intensive Family Support, Health and Mental Health

Yarning About Breastfeeding: Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents and Community – Celebrating Our Stories

Sharing the story of the development and use of the Yarning about Breastfeeding booklet.

Simone Andy (Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation)

Yarning Up Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Early Years – What do we do?

Exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives to improve children's mental health and wellbeing.

Judy Kynaston (Early Childhood Australia)

The Development and Use of the Yarning Mat in the Intensive Family Support Service Program in the Northern Territory

Presentation and demonstration of the Yarning Mat as a tool for the provision of accessible and culturally appropriate services to families in an evidenced-informed intensive family support service model to improve child outcomes.

Faye Parriman & Toni Woods (Parenting Research Centre)

23.1 Towards Genuine Partnerships Between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations and Mainstream Services

Partnership, Collaboration and Relationships: The Journey Taken to Develop a Partnership Between Two Community Controlled Organisations and One Mainstream Organisation

This session will be exploring the development of a genuine partnership between two community controlled organisations with a mainstream organisation, the processes, challenges and successes. It is a story of our journey which will continue for a long time to come.

Julie Nelson (Yadeni Tago) & **Margie Luta** (Kurbingui Youth Development)

Yarn and Craft Group – A “Soft-Entry” Approach to Engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families into a Mainstream Service

We would like to share our challenges and successes of establishing and sustaining strong relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Sharman Backhouse (The Benevolent Society) & **Karyn Costello** (WuChopperen Health Service)

23.2 Aboriginal Child and Family Centres - Community Involvement and Engagement

Learning Together at Nikinpa – Relationship Based Partnerships and Collaboration

Nikinpa is one of the 9 ACFC's established in NSW. The strength in Nikinpa is community involvement. Presentation will briefly describe the process of community engagement from the initial phase through establishment and into implementation. This will be followed by a look at how we choose and develop partnerships and finally our longest running partnership which embodies collaboration at every level of program design and delivery will be highlighted.

Emma Beckett (Nikinpa Aboriginal Child and Family Centre, Muloobinba Aboriginal Corporation)

24.1 Early Intervention – Preschool Readiness Programs

Congress' Preschool Readiness Program

An introduction to an intensive preschool readiness program in Central Australia that is enabling developmentally vulnerable Aboriginal children for pre-school through early intervention strategies. The presentation will share a Case Study of the program.

Diwangkuna Francis & Judith Ansell (Preschool Readiness Program)

24.2 Cultural Practice and Leadership within Child Protection Departments

Growing Our Own in Practice

As Aboriginal Practitioners working in a child protection system that can make a difference in practice for Aboriginal children and families and their local Aboriginal Communities.

Dee Sabey, Margaret Stuart & Tracy Rigney (Department for Child Protection, SA)

Cultural Leadership – A Journey Towards Understanding in the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Context

Presents an innovative leadership program that creates an environment where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal leaders can learn alongside and from one another, bridging the cultural gap in the spirit of two-way learning.

Tracey Ninnette (Department of Communities, WA)

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Plenary Panel Discussion

9.00am – 10.30am

> Bring Them Home – Securing the Rights of our Children

This panel presentation will be a dynamic and frank Q&A style discussion with community and national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.

The discussion will centre around learnings from the *Bringing Them Home* report in the 20th anniversary year of its release and in the context of increasing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care across all Australian jurisdictions.

Facilitator:

Professor Larissa Behrendt, Chair of Indigenous Research, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology, Sydney

Professor Larissa Behrendt is a Eulayai/Gamillaroi woman who holds the Chair of Indigenous Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney. She is a graduate of UNSW and Harvard Law School. She has published numerous textbooks on Indigenous legal issues. Larissa won the 2002 David Unipon Award and a 2005 Commonwealth Writer's Prize for her novel *Home*. Her second novel, *Legacy*, won a Victorian Premiers Literary Award. She is also the author of *Indigenous Australia for Dummies*. Her most recent book is *Finding Eliza: Power and Colonial Storytelling* (2016, UQP). Larissa wrote and directed the Walkley nominated feature documentary, *Innocence Betrayed* and has written and produced several short films. She is a board member of the Sydney Festival and a member of the Major Performing Arts Panel of the Australia Council. Larissa was awarded the 2009 NAIDOC Person of the Year award and 2011 NSW Australian of the Year. She is the host of *Speaking Out* on the ABC Local Radio and Radio National.

Participants:

Mick Dodson AM (Director, National Centre for Indigenous Studies, The Australian National University & Professor of Law, ANU College of Law)

Natalie Lewis (Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak)

Jim Morrison (Co-Chair, West Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation)

Richard Weston (Chief Executive Officer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation)

Concurrent Sessions 25 – 32

11.00am – 12.30pm

25 National Reform Processes in Child Protection – NFPAC and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle

The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020: Latest Developments and Future Directions

Reflecting the tripartite nature of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020, Families Australia, the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, and the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services will join together to discuss current national policy responses to child safety and wellbeing concerns and explore how policy can be further developed to better respond to the needs of children in families.

Dr Brian Babington (Families Australia), **Dr Roslyn Baxter** (Commonwealth Department of Social Services) & **Susanne Le Bouillier** (Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Qld)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children – Implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle

In this presentation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group member and CEO of QATSICPP, Natalie Lewis will discuss the development of the best practice framework and baseline analysis, and outline a strong vision for greater accountability and practice development towards achieving full compliance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.

Natalie Lewis (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children)

26 Empowering Communities and Families in Decision Making

Knowledge Circles: Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities Through Giving Voice and Real Participation

QATSICPP developed the concept of Knowledge Circles to ensure that the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Queensland were heard and there was real participation.

Candice Butler & Nadia Currie (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voices in Child Protection Decision Making

This research explores Indigenous perspectives on meaningful participation in decision-making in child protection matters and will make recommendations on ways to implement families' and communities' participatory rights. This presentation will report on this research that commenced in 2017.

A/Prof Terri Libesman & Wendy Hermeston (University of Technology Sydney, Law) & **Gemma Slack-Smith** (Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT)

Redefining Aboriginal Community Control and Shifting the Power Back into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Families and Children

Redefining Aboriginal Community Control in the Child Protection Sector.

Nadia Currie (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak)

27 Family Violence – Impacts on Children and Child Removal

Family Violence: A Key Focus for the Prevention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Removal

This presentation will discuss the linkages between child protection and family violence, and identify lessons from the on-the-ground experience of Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Services of providing support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Antoinette Braybrook (National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum)

Indigenous Men and Family Violence

We will take a look at how Aboriginal men's programs in Australia are addressing the complex issues of fathering, family violence and abuse.

David Gallant & Shawana Andrews (The University of Melbourne)

#Whatyoudon'tsee Family Violence Campaign

#Whatyoudon'tsee family violence campaign features 4 short film clips that focus on an Aboriginal family and their exposure to family violence. The films were developed by the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) to educate community around the impacts of family violence on children.

Megan Van Den Berg & Anita North (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency)

28 Integrated Early Years Care – Self-Determination and Support for Children and Families

True and Authentic Self-Determination – A Success Story

Participants will see how a successful model ensures that Aboriginal children and families become self-determining in their own lives. This presentation will bring to light how the strengths based four part integrated model, underpinned by the notion of self-determination, is ensuring positive health, wellbeing and educational outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Angie Zerella, Doug Fargher, Maddy Crowhurst & Patricia Edgell (Bubup Wilam for Early Learning Aboriginal Child and Family Centre)

Aboriginal Play Groups Building Connection, Skills and Relationships in Community

A short paper on Aboriginal play groups.

Malinda Summerfield & Elsa Kirby (Mallee District Aboriginal Services)

Integrated Child and Family Services as a Core Focus in a Primary Health Care Model

An Integrated model of child and family services as a core part of comprehensive primary health care.

Donna Ah Chee (Central Australian Aboriginal Congress)

29 Growing Up Children in Culture – Understanding and Valuing Early Childhood Practices

We Want Our Kids to Have DEADLY FUTURES

Education and learning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, key strategies and tools for educators.

Dr Jenine Godwin-Thompson (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children)

Growing up Children in Two Worlds: Sharing Knowledge About Early Childhood from a Remote Region of Northern Australia

In this interactive presentation we will discuss the process and initial findings of a collaborative, intercultural research project exploring early childhood in a remote region of northern Australia.

A/Prof. Anne Lowell (Charles Darwin University), **Dr Jenine Godwin-Thompson** (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children) & **Megan Yunupinju** (Yalu Marnghithinyaraw Indigenous Corporation)

Families as First Teachers (FaFT): Understanding Indigenous Early Childhood Teaching and Learning

‘Listen and Watch’ – women’s perspectives and mother-child playgroup interactions in Arnhem Land.

Wan Yi Lee (The University of Melbourne)

30.1 Ensuring Cultural Connections for Children

The Bill of Rights for Children with Parents Inside

This presentation will discuss why Tjillari Justice focused on developing a Bill of Rights for Children with parents inside correctional centres, the research that underpins the project, and the partnerships supporting the use of these rights in decisions made about the placement of Aboriginal Children.

Deb Evans (Tjillari Justice Aboriginal Corporation)

Connecting Children to Culture at a Very Young Age

Connecting young children to Aboriginal culture in a fun way.

Larry Brandy (Larry Brandy Aboriginal Storyteller)

30.2 Supporting Children’s Healthy Growth and Development

Palm Island Children and Family Centre – From Babies to Big Kids..... Supporting Palm Island Families in their Children’s Healthy Growth and Development

Rachel Atkinson (Palm Island Community Company)

31.1 Support for Children in Out-of-Home Care – Health and Connection Initiatives

Developmental Health and Wellbeing of Urban Aboriginal Children in Out-of-Home Care: KARI’s Clinic

A discussion around therapeutic intervention for children in OOHC.

Stephanie Ruston (Sydney South West Area Health Service – Liverpool Hospital), **Christine Dreizi** & **Casey Ralph** (KARI, NSW)

Out-of-Home Care – Connected to People and Place

With reunification as a primary goal, Territory Families NT and Lifestyle Solutions Aust work in partnership to deliver an OOHC Community Based Children’s Service in Tennant Creek Northern Territory.

Sue Findlay (Lifestyle Solutions Australia) & **Dorrelle Anderson** (Territory Families, NT)

31.2 Child Rights and Child Safety in Crisis Accommodation

Keeping Safe Together: Children in Crisis Accommodation (Clients in their Own Right)

Keeping Safe Together is a tool for workers and mothers in supported and crisis accommodation services, to engage with children as clients in their own right: to be welcomed, participate in a case plan, and develop a safety plan together.

Natalie Cole (Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women’s Shelter (DAIWS)) & **Lesley Taylor** (NAPCAN)

32 Cultural Connections, Strength and Education for Our Children

Maintaining Connection to Family, Culture and Community: Strategies for Enhancing Indigenous High School Completion in Remote Australia

Stories from the Whole of Community Engagement initiative led by Charles Darwin University helps bring to life the numbers from the NATSISS.

Veronica Jarron (Australian Bureau of Statistics) & **A/Prof. James Smith** (2017 Equity Fellow National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education; hosted by the Office of Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous Leadership, Charles Darwin University)

Strengthening Indigenous Leadership and Governance in Remote Education Contexts: A Key Strategy for Supporting Aspirations to Complete High School and Pursue Higher Education

The narrative coming out of research undertaken through the Whole of Community Engagement initiative at Charles Darwin University (CDU) reinforces NATSISS findings.

Veronica Jarron (Australian Bureau of Statistics) & **A/Prof. James Smith** (2017 Equity Fellow National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education; hosted by the Office of Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous Leadership, Charles Darwin University)

Racism, Remoteness, and Aboriginal Pride: Identifying Seeds of School Disengagement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

To understand the perversity and impact of racism on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children.

A/Prof. Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews (Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges, University of Technology Sydney)

Concurrent Sessions 33 – 40

1.30pm – 3.00pm

33.1 Stolen Generations and Residential Schools – Australian and International Experiences

The Parramatta Native Institution: Where it all Began

The Parramatta Native Institution (1814-1822) established by Governor Lachlan Macquarie, was the first government act of removing Aboriginal children from their families, so they could be 'educated, civilised and Christianised' then assimilated into the European way of life.

Rosemary Norman-Hill (Kirrawe Indigenous Corporation)

Canada's Stolen Generations: Redress Responses to the Indian Residential School System

This presentation will discuss the Canadian residential schools settlement and contrast it with developments in redress and reconciliation in Australia since the Bringing Them Home report was published in 1997.

Alister McKeich (Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service)

33.2 Working with a Trauma Informed Approach

The Magic of Metaphors: How we are Engaging Women at Risk to Prevent Trauma in Young Children

'Healing Our Children' is an early intervention and prevention program developed by Aboriginal women for Aboriginal women to invite them into non-shaming conversations about the effects of violence on children, to promote safety and to prevent trauma.

Lucy Van Sambeek (Relationships Australia NT)

34 Family Violence - Best Practice Policy and Practice Approaches

Best Practice Family Violence Response and Prevention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families

Based on a collaboration between SNAICC - National Voice for our Children, the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum (NFVPLS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS), this panel will discuss best practice in family violence response and prevention to promote the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Rachel Atkinson (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children), **Antoinette Braybrook** (National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum) & **Cheryl Axleby** (Co-Chair of NATSILS and CEO of Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc, SA)

Family Violence Training and Best Practice Approaches: Making our Community Strong and "Safe for our Kids"

This session provides a panel of speakers and an interactive group activity looking at how whole of community and healing approaches can support all family members who are impacted by or use family violence.

David Ellis (SNAICC - National Voice for our Children) & **Panellists TBA**

35 Culture and Accountability in Legal Child Protection Proceedings

Bringing Culture to the Fore in Child Protection Proceedings through the Evidence of Cultural Experts – A Case Study of NAAJA Collaborating with the Burnawarra Elders Group in Maningrida

A case study of how collaborating with elders' groups can be used to bring crucial cultural evidence to the fore in child protection proceedings.

Amy Williams & Alexandria Jones (North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency)

Accountability in Child Protection Practice – A Western Australian Perspective

Through examples taken from real cases and from the governing legislation, ALSWA will illustrate its concerns around accountability in child protection and expose some of the failings in the existing system in Western Australia. Consideration will be given to changes that could be made to the current system to improve accountability and increase the prospect that any Indigenous child, who is the subject of child protection intervention, will ultimately remain with family and on country.

Neil Anderson (Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Inc)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP): IT'S THE LAW!

Examination of the implementation and application of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle: Implementation, best practice and law reform.

Gemma Slack-Smith (Aboriginal Legal Service, NSW/ACT)

36 Family Participation in Child Protection Decision Making

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family-led Decision Making

A workshop on the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family-led decision-making approaches and the successes and challenges of organisations and practitioners implementing them.

Paul Ferris (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency), **Cindy Namok** (Port Kennedy Association), **Stevie Kirby** (AbSec) & **John Burton** (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children)

Aboriginal Family Planning Circle

The Aboriginal Family Planning Circle (AFPC) offers an opportunity to build and enhance on safety and strength within Aboriginal families' through an integrated support network to empower Aboriginal families having difficulties accessing services. This session is for all community service workers interested in new and unique approaches to working with Aboriginal families in culturally appropriate and respectful way.

Jackie Stewart & Cheryl Jackson (Department of Family and Community Services, NSW)

37 Reconnecting Children to Culture and Country

Who is an Aboriginal Child?

VACCA will present a case study where the Aboriginal identity of one child in out-of-home care has been the subject of question, challenge, verification, status check, confirmation, legislative definition, onus of proof and ultimately, denial.

Anna Gibson & Kylie Bell (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency)

Return to Country Framework

This presentation provides an overview of the Return to Country Framework developed by the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) and the Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative (GEGAC). It includes a definition of what we mean by Return to Country based on the experience of Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care, their families and our staff.

Tiffany Hood & Kerry Stringer (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency) & **Alyson Fergusson** (Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative (GEGAC))

Reconnecting Aboriginal Children in Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) to Family, Kin, Country and Culture

KARI providing best practice in reconnecting Aboriginal children in out-of-home care to family, kin, country and culture.

Nicole Alexander & Donna Anderson (KARI, NSW)

38 Culturally Safe and Connected Early Childhood Education and Care

Building Culturally Safe Early Childhood Education and Care: The Experiences of the Aboriginal Children's Centre

The Aboriginal Children's Centre (ACC) is a licensed Child Care Centre in Southern Tasmania at piyura kitina (Risdon cove). The ACC's approach is focused on providing an environment where children can thrive through building their belonging to their land, culture and community.

Lisa Cripps & Lisa Coulson (Tasmanian Aboriginal Children's Centre)

Connect to Culture through Ceremony in the Early Childhood Setting

Sharing the journey, with our Elders, to connect our children to culture through ceremony, dance and storytelling.

Tracey Porter & Carol Lymbery (Cullunghutti Aboriginal Child and Family Centre)

Creating Strong, Confident, Proud and Resilient Children in the Early Years

This will be a presentation with a focus on how Yappera embed culture as a crucial aspect of children's learning.

Stacey Brown (Yappera Children's Service Cooperative Ltd)

39.1 Partnerships and Programs for Children with a Disability

Successfully Extending the Reach and Quality of Project Work in Regional and Remote Communities through a Partnership Between an Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Organisation

This presentation will explore how a national government project has sought guidance around best practice from First Peoples Disability Network to better support families and school staff in regional and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Rachael Dillon & Maria Watson-Trudgett (Positive Partnerships (Autism Spectrum Australia)), & **June Riemer** (First Peoples Disability Network)

Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children on the Autism Spectrum and Other Diverse Learners through Strengthening Relationships between Families, School Staff and Local Community Organisations

This presentation will showcase how a targeted school and community program in Walhallow, NSW, empowered school staff to collaborate with the wider community to successfully run a family workshop on supporting the needs of all children in the community, in particular those children with diverse learning and behavioural needs.

Rachael Dillon (Positive Partnerships (Autism Spectrum Australia))

39.2 Aboriginal Young People's Cultural Experiences in Care

Cultural Competency in Care and Protection - Drawing on the Views of Young People to Drive Change

This presentation will enhance understanding about the importance of cultural connection for Aboriginal young people... through their own words.

Jodie Griffiths-Cook (ACT Human Rights Commission)

40.1 Communication, Training and Support for Practitioners

Building Relationships and Reflection through the Voice of Baby

This presentation will offer an overview of how the wisdom of unborn children and reflective practice has been turned into a training course for staff who work with complex families. This presentation will share feedback and experiences from the two pilot training courses offered in Swan Hill, Victoria, and demonstrate some of the resources that are included in the course.

Kathy Crouch & Ada Peterson (Mallee District Aboriginal Services)

Engaging with Researchers

Learn the benefits of research and how to ensure that it is ethical, respectful, culturally secure and works for you.

Sarah Cleaves (Telethon Kids Institute)

40.2 Language in Early Childhood

WANYTJATJA SPOTNGA – Developing ebooks in First Language in WA

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation works with remote communities to help address literacy levels. One of the most important aspects of its work is working with communities to develop resources in language.

Karen Williams (Indigenous Literacy Foundation)

Concurrent Sessions 41 – 48

3.30pm – 5.00pm

41 Building a Strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Sector

Working Towards Better Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families through Building a Strong, Sustainable and Capable Sector

This presentation will focus on storylines and how these assisted QATSICPP to develop a suite of practice resources to assist frontline practitioners throughout Queensland.

Candice Butler (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak)

Building Capacity and Capability Within a Sector, the Opportunities and Challenges

Building capacity and capability within a sector, the opportunities and challenges.

Dana Hogg (AbSec, NSW)

Role of an Effective Aboriginal Peak Organisation

The purpose of the session is to share AbSec's experience of being a peak organisation, working with stakeholders, with the view to informing others that may wish to establish their own Aboriginal community controlled peak in their jurisdiction (if there is a gap).

Jodie Porter (AbSec, NSW)

42 Towards Court Processes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families

A Way Forward for Indigenous Children in the Family Law System

The Federal Circuit Court is the first Court in Australia to launch a Reconciliation Action Plan. This presentation will discuss the aims of the Plan. In particular, it will address the need for improved access to justice for Indigenous Australians in family law.

Judge Robyn Sexton (Federal Circuit Court of Australia)

Marram-Ngala Ganbu – We Are One

The Marram-Ngala Ganbu Koori Hearing day aims to improve outcomes for Koori children involved in child protection proceedings by providing a culturally appropriate process to assist in decision making. Marram-Ngala Ganbu, Victoria's first court based, culturally appropriate process for child protection matters.

Magistrate Kay Macpherson & Ashley Morris (Children's Court of Victoria)

Koori Conferences in Child Protection Matters in the Children's Court of Victoria

This presentation will describe how the Children's Court of Victoria has responded in a cultural appropriate way for Aboriginal families involved in child protection matters to participate in Conciliation Conferences.

Kate Walker, Les Corlett & Susanna Kolber (Children's Court of Victoria)

43 Stories of the Stolen Generations

Sharing the Stories of the Stolen Generations: Link-Up Victoria Experience

The purpose of this presentation is to share the stories of the Stolen Generations and their experiences of being separated from family, culture and country, and how hard it was for them to find out who they are and where they belong.

Ross Morgan & Lilian Arnold-Rendell (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency)

Storytelling through Film – Fractured – Broken Ties: Reclaimed Lives

This session is a screening of the Link-Up Victoria film “Fractured – Broken Ties: Reclaimed Lives” which documents the life stories of four Stolen Generations. Following the screening, a survivor featured in the film will hold a Q&A session allowing the audience to connect with these powerful stories.

Ross Morgan (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency)

44 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) – Supporting Children and Families

Opening Pandora’s Box: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Out-of-Home Care

Children with FASD in out-of-home care; and the lifelong impact of FASD. This workshop will include the powerful stories of six families, both foster and kinship carers, caring for Aboriginal children with FASD in Nyoongar country.

Robyn Williams (Curtin University)

Empowering Families by Strengthening Parents’ and Carers’ Capacity: Jandu Yani U “For All Families”

In response to family concerns, the Fitzroy Valley communities have collaborated to bring families tailored support, building capacity through training 18 residents across 10 organisations as Parent Coaches in the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P).

Cari McIlduff & Jadnah Davies (Marninwarntikura Women’s Resource Centre)

45.1 Child Protection and Youth Justice – Links, Pathways and Supports

Blackfulla Understandings, Whitefulla Learnings: Exploring the Lived Experience of Aboriginal Youth in Western Australia’s “Care” Systems

The presentation will describe a research project which has examined the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder at Banksia Hill Detention Centre–Western Australia’s only youth detention facility.

Sharynne Hamilton & Jacinta Freeman (Telethon Kids Institute, WA)

A Delicate Balance: Implementing an Indigenous Youth Justice Program and Evaluating It

A presentation and discussion on the implementation and evaluation of Regional Youth Support Services’ (RYSS) Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) for young Aboriginal people on the Central Coast of NSW.

Chris Krogh (University of Newcastle) & **BJ Duncan** (Regional Youth Support Services Inc.)

45.2 Trauma and Child Development

“Tjulpu and Walpa” – A Story about Two Children Growing up in Different Ways

This beautifully illustrated book weaves together stories from senior Anangu women of the Uti Kulintjaku project. It is designed for community workers, parents, teenagers and people of all literacy levels, and shows how the care a child receives shapes their behaviour.

Pantjiti McKenzie & Rene Kulitja (Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjara Women’s Council)

46 Family Violence – Working with Women, with a Strengths-Based Approach

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women Affected by Family/Domestic Violence Developing & Delivering Best Practice

The focus of this presentation is for practitioners and community members working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing family/domestic violence.

Shawana Marie Andrews (School of Health Sciences - Melbourne University) & **Katrina D’Angelo** (SNAICC - National Voice for our Children)

What does Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Spirituality have to do with Child Safe Environments? A Strengths-based Approach to Preventing Family and Domestic Violence

A case study from communities in the North-Western suburbs of Brisbane and the remote community of Lajamanu, illustrating how these communities are taking a strengths-based approach to preventing family and domestic violence-

Grant Paulson & Sharon Nampijinpa Anderson (World Vision Australia)

47 Cultural Connections and Community in Early Childhood Development and Care

Connecting to Country – Early Childhood Custodians

Bubup Wilam for Early Learning Aboriginal Child and Family Centre in Thomastown, Victoria, recognised and responded to the knowledge that learning in the bush benefits children by establishing a “Connection to Country” program. The presenters will share the success of “Connection to Country” through visual prompts and storytelling using mindful activities and joyful play.

Angie Zerella, Doug Fargher, Maddy Crowhurst & Patricia Edgell (Bubup Wilam for Early Learning Aboriginal Child and Family Centre)

Indigenous Cultural Hub – Possibilities in Embedding Culture for Inclusion

The Indigenous Cultural Hub’s vision of inclusion and the implementation of embedding cultural perspectives to create better education possibilities.

Michelle Hamilton & Tara Dunbar (Gowrie NSW)

Coolabaroo Neighbourhood Centre – MACS Beyond a Name

Coolabaroo Neighbourhood Centre Multifunctional Aboriginal Children Services has operated for over 30 years in Thornlie Western Australia. The Centre over the years have had various programs (other than long day care, outside school hours care) established. The highlights of the past 30 years and the challenges for the next 30 years: undiagnosed Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) with our children, children born from methamphetamines, Cultural Healing Programs for individuals and family.

Joanne Della Bona (Coolabaroo Neighbourhood Centre, WA)

48 Supporting Families

Getting Ready – Pre-Birth Planning with Aboriginal Families

This innovative project aims to positively impact the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families actively participating in Pre-Birth Signs of Safety planning.

Katherine (Katy) Raftery & Verity Roennfeldt (Department of Communities WA)

The Growing Healthy Families Program (Partnership, Collaboration and Relationships)

This is a practical and engaging presentation from the team behind the ACT's successful Growing Healthy Families Program, which includes culturally proficient programs such as the Strong Women's Group and Koori Kids. It will focus on the importance of co-designing the program with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, as well as utilising data from sources such as the Australian Early Development Census, to ensure local needs are met. The presentation will also highlight the importance of building networks and relationships, recruiting the right staff, and effective service delivery strategies.

Melanie Saballa (ACT Community Services Directorate)

A New Way... How Social Benefit Bond Can Support Innovation in Service Delivery

We will be discussing new ways of supporting innovative practice through social benefit bond.

Jo Goodwin (UnitingCare Queensland)

DAY 3: THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Plenary

9.00am – 10.30am

> Keynote Address: Adjunct Professor Muriel Bamblett AM

Making Headway against the Tide

We have celebrated a number of milestones this year: the fiftieth anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, the twentieth anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report and from a Victorian perspective, the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA).

Victoria has also made a number of advances in child welfare legislation, policy and practice which are models for services to Aboriginal children and families driven by the struggle of Aboriginal people for the right to self-determination. Victoria also has a very active Commissioner for Aboriginal Children who has conducted a number of inquiries that have highlighted the systemic and social issues that drive Aboriginal children into care and tend to keep them there.

Despite these advances in practice and knowledge about the reasons Aboriginal children come into care, we seem to be making little headway against the tide with thousands of children continuing to enter care.

Professor Muriel Bamblett's presentation will examine the issues surrounding the state of affairs with Aboriginal child welfare and present views about how we can address them to reduce the numbers of children being removed and separated from their families, communities and culture.

> Keynote Address: Commissioner Helen Milroy

Keeping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children Connected to Family

'The out-of-home care system may last throughout childhood but relationships, family and culture last a lifetime and transcend generations. Kinship not only connects us to our kin and country, it connects us for eternity'.

Commissioner Helen Milroy, 2017

Now in its fifth and final year, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has heard stories from thousands of men, women and children about their experience of childhood sexual abuse while they were in the care of institutions, including out-of-home care. Commissioner Milroy has borne witness to many of these stories as part of the Royal Commission's private sessions. She will speak about the impacts this abuse has had on survivors and identify factors that promote resilience.

She will also discuss the findings from a recently-published report from the Royal Commission's research program, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and child sexual abuse in institutional contexts.

Produced by the Telethon Kids Institute, the report examines the impacts of past removal policies, intergenerational trauma and as well identifying key features of culturally-appropriate care. The report identifies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as inherently protective of children and have a significant role in promoting child safety.

Drawing on her insights into the out-of-home care system, current research and telling a story through her own artwork, Commissioner Milroy will share her vision for the future – a vision where Australia is a safer place for children to grow up.

Concurrent Sessions 49 – 56

11.00am – 12.30pm

49 **The Future of Youth and Care and Protection in the NT after the Royal Commission**

The Future of Youth and Care and Protection in the NT after the Royal Commission

CAALAS presentation will discuss the NT Royal Commission into protection and detention of children in Northern Territory what worked and what didn't work and the challenges facing Aboriginal people of the central Australia into the future.

Matthew Bonson (Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service)

Listening, Connecting and Working Together with Aboriginal Community: Implementing Child Protection Royal Commission Reform Together

How consultation, collaboration and the voice of Aboriginal children, families and community is central to child protection reforms in South Australia.

Melissa Clarke (Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, SA) & **Brenden Boyce** (South Australian Department for Child Protection, SA)

Heal the Past, Safeguard the Future

This presentation will provide an overview of the findings and learnings from the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency's (VACCA) Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Support Service.

Jenny Kirby & Denise Sweet (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency)

50 **Self-Determination in Child Protection in Victoria (Section 18)**

Self-determination in Practice: Aboriginal People Making Decisions About What is Best for Aboriginal Children

A presentation on how the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) is building on the learnings of the 2013-15 pilot project to progress a culturally appropriate model of child protection for Aboriginal children in out-of-home care. This is an important and significant step towards self-determination in the Australian child protection arena.

Laurie Sevil, Kirstie-Lee Lomas & Kylie Ponchard (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency)

Can Child Protection Case Management be Different? Self-determination and the Implementation of the Section 18 Pilot in Bendigo

Section 18 is a Pilot in which the delegation of specific powers and functions of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Child Protection Services, are transferred to the Principle Officer of the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative.

Raylene Harradine & Rachel O'Dowd (Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative)

Self-determination: Transitioning Aboriginal Children Back to Community

The Victorian government in partnership with the Commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people, together with the Aboriginal community and non-Aboriginal community, are working towards returning the management and care of all Aboriginal children to the rightful care of Aboriginal Community Control Organisations (ACCOs).

Beth Allen (Department of Health and Human Services, Vic)

51.1 **Culture, Participation, and Reunification - Decision Making in Child Protection**

A Cultural Approach to Child Protection and Family Reunification in Queensland

A presentation on how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture and Traditions is being considered within the decision making process within the Child Protection System in QLD. How it encompasses the Seven Phases of the Child Protection Continuum in the State. The Seven Phases are: Intake; Investigation and Assessment; Court; Standards of Care Reviews; Suspected Child Abuse; Case Planning; and Placement in Out-of-Home Care.

Nina Shibasaki & Tom Lui (Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Health Service)

51.2 Family Matters - Partnership and Advocacy

Collaborative Advocacy as a Tool for Organisational Change – The Family Matters Statement of Commitment

Collaborative advocacy is a powerful instrument not only for outwards messaging to governments and policy makers, but also for internal organisational change management. This session will promote the Family Matters Statement of Commitment as a tool for meaningful practice change in community controlled and mainstream organisations, to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and keep children out of care.

Natalie Lewis (Family Matters) & **Fleur Smith** (SNAICC - National Voice for our Children)

52.1 Leaving Care – Support and Cultural Planning for Young People Transitioning to Independent Living

The Aboriginal Aftercare State-Wide Service and its Focus on the Impacts that Cultural Planning, and Lack of Such Planning, have on Children in Care and Post Care

This talk specifically highlights the stories of two young people and their journey of a family tracing trip after leaving care through the support of the Aboriginal Aftercare State-wide Service. It will also highlight the connections back to family, community and culture; the lack of cultural support planning they had whilst in care; and the impact it has had upon their life.

Sheena Olsen & **Sandra Sharp** (Uniting - Aboriginal Aftercare Statewide Service, NSW)

Go Your Own Way: Equipping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People for the Transition to Independent Living

Go Your Own Way: Equipping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people for the transition to independent living.

Dr Joseph McDowall (Create Foundation)

52.2 Working within the Care and Protection System in the ACT

Nothing will be Done for Us - Without Us!

A case study overview of an Aboriginal organisation's perspective - working with the Care and Protection System in the ACT.

Kim Davison (Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation)

53 The Importance of Culture in Education

'You've Got to Listen to Us; Our Voice': Privileging Arrernte Language and Culture in Early Childhood

Arrernte leaders and educators from Central Australia, Felicity Hayes and Veronica Turner, share their journey over the last 6 months – of disrupting the system and establishing a model of education by Arrernte families, for Arrernte children, on Arrernte land.

Felicity Hayes, Veronica Turner, Lorraine Gorey & Bethan Rees (Children's Ground, NT)

Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Schools and Early Learning

Participants will develop an appreciation of the importance of engaging children in learning and action around reconciliation from the earliest age. They will also be given insights into the process of developing Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) for early learning services, and into the centrality of respectful partnerships, collaborations and relationships, RAP development and implementation process alike.

Esma Livermore, Zoe Betar & Stephanie Woerde (Narragunnawali; Reconciliation in Schools and Early Learning)

54 Working with a Trauma-Informed Approach

Yorgum - A Leadership Approach in Responding to Aboriginal Child Sexual Abuse and Grief and Loss in Metropolitan Perth

Yorgum's Counselling Service is successfully integrating traditional Noongar ways of healing with Western therapeutic models of counselling, to heal our children who have identified trauma from Sexual Abuse and Grief and Loss in their lives.

Jo-Anne D'Cress & Edna Ninnette (Yorgum, WA)

Empowerment by Degree: A Trauma Informed Approach for Teaching Family Therapy that Builds Capacity in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations' Workforce

Contributions of The Bouverie Centre's Family Therapy Training Program to capacity build workers, and the themes that emerged from the Program's evaluation.

Sue Ellen Radford & Seth Nolan (Bouverie Centre)

Establishing a Quality Culturally Appropriate Resource for Workers who are Involved in Providing Healing Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

This session will showcase the Healing portal and how the healing workforce can benefit from the information available to enhance their service delivery.

Michelle Elwell (Healthinonet)

55 Early Connections and Attachment – Infant Massage

Infant Massage – Infant Led Attachment and Attunement Program

This presentation outlines our organisation's use of The First Touch Program: a grass-roots program which empowers families with practical skills to promote the foundations for infant mental health development by supporting early attachment relationships.

Karina Michelle & Eileen Wanganeen (Relationships Australia SA)

First Touch – Safe Connections

Through the use of multimedia this presentation will demonstrate the positive impact that provision of infant massage classes for small groups of Aboriginal and other parents, together with their babies under 12 months of age, has on parent-infant connection, health and wellbeing.

Deb Patrick & Elizabeth Poole (Youth and Family Education Resources (YFER))

56.1 Early Childhood Community Partnerships

Kardiya Manu Warlpiri Yapa Yungulipa Warrki Jarrimi Jintangka Juku Ngalipa Nyangu Kurdu Wita Kurlu (Whitefella and Warlpiri People Working Together in Partnership with our Little Ones)

This is an interactive presentation that explores how 'both ways' partnerships, led by Warlpiri Early Childhood Reference Groups, have changed the early childhood landscape in Warlpiri communities over the last 8 years.

Liz Mullen (World Vision Australia) & **Warlpiri Women** (Yuendumu, Willowra, Nyirripi and Lajamanu Communities in the Northern Territory)

56.2 Support, Strength and Action of Practitioners

From the Child Protection Workforce through an Indigenous Poetic

Through yarning and through creative/poetic storytelling activities, workshop participants will be invited to explore the power of stories to ignite positive social change and promote wellbeing amongst those currently working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family service delivery.

Dr Vicki Saunders (Griffith University/Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Health Service), **Jennifer Savage** (Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Health Service) & **Dr Jenine Godwin-Thompson** (SNAICC – National Voice for our Children)

Closing Plenary

1.30pm – 3.00pm

> Plenary Panel Presentation

Looking Forward and Taking Action: It's Time to Get It Right

This panel presentation will form part of the closing of the conference, offering an opportunity to reflect on the themes and discussions of the conference, and to strategise for continued and future action. The discussion will focus on demanding accountability at multiple levels, driving action and affecting change, and working together to realise the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

As the final session of the conference, this presentation aims to be an informal and open dialogue amongst the panellists and conference delegates that will offer insights, hope, and inspiration for the challenges ahead.

Facilitator:

Mick Gooda (Commissioner, Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory)

Mick Gooda resigned from the Australian Human Rights Commission effective 1 August 2016 to take up a position as Royal Commissioner for the Royal Commission into the Child Protection and Youth Detention Systems of the Northern Territory. Mick Gooda had commenced his term as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner in early 2010. As Social Justice Commissioner, he advocated for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia and seeks to promote respect and understanding of these rights among the broader Australian community. Mick is particularly passionate about closing the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, a move he says is "non-negotiable". Mick has been involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs throughout Australia for over 35 years and has always maintained and actively promotes the concept of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples being intimately involved in decisions that affect them. He is currently on the Referendum Council on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. His focus has been on the empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Immediately prior to taking up the position of Social Justice Commissioner, Mick was the Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health for close to five-and-a-half years. Here, he drove a research agenda which placed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 'front and centre' in the research agenda, working alongside world leading researchers. Mick is a proud Gangulu person from Central Queensland and in his spare time, can usually be found in the Sunshine State.

Participants:

Andrew Jackomos PSM (Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Victoria)

Megan Mitchell (National Children's Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission)

Dr Jackie Huggins (Historian and Author & Co-chair, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples)

June Oscar AO (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner)