



Yappera Children's Services Co-operative (MACS) Vic

SNAICC STRATEGIC PLAN 2011–16

John Cummins, Townsville



Secretariat of National
Aboriginal and Islander
Child Care

SNAICC'S VISION

An Australian society in which our communities are empowered to determine their own future, where the rights of our children, young people and families are protected, our cultural identity and achievements are valued and our children and families have access to culturally appropriate, high-quality services.

SNAICC'S MISSION

To provide a strong voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families through a national body that represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's services and promotes the rights, needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

POLICY CONTEXT

Since we developed our previous strategic plan in 2006 there have been a number of significant events and changes in the national and international policy context.

Those with the most profound impact on SNAICC and SNAICC's constituents include the following.

- The July 2007 Northern Territory Intervention and suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act
- The National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples 2008
- **COAG's National Indigenous Reform Agreement (*Closing the Gap*)**

The COAG initiatives commit all governments to a number of short- and long-term targets with the

SNAICC's 8 Priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families

- Support families to care for children
- Value and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
- Healing and reparations for the Stolen Generation
- Self-determination in child protection
- Thrive by five with culture alive
- Real results take real planning
- Building capacity builds communities
- Hope, wealth and prosperity for our children



Wreck Bay ACT Men's Poster

objective of improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across education, employment, health, housing and safety. Several Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific national partnerships, mainstream national partnerships and national agreements affect our children and families. Importantly, the National Indigenous Reform Agreement priority principle has identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities as priority groups for all of these agreements.

■ ***Endorsement by COAG of the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care and the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children***

- The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020 seeks to provide a long-term approach to ensuring children's safety and wellbeing. In 2010 new national standards for out-of-home care were adopted under this framework.
- A national quality agenda to regulate childcare centres and workers. A national body will guide the management of the Early Years Learning Framework, with administration of regulation to be undertaken by state agencies. The national quality standards begun to be implemented on 1 July 2010, with full implementation from 1 January 2012.

■ ***Increasing national and international opportunities to expand SNAICC's advocacy and advice on issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families***

SNAICC's domestic profile continues to increase, with its service on key committees and working groups attracting strong demand for its advice and high-quality resources. Opportunities for international advocacy are also being explored. In 2009, SNAICC became the convenor of the United Nations Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Children and Youth (Indigenous Sub Group).

■ ***Shifting political landscape post-federal election 2010***

The outcomes of the 2010 federal election, including changes to ministerial portfolios and the introduction of key independents and Greens representatives, provide SNAICC with new opportunities to promote its policy agenda.

■ ***Ensuring SNAICC's independent future***

With a view to ensuring the longevity and independence of SNAICC, we have sought and been granted DGR status, which will enable diversified funding streams and exploration of various funding opportunities with the objective of developing a training arm and expanding our capacity and knowledge base on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people's rights.

LOOKING FORWARD 2011–2016

SNAICC has a long and proud history of advocating on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families and supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector that provides early childhood and family support services.

SNAICC's original Statement of Purposes was agreed in 1981 and Commonwealth funding has followed since 1983.

SNAICC has grown into an organisation with 140 members and associates, and 1300 subscribers, employing 20 staff and publishing a wide range of resources. The past five years have seen rapid growth of the organisation and consolidation of SNAICC's reputation. A new Statement of Purposes was agreed at a Special General Meeting of SNAICC members in 2010.

SNAICC's key roles on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families include the development of:

- policy, advocacy and representation
- resources, publications and training
- support for sector development and networking.

Over the next five years SNAICC will build on its past achievements by developing and providing to family and children's services policy, resources, training and information in relation to:

- leading the national debate and raising awareness on issues

relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, youth and families

- promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander design, development and delivery of services for our children and families
- promoting local solutions to local issues and acknowledging local culture
- increasing support for our members across our organisation
- continued development of an effective communications and distribution network for our sector
- developing strong, respectful partnerships with other organisations, peaks, coalitions and governments to achieve the vision and objectives identified by our members
- working in partnership with governments through submissions and participation on government and community sector advisory committees
- determining how best to hear the views and represent the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- increasing sector workforce capacity through the development of a training capacity based on SNAICC resources
- promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance and organisational development

- building SNAICC's research capacity as part of our evidence-based policy development process and providing good research and policy advice
- increasing the focus on human rights, particularly in undertaking the convenorship of the Indigenous Sub Group of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

SNAICC's four focus areas

In this strategic plan SNAICC's areas of work for the next five years are broken down into four areas of focus:

- child and family wellbeing and community support and development
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services for children and families
- social justice and children's rights
- a strong national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The purpose of this strategic plan is to give information to our members and supporters and others in the community about who we are, what we have done, and what we plan to do over the next five years – in partnership with families, communities, non-government organisations and governments – to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

SNAICC's strategic plan should be read in conjunction with its annual business plan with specific actions and performance measures under each of the four focus areas. Progress in meeting SNAICC's objectives will be reported in an annual report.



STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

Child and family wellbeing and community support and development

Objectives

- 1 Develop and support initiatives that build on, celebrate and promote:
 - a the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities
 - b the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and local cultures.
- 2 Support and advocate for the long-term development, reform, growth and capacity of our community-based services, policies and programs.
- 3 Identify, profile, promote and evaluate holistic and strengths-based practice and service models that focus on the wellbeing of children and families, including the physical, cultural, spiritual, emotional, social and economic aspects.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services for children and families

Objectives

- 1** Sustain and increase access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-controlled children's services working in the areas of:
 - a** child and family welfare, including child protection, out-of-home care, family support, parenting assistance and family reunification
 - b** services for children and families, including early childhood developmental programs, child care, playgroups, family support, parenting assistance and programs for school-aged children.
- 2** Build the capacity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector to enhance and support training and resource development.
- 3** Lead, advocate and promote awareness, understanding and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-controlled organisations.



Social justice and children's rights

Objectives

- 1 Position SNAICC as an expert in social justice and children's and young people's rights.
- 2 Initiate and lead the policy debate on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's and young people's rights and social justice at the national and international levels.
- 3 Develop and strengthen the capacity of our member organisations to join with SNAICC in advocating for social justice and human rights.
- 4 Make SNAICC the leading voice of debate in promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's rights at the national and international levels.



A strong national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Objectives

- 1 Ensure that SNAICC remains effectively governed and well managed and provides a rewarding and positive environment for its members, volunteers, office holders and staff.
- 2 Diversify and build SNAICC's financial and non-financial resources, including its members, funding sources and partnerships.
- 3 Resource and support collaboration, networking, information exchange and shared learning between our members, other organisations and governments.
- 4 Lead the national debate on issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families.



STATEMENT OF PURPOSES¹

The principal purpose for which SNAICC is established is 'to engage in activities that promote and accommodate a strong voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families through a national body that represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children's services and provides direct aid to, and promotes the rights, needs and aspirations of, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.'

To achieve this purpose, SNAICC will:

- 1 undertake activities, programs and training towards the elimination of all forms of poverty and confront injustice which impacts upon affecting the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
 - 2 pursue Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based and -controlled responses to the welfare and support needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
 - 3 promote the early childhood development needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
 - 4 advocate for the cultural, emotional, social, spiritual, physical and economic needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
 - 5 support public awareness and understanding of the historical and contemporary practices whereby Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have been forcibly removed from their families and the ongoing consequences of these practices
- 6 assist in the provision of relief from poverty, sickness, suffering and distress for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, including (but without being limited to) the provision of:
 - a resources and training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to encourage, assist, promote and provide quality services for the care and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
 - b resources, training and advice for member organisations, the wider community, government and non-government organisations to encourage, assist, promote and provide quality services for the care and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
 - c encouragement, support and assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop independent and sustainable responses to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
 - d encouragement, support and assistance for member organisations to develop independent and sustainable responses to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families

- 7 undertake or promote research work relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's health and wellbeing
 - 8 collaborate with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, governments, non-government agencies, the corporate sector, international organisations and others in pursuing the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and the means of achieving such rights
 - 9 advocate for the right of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to grow up in a community free from child abuse, child neglect and the harmful effects of violence through the alleviation of poverty
 - 10 support the development of policy positions on issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives on such issues to governments, other relevant bodies and the broader community
 - 11 highlight and seek recognition of the positive contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families make to their communities and the nation
 - 12 disseminate information relating to the programs and services provided by SNAICC and to produce, edit, publish, issue, sell, circulate and preserve such papers, periodicals, books, circulars and other literary matters as are conducive to SNAICC's principal purpose
 - 13 establish and maintain relationships and close communications with other corporations, entities, associations, foundations, institutions, organisations and groups (including federal, state and local government instrumentalities, authorities and professionals) that may have related interests to SNAICC and utilise their resources and facilities to provide and achieve the principal purpose of SNAICC
 - 14 seek and co-ordinate funding from federal, state and local government and the philanthropic and private sectors in the form of grants, gifts, donations and bequests committed to the principal purpose of SNAICC
 - 15 encourage, promote and create greater community awareness in the knowledge and understanding of the principal purpose of SNAICC and the impact on communities as a whole
 - 16 provide or attract funds to facilitate the purpose of SNAICC, especially for the conduct of public awareness programs (including education, relationship and community programs)
 - 17 do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the principal purpose of SNAICC.
- ¹ Based on the Statement of Purposes that was unanimously adopted by the Special General Meeting held on 19 May 2010 and available online at www.snaicc.asn.au. While some words have been edited for this strategic plan, no material changes have been made (for example, 'the Association', has been changed to 'SNAICC'.)



Undoonoo Child Care Centre (MACS) QLD



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and Islander Child Care**

*The national peak
body for Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander child
and family services*

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