



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department for **Child Protection**

# Aboriginal Engagement and Coordination

National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care  
(SNAICC) 2010

National Conference - Alice Springs

27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July

*Aboriginal Business is Everyone's Business*



**Aboriginal business is  
everyone's business**

# Background

- Gordon Inquiry – 2002
- Prudent Ford Review 2006
- Western Australia Child Protection Reform Agenda

# Snap Shot

Of all the children in care 45% are  
Aboriginal children

Accommodation and Care  
Services 60%

This statistic is the major driving force of  
the Aboriginal Engagement &  
Coordination strategic direction

# Key Drivers

- Aboriginal children and child protection – **we need innovative solutions.**
- The child's best interests are often confused by misunderstandings about **cultural issues.**
- Aboriginal **foster carers** are limited in number and urgently needed.
- Aboriginal **carers are usually relatives** and require stronger support to provide and sustain good quality of care.
- Aboriginal **cultural connections** need to be safeguarded to prevent the repetition of past dislocation.
- Aboriginal families continue to **feel excluded from mainstream** family support services.

16/09/2010

# Role of the Corporate Executive

- **Integrating Aboriginal issues** in directorate operational plans.
- Ensuring **consideration of the impacts of policy** and service delivery decisions on Aboriginal children and families.
- Ensuring **involvement of the AECD** and other Aboriginal resources to provide support and advice.
- **Monitoring the integration of Aboriginal issues** into the Department's business.

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# Key Policy Directions

- Signs of Safety – Child Protection Framework
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principles
- Foster Care Partnership
- Permanency Planning including Reunification
- Responsible Parenting
- People Development Framework

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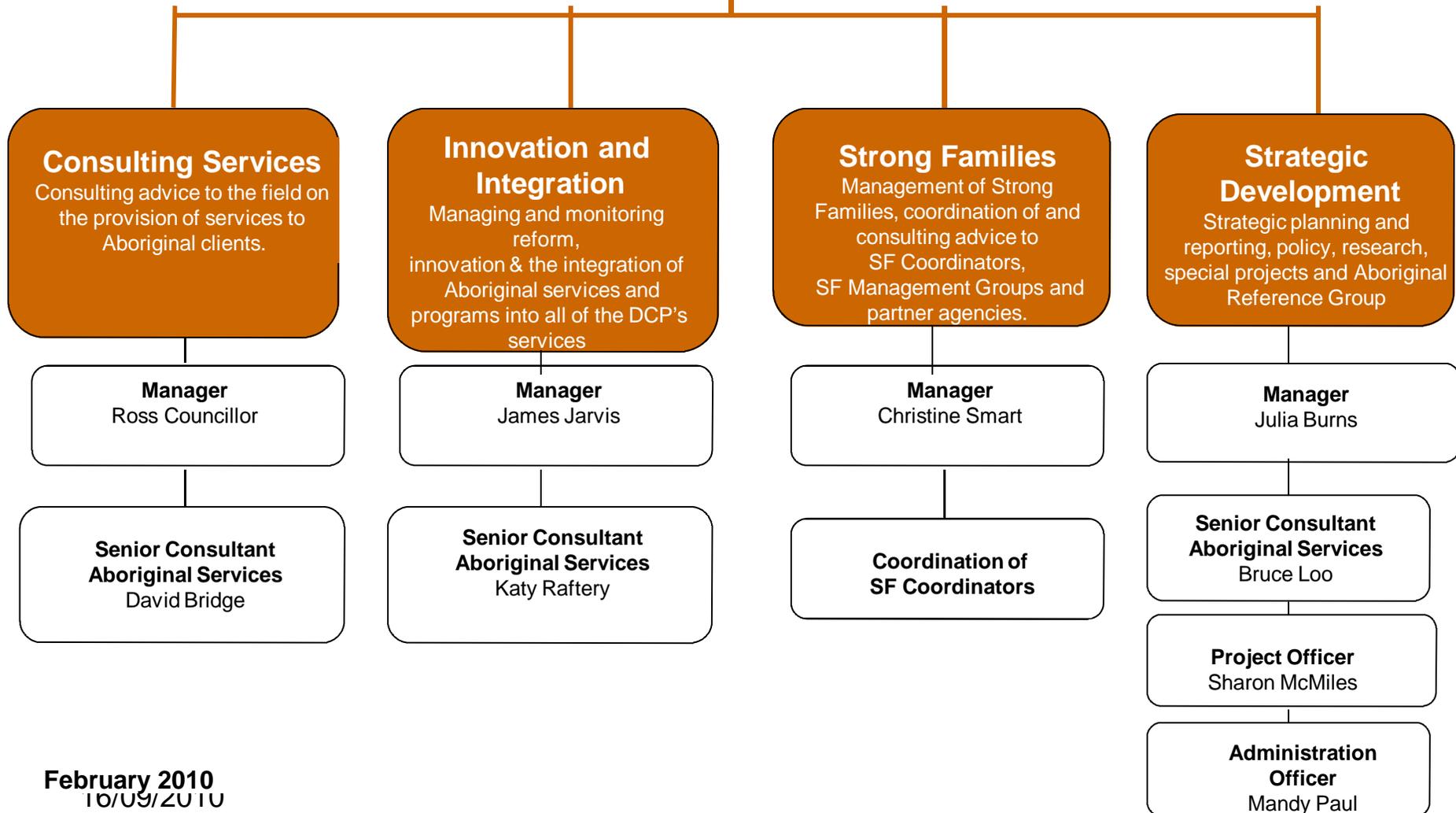
# Structure

1. Overview of the Aboriginal Engagement & Coordination Directorate's structure
2. Strategic Development
3. Innovation and Integration
4. Strong Families
5. Consulting Services

16/09/2010

# Aboriginal Engagement & Coordination Directorate

**Executive Director**  
Jenni Collard



February 2010  
16/09/2010

# Operational Support

Developed portfolio responsibilities for AECD staff to assist & support districts & other Directorates to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal children & families

Identify gaps & concerns regarding services to Aboriginal families & assist in finding solutions

# Strategic Development

- Undertaking research
- Providing input into policy
- Special projects

# Strategic Development

Partnering HR in the management of the  
Aboriginal Employment and Learning  
Strategy

Partnering Fostering in the development of  
a pilot project to provide better support  
to Aboriginal relative carers

# Strategic Development

- Recruiting and placing the 18 new **Aboriginal Practice Leaders**
- Developing the **consulting approach** to serving the Districts
- Managing implementation of **Multiple Placement Report** and the **Review of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principles**

# Innovation and Integration

- Programmatic support to former Gordon Inquiry:
  - Youth & Family Support Worker: 27 including 1 added at Joondalup
  - Community Child Protection Worker: 22 metro and country positions
  - Remote Community Child Protection Worker: 12 positions based from the Kimberley through to The Lands

# Strong Families

Planning and coordinating process for consenting families who are receiving services from two or more agencies

Across government interagency initiative that has a strong sense of shared ownership and responsibility

[www.strongfamilies.wa.gov.au](http://www.strongfamilies.wa.gov.au)

# Consulting Services

- Provide advice and support on contentious cases
- Provide consultation to districts around case support and direction
- Engage in community consultation to establish what appropriate services are required for children at risk

# Consulting Services

Provide advice and consultation to the general public around matters of Child Protection and service delivery

Help support and target services within the non government sector to ensure appropriate Aboriginal services

# Consulting Services

Aboriginal Engagement & Coordination in partnership with the Learning & Development Centre are leading negotiations with universities to establish learning pathways for Aboriginal staff to gain relevant qualifications

Establishing Learning Pathways in conjunction with the Learning & Development Centre for Aboriginal staff

# Are We Getting it Right?

Aboriginal Engagement and Coordination will develop a number of tools to measure the success of the Aboriginal Services

- Case practice audits – systems & Practices
- Performance data – Child in Care, Aboriginal Practice Networks & Aboriginal Employment Strategy – 10% now / 20% 2014
- Questionnaire and focus groups with staff and consumers.

# *Conclusion*

*Thank you for your  
attendance today*