



For **Our Children**
Ngallak Koorlangka

Community Voices: Sharing Knowledge and Practice

6th SNAICC National Conference

15 – 17 September 2015

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

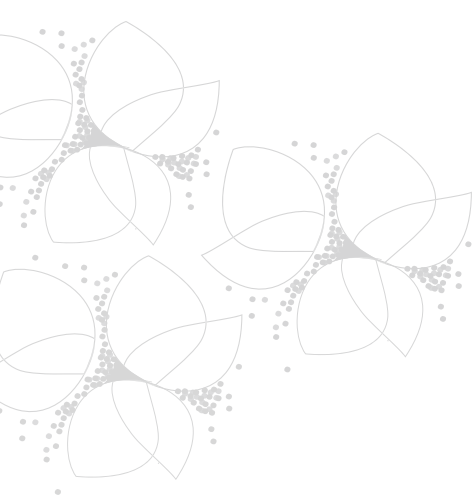


CONFERENCE REPORT

www.snaicc.org.au/conference



Secretariat of National Aboriginal
and Islander Child Care



Secretariat of National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Inc. (SNAICC)

Suite 8, Level 1, 252–260 St Georges Road
North Fitzroy Victoria 3068

Ph: (03) 9489 8099

Fax: (03) 9489 8044

Email: info@snaicc.org.au

Web: www.snaicc.org.au/conference

For Our Children, Community Voices: Sharing Knowledge and Practice Report of the 6th SNAICC National Conference is the report of the SNAICC National Conference held at the Perth Convention Centre, Perth, WA from 15 to 17 September 2015.

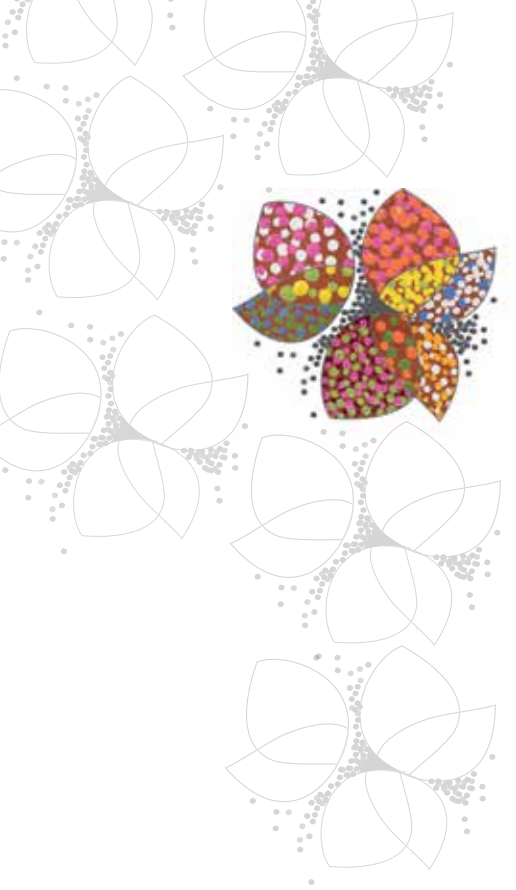
Graphic Design by Mazart Design Studio | www.mazartdesignstudio.com

© SNAICC November 2015

Copyright *For Our Children, Community Voices: Sharing Knowledge and Practice Report* of the 6th SNAICC National Conference including the photographs and artwork is held by SNAICC.

Recordings of plenary sessions from SNAICC 2015 National Conference are available at www.snaicc.org.au/conference



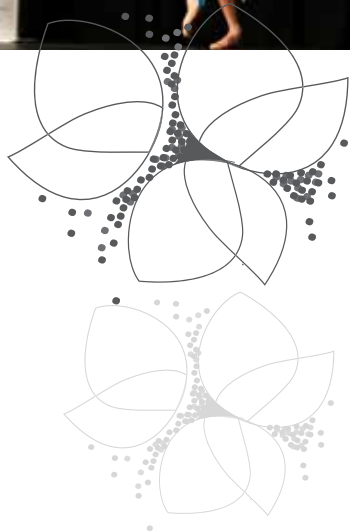


CONTENTS

About SNAICC.....	2
Thank you.....	3
Introduction	5
Our Achievements	7
Delegates Snapshot	10
Program	11
Communications and Promotion	14
What We Learnt.....	21
Session Descriptions	22



ABOUT SNAICC



The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) is the national non-government peak body in Australia representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

SNAICC was established in 1981 and has received Federal Government funding support since 1983.

SNAICC's role and activities are guided by four focus areas that underpin its 2011-16 strategic plan. SNAICC's activities include:

- writing policy and providing advice to governments on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
- participating on various committees, working groups and coalitions to advocate on behalf of our children and families and member organisations
- providing support for community-controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, including through developing and distributing resources and delivering training
- fostering partnerships and undertaking joint projects with other NGOs and government agencies, and
- organising major conferences and events, including the annual National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day.

SNAICC has a small team of staff based in Melbourne and is governed by a National Executive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives. The SNAICC National Executive is drawn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled children and family services across the nation, with representation from every state and territory.

SNAICC's full members are all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based agencies including: family support services, foster care agencies, Link-Up and family reunification services, family group homes, community groups and services for young people at risk, Aboriginal Child and Family Centres (ACFCs), Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services (MACS), crèches, long-day-care

services, pre-schools and early childhood education services.

SNAICC has an extensive network of members, across five levels of membership that informs our policy and research work and contributes to the development of SNAICC resources. SNAICC also has a subscriber base of around 4440 organisations and individuals with an interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children.

The SNAICC conference is convened to assist with the achievement of the SNAICC 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 services.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

SHARE AND CELEBRATE STORIES

To celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, strengths and successes in child and family services. To share our stories and ideas about what works and how we address our challenges.

INSPIRE ACTION

To inspire and enable leaders, services and others to act in a way that strengthens Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agency, self-determination, and connection to culture. To ensure the rights of our children and families are respected and fulfilled.

LISTEN, LEARN AND GROW

To listen, learn and grow our knowledge of Elders, families and communities, to strengthen our connection to culture. To inspire, foster and develop leadership and collective responses.

THANKYOU

SNAICC wishes to thank everyone that contributed to the success of the 6th SNAICC National Conference.

The organisation, planning and delivery of the SNAICC Conference requires the input and participation of a broad range of people to ensure a successful gathering is delivered. SNAICC would like to thank everyone that participated and contributed to the success of the 2015 SNAICC Conference in Perth and particularly acknowledge some of the contributors below.

Firstly, we would like to start by thanking the Conference Expert Advisory Group. The group comprises of a number of experts and leaders from around the country working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. The group participated in planning meetings and provided invaluable guidance and input on the conference program and cultural content.

Professor Kerry Arabeena Director, Onemda Vic Health Koori Unit, Victoria

Dot Bagshaw Director, Gurlongga Njininj Association Inc., Western Australia

Catherine Chamberlain Researcher, Onemda Vic Health Koori Unit, Victoria

Lisa Coulson Director, Tasmanian Aboriginal Child Care Association Invermay, Tasmania

Virginia Dingo Manager, Out-of-Home Care Program, Yorganop Association Incorporated Child and Family Services, Western Australia

Paul Gray Psychologist, NSW Department of Community Services, New South Wales

Lisa Hillan Programs Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation, ACT

Sue-Anne Hunter Therapeutic Practitioner, Aboriginal Children's Healing Team, VACCA, Victoria

Glenda Kickett Executive Manager, Centrecare Incorporated, Western Australia

Peter Nathan Program Manager, Oxfam Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Program, Victoria

Dawn Wallam CEO, Yorganop Association Incorporated Child and Family Services, Western Australia

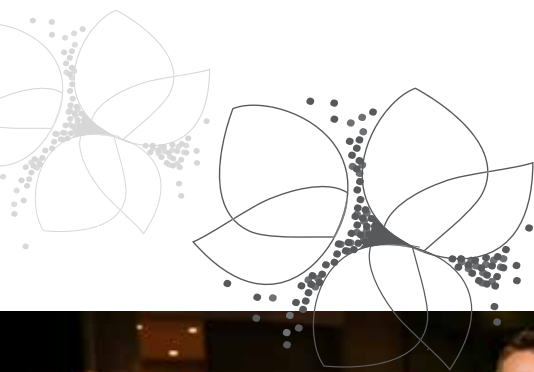
The conference could not have been a success without the hard work of the organising team, Poppy Bervanakis, SNAICC's Conference Coordinator, our Conference Secretariat EECW led by Lexie Duncan and her team and our Perth based Cultural Consultant, Della Rae Morrison. We also thank the team at the Perth Convention Centre for providing the support to ensure the conference ran smoothly and ensuring our large delegation was well catered for.

Thanks also to all the SNAICC staff and students for their role and participation in the conference. In particular the SNAICC management team for their input in the program and the SNAICC Communications team for their hard work in the lead up and during the conference. Thanks to the SNAICC Executive team for their participation and commitment during the conference.

Thank-you to the Elders and traditional owners for welcoming us onto their land and the Noongar communities of Perth for their support of the conference. In particular all the performers, groups and children that attended the conference to perform for our delegates, these performances were such a highlight of the day.

We also thank our sponsors and supporters who provided invaluable support to ensure we were able to deliver a successful event and convey our appreciation to the guests that attended to speak at our conference. To all who participated in facilitating sessions, workshops, gave presentations, showcased poster displays and shared your work and experiences with all of us – and all the exhibitors that participated in showcasing their services at the conference.

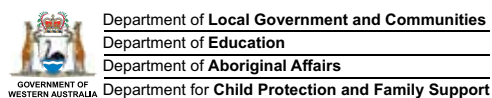
Most importantly, thank you to all our delegates that travelled to the conference – from all over the country – some from great distances from their homes and communities to share their great work with everyone. Without their participation the conference would not be as spirited and provide the unique knowledge and insights that ensured it was a great success.



We acknowledge with thanks our financial sponsors and supporters:

Government Supporters

This Project is Funded by the Australian Government in Partnership with:



Bronze Sponsors



Welcome Reception Sponsor



Media Partner



Other Supporters





INTRODUCTION

The 2015 SNAICC Conference was the first conference to be held at Perth's Convention Centre, located on the northern bank of the Swan River in the land of the traditional owners the Noongar people.

The conference attracted over 1000 participants from across the country and was our first biennial conference held from what was originally a triennial gathering. With over 930 delegates and 95 members from community attending to perform, there was representation from all states. A diverse number of organisations participated including around 45 per cent participation from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and participation from many not-for-profit, government organisations and agencies.

It was a great opportunity for the sector to convene and discuss, share and debate the issues on a national level. The location and venue provided the opportunity to deliver a program of up to ten concurrent sessions and four plenaries which allowed us to gather as a collective, but also to gather in smaller groups in more intimate setting to showcase and discuss the diversity of work being delivered across the sector.

The program focused primarily on addressing the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families. There was strong representation across a broad range of areas with particular focus on holistic and preventative approaches in out-of-home care, community engagement and collaboration, early childhood education and care services and culturally appropriate family support services. The keynote presenters and panelists provided compelling insights on an international and national level that inspired and challenged us to work together to ensure a greater future for our children.

There was a diverse program with over 70 sessions to participate in, including a range of panel sessions, yarning circles, workshops and presentations. Keynote speakers included renowned Canadian developmental psychologist Professor Michael Chandler, proud Banuba woman and Aboriginal leader from the Fitzroy Valley, June Oscar, and founder of Telethon Kids Institute Professor Fiona Stanley. Several Aboriginal leaders also shared their insights in the plenary panels including Mick Gooda, Professor Cindy Blackstock, Andrea Mason, Judge Matthew Myers, Adjunct Professor Muriel Bamblett and Antoinette Braybrook.

Over 250 presenters delivered presentations, workshops, panel sessions and yarning circles with many of these led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations. Presenters shared their stories, what is working and what is not, and celebrated the successes and strengths of their culture's distinct programs. Participation from mainstream and government organisations also provided strong insights on their work and how we can work together to address our challenges.

The gathering provided a powerful and inspiring learning experience for all attendees, which also included the opportunity to experience the rich culture of our Aboriginal communities in the west. Many of the communities not only shared their work, but over 90 performers participated in showcasing the enormous talent of the Noongar region. Each day at the opening of our plenaries delegates were entertained with traditional and contemporary



performances of song and dance in both English and the Noongar language. Richard Walley and the Middar Dance Group performed at the opening along with the Madjtil Moorna Choir and the Moombaki Ensemble. Indigo Ellis showcased her amazing young voice and the Beat Walkers who attended from the Swan Valley had all the audience cheering with their hip-hop moves. George Walley and Knotwork also impressed with their performance of traditional Aboriginal sounds infused with Celtic sounds.

We were very appreciative of the participation of the local communities as this always provides our conference with a local flavour. The conference social program included a Welcome Reception on the on Tuesday evening, which provided the opportunity for delegates to meet and network. They were welcomed by local Elder Barry McGuire and entertained by violinist Tori Oakley and Philip Walley-Stack with the Kwarbah Dance Group.

The conference closed with a Corroboree outside the convention centre's Summer Garden lawns. After the closing, delegates gathered together around the sand art designed by Nerolie Blurton specifically for the conference, to watch local groups perform in the Corroboree. Delegates

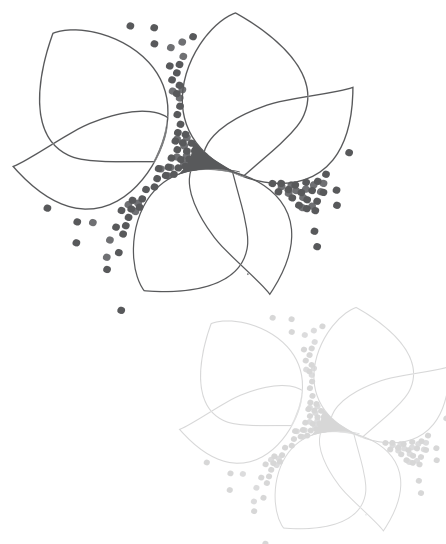
were invited to join in at the end of the event and it was a powerful and inspiring way to close the conference.

Following three days of sharing, learning and planning among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, leading industry experts, policy makers, researchers, government representatives, other non-government organisations, a final list of resolutions outlined in a communiqué agreed to provide better systems and opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. These resolutions urgently called:

- For a COAG target for early intervention investment to address the under representation of our children in the early childhood education and care system and their over representation in the child protection system.
- For all jurisdictions to establish independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mechanisms to monitor the exercise and enjoyment of our children's human rights, building on the example of the Victorian Aboriginal Children's Commissioner Andrew Jackomos.
- For the Australian Government to quarantine a proportion of the Child Care Assistance Package for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

- For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led research to expand the evidence base for supporting child wellbeing and cultural continuity.
- To commit to a national day of action in 2016 to raise awareness of child removals.
- To endorse SNAICC as the national voice for our children and families and call for the implementation of this communiqué to keep kids safe in culture.

This report aims to provide a summary of conference highlights, evaluation feedback from delegates and an outline of the overall program. As we move forward, we will continue to work towards achieving these resolutions before we gather again in 2017.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Evaluation feedback and data was collated and assessed from a range of sources including registration data, anecdotal feedback, participant comments, media coverage and the evaluation data compiled from the Evaluation Feedback Forms completed by 324 participants.

The feedback and information allows us to assess our conference objectives and provides us with constructive feedback for planning of our future conferences.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with the majority of delegates that attended finding the conference to be a rich and rewarding experience with the majority wanting to attend the SNAICC conference again. The areas of evaluation primarily focused on keynote speakers, concurrent sessions and overall program, cultural elements and the organisation of the event.

With the shift from a triennial to a biennial conference we were uncertain what the outcome of our attendances would be but still managed to attract strong overall attendances with 970 registrations to the Perth conference. The SNAICC National Conference continues to provide an important gathering for the sector, and it was evident that the conference continues to provide opportunities for workers, communities, academics, and government representatives to interact, share and discuss their stories in a collective setting.

Overall feedback was very favourable with almost 95 per cent of delegates finding that the conference met their expectations (up from 87 per cent at our last conference) and was what they hoped it would be. 90 per cent also hoped that they would be attending the next SNAICC Conference in 2017.

Outcomes

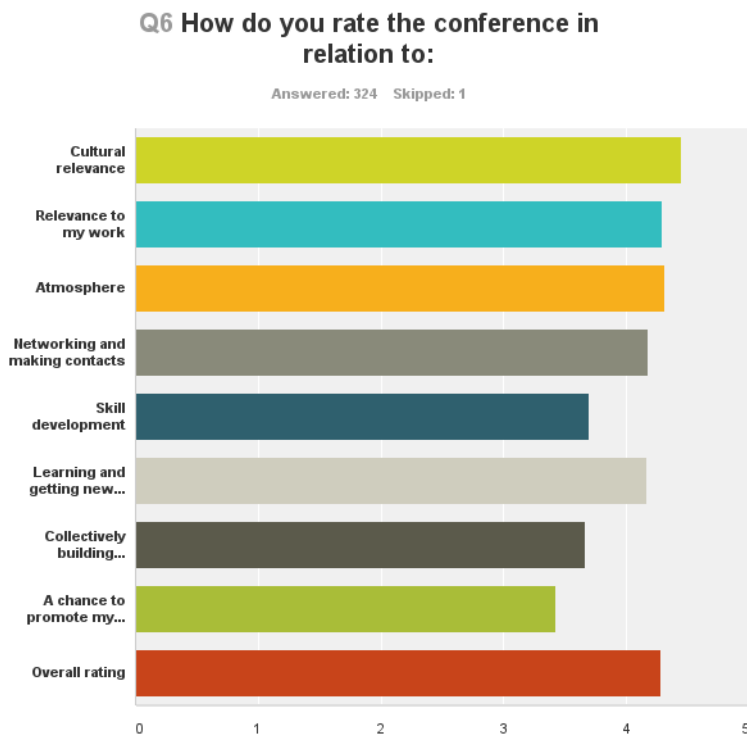
Presenters at the SNAICC Conference came from all corners of Australia and shared with delegates a wealth of knowledge from their diverse communities. Based on the overall feedback and data we can confidently conclude that we met our conference objectives. The conference continues to be a platform for the promotion and better understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and contributes to the importance of culturally strong services for children and families. It also allows the sector to come together as a collective to gain new knowledge and remain energised to take on the ongoing challenges their work presents.

The SNAICC Perth conference in numbers:

- 932** delegates in attendance
- 95** performers attended from community to perform at the conference
- 70** concurrent sessions
- 122** presentations
- 259** presenters
- 12** keynote speakers and panellists
- 182** abstract submissions
- 122** Aboriginal and Torres and Torres Strait Organisations represented at the SNAICC Conference



In the evaluation forms we asked people to rate various aspects of the conference in order to evaluate our conference objectives. These ratings have been outlined below along with some comments from our delegates.



Ratings and feedback show that delegates were very satisfied with the Perth conference and that the overall conference objectives were met. Overall satisfaction scored very high with an overall rating for of 4.2 out of 5, with 94% of delegates finding the conference was what they hoped for and 90% interested in attending the 2017 conference.

The overall conference program was rated 4.3 out of 5 with the majority of delegates very satisfied with the keynote speakers and panellists presenting.

Most found it to be a quality program with a good variety of concurrent sessions on offer.



Below are some of our delegate's comments relevant to the conference objectives.

Share and Celebrate Stories

- *It is great to hear the stories from Indigenous workers about their programs and to learn from them about what works*
- *I really enjoyed hearing from people who work in the Community from all over Australia and seeing more Indigenous role models out there that provide amazing services.*
- *I liked listening to grassroots workers.*
- *Very important and up-to-date topics that are affecting all Aboriginal communities urban, rural and remote.*
- *The topics were well-covered, some very emotional moments but uplifting; unity of purpose almost palpable great networking.*
- *First time attending, and I think it is great to know what everyone else in the country is doing.*
- *I liked hearing how others make a difference in the lives of Aboriginal children and families.*
- *The keynote speakers were excellent, the panels were well run, the Frasers Dinner was the best conference dinner I've ever attended - fantastic!*
- *It was great to meet so many new people and enjoyed the closing Corroboree in the Summer Garden, alongside sharing great ideas and working together to help all our children in care.*

Inspiring Action

- *I heard so many good news story's, I felt inspired.*
- *Great to hear so many great stories about what is happening - get the fire burning again.*
- *Overall the conference was FANTASTIC!!! There were a lot of passionate people and the energy level was above and beyond my expectation of what it would be.*
- *I thought this was a fantastic conference... so inspiring to work together to make a difference.*
- *I was inspired, confronted and challenged, I learnt a great deal.*
- *I was so inspired by the Family Matters plenary panel and the speakers. The message was there, loud & clear; the session was 'powerful' and 'meaningful'. What a morning, one word to describe this 'awesome'.*
- *Loved the Grandmothers (GMAR)! Their passion and their cause.*
- *It a good balance between academic approaches and on the ground, practical stuff. The sense of solidarity that was generated was fantastic.*
- *Fiona Arney and the Canadian woman were inspirational; Muriel Bamblett was fabulous and brave in what she said.*

Listen, Learn and Grow

- *A wealth of info for consideration for changes to the child protection systems across the states.*
- *Great collection of cultural depth, privileged to access the knowledge.*
- *I gained a deeper awareness of culture and loss of culture*
- *Lots of different views to consider – thought provoking–k I loved it. Learned so much about what I have to do to try and get our young people back into their community and family.*
- *I have been to a few different conferences over the years, but I found the SNAICC Conference to be of a high standard. Enjoyed the variety of workshops and just came away with knowledge, ideas and valuable contacts.*
- *The presentation from the FAST program was great, because it was from the heart; it was inspiring and accessible to participate in.*
- *My highlight was listening to people speak who are on the frontline of living and working in and fighting for Aboriginal communities, remote or otherwise.*
- *I hear so many stories and met so many Aboriginal people from all over the country; I especially enjoyed hearing from the grandmothers against removals from across the country! It increased my awareness of their issues.*

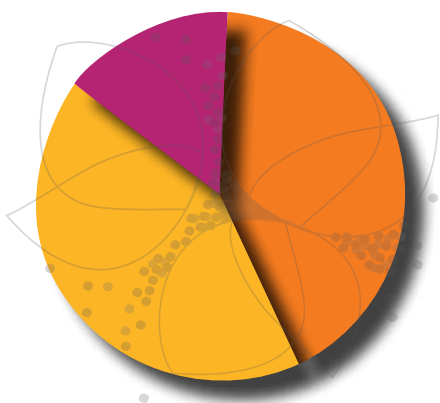


DELEGATES SNAPSHOT

Who attended the conference?

Over the last few conferences the SNAICC National Conference rose in attendances rapidly with numbers almost reaching full capacity to accommodate the concurrent session program. Due to this growth it was decided it was timely to look at shifting the conference form a triennial to a biennial event.

With this shift it was anticipated that there would be a drop in delegation numbers, but overall attendances were again very good with 932 registrations. We had a total of 385 delegates from 122 Aboriginal and Torres Strait organisations in attendance. There were 388 delegates from 134 mainstream and non-government organisations, 162 delegates from 50 government organisations.



41 per cent of delegates came from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

41.6 per cent came from mainstream non-government organisations

17.4 per cent came from government agencies

Below is a table that compares the participation of delegates over the last three SNAICC conferences.

- As expected attendances from the host state were much stronger than previously with attendances from Western Australia almost three times higher than the previous conference.
- The highest attendance from outside the host state continues to be the delegation from New South Wales with a slight increase of Victorian delegates.

State	2015 Attendances (Perth)		2013 Attendances (Cairns)		2010 Attendances (Alice Springs)	
ACT	27	2.9%	31	2.8%	20	2.1%
New South Wales	234	25%	340	30%	194	19.9%
Northern Territory	115	12.33%	145	13%	374	38.0%
Queensland	106	11.37%	309	27.5%	115	11.8%
South Australia	55	6%	64	6.4%	71	7.3%
Tasmania	2	0.2%	8	0.7%	7	0.7%
Victoria	150	16.09%	142	12.6%	139	14.2%
Western Australia	241	25.85%	84	7%	57	5.8%
Other – overseas, carers	2	0.2%	9	0.78%	n/a	n/a
Total	932	100%	1123	100%	977	100%

We again had a very good overall representation across most states and territories from most regional and remote communities from children's services and agencies.

In particular the host state of Western Australia had delegates attending from Perth and the surrounding regions of Mandurah, the Midlands, Swan Valley, Bunbury and Albany. A few delegates also made their way from Kalgoorlie and some from the remote communities of the Kimberley region (Kununurra, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Derby, Broome) and Pilbara region (Port Hedland and Karratha).

Many also made the journey across from the north to the west with representation from Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Mount Isa. Several delegates and presenters also travelled from the Cape York town of Weipa and the Torres Straits, Thursday Island.

We also had a good contingency from the Northern Territory with several delegates from the Central Desert region attending including Alice Springs and Willawra. Delegates also came from Jabiru situated in Kakadu, Wadeye (western edge of the Daly River) and East Arnhem Land's, Alyangula, located off the mainland on Groote Eylandt.

New South Wales delegates representing services and programs across a wide range of rural and regional areas were also in attendance from Albury, Ballina, Bourke, Batemans Bay, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Newcastle, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Lightning Ridge, Lismore, Mudgee, Nowra and Wollongong amongst others.

A good mix of government and services also attended from the ACT, including federal government department staff, researchers, academics and mainstream organisations. Only 2 representatives attended from Tasmania and Victoria continued to have very strong representation including from the rural regions of Bairnsdale, Echuca, Mildura, Shepparton, Swan Hill, Wodonga and Warrnambool. Several delegates attended from Adelaide and further regions of South Australia including Ceduna, Mt. Gambier and Port Lincoln.

PROGRAM

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander conference

The SNAICC National Conference aims to present a program that reflects strong participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and leaders. It also aimed to incorporate and showcase the rich culture of the Aboriginal communities of the west and over 90 performers from the local communities attended the SNAICC conference to perform.

As one of the largest gathering of this kind it is crucial that the conference aim to provide a culturally safe environment and a conference that is accessible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and communities. Delegates that were surveyed rated the conference 4.45 (out of 5) in terms of 'cultural relevance' and 4.3 (out of 5) for 'atmosphere'.

In a year that proved challenging for many services due to funding cuts, travel subsidies were crucial to supporting and providing participation from many services and remote communities. Grants from state governments and a grant from Lotterywest assisted us greatly in being able to distribute over 60 travel subsidies across the country. These were all distributed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and operated organisations that would otherwise not be able to send their workers to the conference due to limited funds.

Participation of mainstream organisations, services and government representatives provided an opportunity for us to gather collectively, and share a stronger understanding of how we can better work together with children and families within their communities.

PLENARY SESSIONS

The conference plenary program included 12 participants with diverse backgrounds and expertise that provided us with different perspectives on challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.



KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS were delivered by:

- Our international guest from Canada, Professor **Michael Chandler** from the University of British Columbia spoke of the role of culture in achieving positive outcomes in Indigenous communities with particular focus on youth suicide.
- **June Oscar** (AO), Chief Executive Officer of Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre in the Kimberley region of Fitzroy Crossing spoke of social justice and the importance of appropriate funding for children's services in children in her community and beyond.
- Professor **Fiona Stanley**, founding director of the Telethon Kids Institute and renowned for her work in maternal and child health, spoke on early childhood and overcoming intergenerational trauma.

Plenary panel sessions provided a dynamic format for leaders to come together and provide different perspectives on key issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and to reflect and discuss future strategies.

A dynamic plenary panel provided their perspectives on the **Family Matters** initiative – *Kids in Culture, Not in Care*. The panel session was hosted by Perth journalist and presenter Neralda Jacobs and focused on a discussion on the increasing numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care and strategies to reverse this trend.

Panellists participating included:

- Professor **Muriel Bamblett** (CEO of Victoria Aboriginal Child Care Agency)
- **Cindy Blackstock** (Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Society of Canada)
- Judge **Matthew Myers**, Australia's first and only Aboriginal Commonwealth judicial officer (Federal Court of Australia)
- **Kay Benham**, Acting Director General, WA Department for Child Protection and Family Support).

The conference closing plenary *The Decade Ahead: Learning from the Past to Create a New Future* provided the opportunity for leaders to reflect on the past decade and focus on the decade ahead. This session was facilitated by Professor Pat Dudgeon and included panellists:

- Professor **Muriel Bamblett** (CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency)
- **Antoinette Braybrook** (CEO, Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria)
- **Mick Gooda** (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner)
- **Andrea Mason** (Coordinator, NPY Women's Council, Alice Springs).

Delegate's comments:

- *Prof. Michael Chandler, Fiona Stanley and stories of success from remote communities, June Oscar were such a highlight.*
- *The plenary panel on Wednesday morning was a great discussion. Professor Fiona Stanley, amazing, June Oscar, amazing.*
- *The talk by Professor Chandler was a highlight, especially that way he delivered such complex thinking in a short session. Prof Stanley was excellent and to hear her support of Aboriginal issues...*

The keynote presenters and panellists were inspiring, challenging and generated some dynamic and thought provoking discussion. All plenary sessions were recorded and can be viewed at the SNAICC website at <http://www.snaicc.org.au/news-events/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=289>





CONCURRENT SESSIONS – Workshops, Displays and Exhibitions

There were a 70 concurrent sessions available for delegates to attend, which included presentations, workshops, panel sessions and Yarning Circles. There was a good representation from presenters across all states with particularly strong participation from Western Australian regions with Perth being the host state.

Sessions focused on the key themes of Out-of-Home Care, Community, Early Childhood and Family Support. Many representatives from services travelled to Perth to share with us their practices, programs, ideas and how these can benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Service providers and practitioners also ran many great workshops, with popular workshops focusing on healing and intergenerational trauma, family violence prevention, foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), community approaches and advocacy strategies. Grandmothers Against Removal (GMAR) also presented a workshop on their Ongoing struggles and how delegates could get involved.

Yarning Circles also proved very popular with sessions focussing on the voices of children in out-of-home care, early childhood groups sharing their stories, men's business and strategies in early years services.

Concurrent panels focused on discussion of government early childhood reforms, partnerships, preventative intensive family support services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in child protection systems.

Delegate's' comments:

- *The whole conference was mind blowing, absolutely fantastic and exceeded my expectations.*
- *Enjoyed hearing grass root stories about what works well with practical applications...*
- *Great opportunities to hear from Aboriginal Controlled Organisations and meeting their representatives.*
- *All workshops, presentations and panels I attended were very innovative and engaging.*

Displays & Exhibitors

As part of the conference program there were also 11 poster displays and 20 exhibitors sharing their programs, services, research, campaigns and resources. Some exhibitors offered free giveaways, resources and items available for sale. SNAICC staff also attended to the SNAICC booth to meet delegates, promote resources and services and provided a photo booth for delegates to have a bit of fun in session breaks and take a memento of the conference back with them.

POSTER DISPLAYS

1 Side by Side

Julie Christine & Alana Smith (Gumala Aboriginal Corporation, WA)

2 The Nyngan Parents as Teachers Group Work Program

Jodi Burnstein (Barnardos Australia, NSW) & Josie Turk (Barnardos Australia & Macquarie University, NSW)

3 Linking Together for Aboriginal Children

Teresa Butler-Bowdon (ARMSU Aboriginal Resource & Management Support Unit, SA) & Sharolyn Talbot (Network SA Resource, Advisory and Management Services Inc, SA)

4 Warburton Parent & Community Engagement (PaCE) Project

Rosalie Dwyer, Lynette Smith, Olive Lawson (Warburton PaCE Project)
Warburton Remote Aboriginal Community Members of the Mirliri Tjarra Kuurl Mirrka Palyalpayi Program

5 The Young Doctors Project

Sammi Fatnowna (The Malpa Project, NSW)

6 Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU) Alliance Providing Professional Development Support to Indigenous Budget Base Funded Services around Australia

Janise Fleming (Regional & Remote Aboriginal Children's Services Support Unit & Batchelor Institute, NT)

7 Navigating Roundabouts – A Visual Assessment and Planning Tool

Cate Ham & Dee Mantach (Wanslea Family Services Inc)

8 Caring for Kids – Tjitji Tjuta Atunymankupai

Mel Kean & Pauline Coombes (Department of Social Services, ACT)

9 Breaking the Cycle of Trauma. Koori Parenting: What Works for Us

Raelene Lesniowska & Joanne Dwyer (Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) Family Counselling Service (FCS), VIC)

10 Family Violence Prevention Community Created Media Campaign

Ada Peterson (Mallee District Aboriginal Services, VIC), Janine Wilson (State Government Victoria) & Trudi Rigby (Department of Justice, VIC)

11 Deadly Cards in Action – Intentional Yarns

Jan Ungerer & Rona Scherer (Health & Community Services Workforce Council, QLD)

EXHIBITORS

AIB Insurance Brokers

Awe and Wonder

Cape York/Gulf RAATSICC Advisory Association

Child Aware Conference 2014 / Families Australia

CREATE Foundation

Creative Native Aboriginal Art Gallery

Creche & Kindergarten Association

Education National

Educational Experience

Family & Relationship Services Australia (FRSA)

Global Kids Oz

HESTA

KU Children's Services

Langford Aboriginal Association Art Group

Life without Barriers

Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses To Child Sexual Abuse

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

WA Department of Local Government & Communities – Aboriginal Early Years

Yarn Strong Sista



COMMUNICATIONS & PROMOTION

The conference website www.snaicc.org.au/conference provided an easy and accessible menu to navigate through all conference information.



Along with the printed materials the conference website was the main source of promotion for the conference. All program information and updates were updated regularly and registration and accommodation booking facilities were set-up online in conjunction with our Conference Planners, EECW.

The SNAICC Conference attracted some very good overall coverage and a number of media agencies came on board to interview key speakers and cover some of the conference topics. Press releases were distributed across most media agencies in the lead-up and during the conference. Attracting mainstream media coverage for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs is still proving to be a challenging task but a number of media outlets did come on board including the conference media partner, Koori Mail, The Australian and NITV. There was also radio coverage from ABC Radio, Radio Goolarri, 98.9, Noongar Radio, National Indigenous

Radio Service (NIRS) and SBS Living Black Radio. A number of advertisements were also run in the Koori Mail, which assisted with our national reach in promoting the conference.

Communication was targeted primarily to the SNAICC E-Bulletin subscriber base of over 5800 subscribers and our conference subscription list of over 1000 subscribers. Regular updates were sent electronically via SNAICC's E-Bulletin and Mailchimp bulletins via EECW. Regular E-lets also went out during the abstracts submissions and registration periods.

Promotional and communication of the conference was also supported by free listings provided by many SNAICC member and partner organisations. Conference listings and promotions were included in newsletters and websites including internal government staff newsletters and community event listings.





MEDIA COVERAGE

OUTLET	TYPE	DATE	SNAICC SPOKESPERSON	
Koori Mail	Print	10/9/2015	N/A	Clipped
3CR	Radio	11/9/2015	Emma Sydenham	http://www.3cr.org.au/
The Sunday Times	Print	11/9/2015	June Oscar	Clipped
Radio Goolarri	Radio	14/9/2015	Cindy Blackstock	N/A
98.9	Radio	15/9/2015	June Oscar	http://www.989fm.com.au/podcasts/lets-talk/june-oscar/
ABC Radio National	Radio	15/9/2015	Michael Chandler	N/A
Noongar Radio	Radio	15/9/2015	Cindy Blackstock	N/A
98.9	Radio	16/9/2015	Michael Chandler	http://www.989fm.com.au/podcasts/lets-talk/professor-michael-chandler/
NITV	TV	16/9/2015	Mick Gooda, Sharron Williams, Antoinette Braybrook	http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/526351939875/NITV-News-Family-services-apprehensive-about-Turnbull-governmen
Noongar Radio	Radio	17/9/2015	June Oscar	N/A
The Australian	Print	17/9/2015	June Oscar, Geraldine Atkinson	http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/indigenous/indigenous-funding-model-disastrous-says-june-oscar/story-fn9hm1pm-1227532286184?sv=cac6dbc299b83a60de9e060f44f86db9
ABC Radio National	Radio	17/9/2015	Mick Gooda	http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2015/s4314638.htm
ABC Radio National	Radio	17/9/2015	Cindy Blackstock	N/A
Noongar Radio	Radio	19/9/2015	Michael Chandler	N/A
NIRS	Radio	21/9/2015	Sue-Anne Hunter	http://nirs.org.au/NEWS/SNAICC-conference-highlights-representation-between-childcare-and-protection-disparity
NIRS	Radio	24/9/2015	Muriel Bamblett	N/A
SBS Living Black	Radio	24/9/2015	Muriel Bamblett	N/A
SBS Living Black	Radio	24/9/2015	June Oscar	N/A
Koori Mail	Print	24/9/2015	N/A	N/A

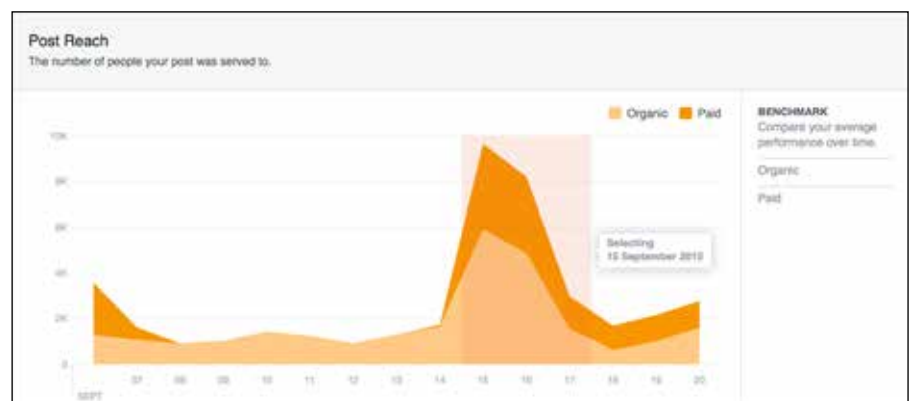


SOCIAL MEDIA

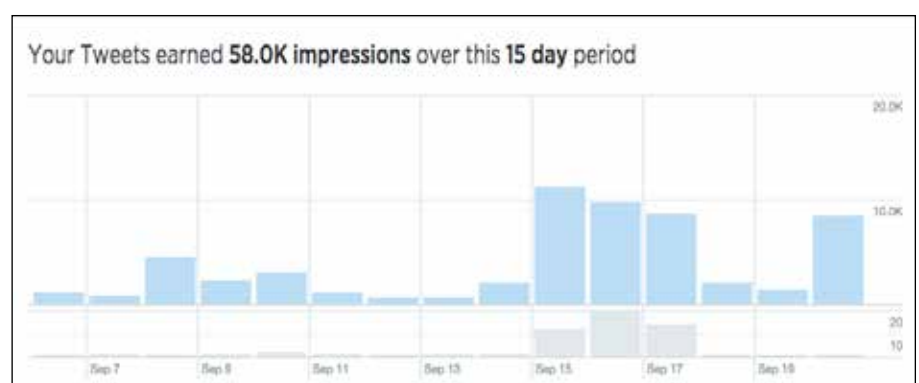
There was a greater focus on the use of social media at the 2015 SNAICC Conference to promote the conference and engage the audience. Facebook and Twitter were the main platforms we communicated with. A LinkedIn SNAICC page was also created just prior to the conference and delegates were also encouraged to join this during the conference. The Twitter #SNAICC 2015 was also promoted in the lead-up and during the conference. To encourage audience feedback and participation in live twitter feeds that were fed onto the plenary screen during these sessions.

Social Media Analysis

FACEBOOK (6-20 Sep)	FACEBOOK (15-17 Sep)
Likes: 177 (4.11% growth)	Likes: 98 (2.24% growth)
Post Reach: 40,667	Post Reach: 20,792
Organic: 25,834	Organic: 12,272
Paid: 14,833	Paid: 8,520
Engagement:	Engagement:
Post Likes: 1665	Post Likes: 882
Comments: 149	Comments: 82
Shares: 167	Shares: 84

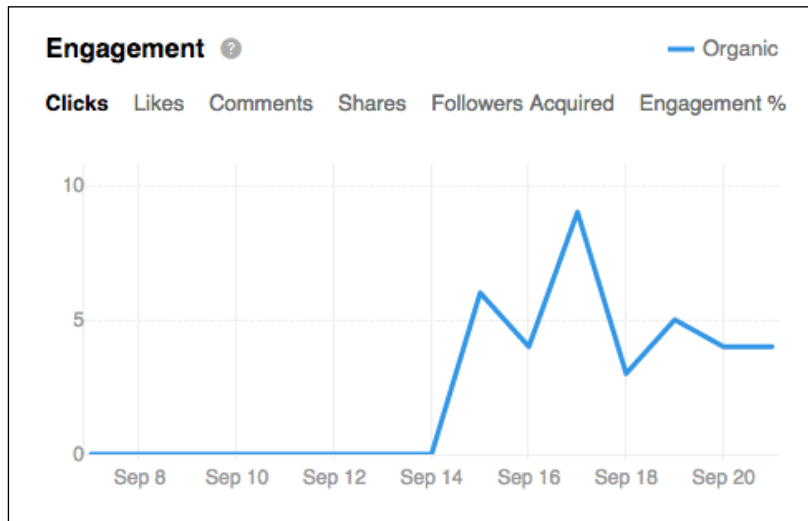
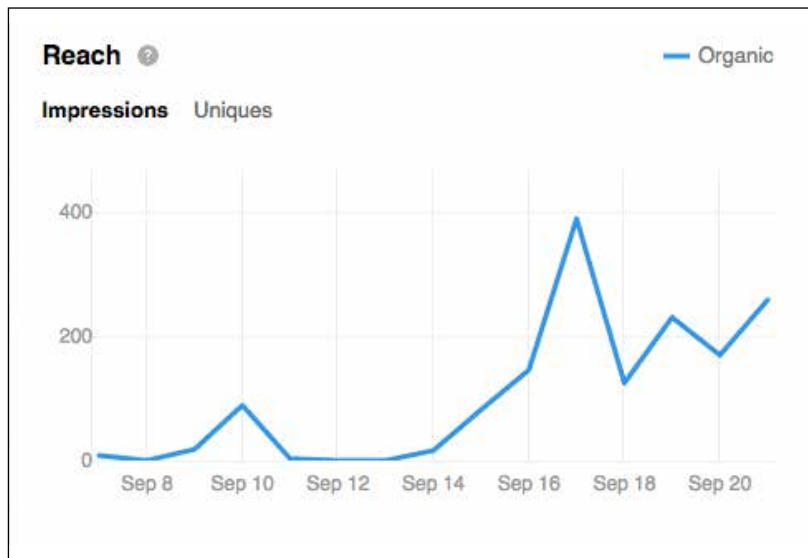
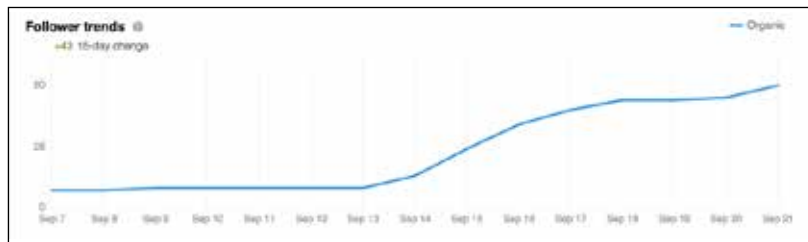


TWITTER (6-29 SEP)	TWITTER (15-17 SEP)
Impressions: 58,000	Impressions: 29,600
Engagements: 1.6%	Engagements: 3.4%
Link Clicks: 114	Link Clicks: 65
Retweets: 382	Retweets: 306
Favourites: 249	Favourites: 209
Replies: 17	Replies: 17
Followers: 114 (5.64% growth)	Followers: 76 (3.71% growth)



LinkedIn (6-20 Sep)

Followers: 43



Facebook Posts



SNAICC - Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
added 7 new photos.
Published by Danko V. Savage (T) · 15 September at 15:11 · v

The Opening Plenary was a fantastic way to kick off the 6th SNAICC National Conference.

It was amazing to have so many participants listening to the inspiring introductions from Sharron Williams, Mick Gooda, and Garry Matthews, and the breathtaking presentation from Professor Chandler on how cultural continuity reduces suicide youth risk in Indigenous communities.

Hearing plenty of great feedback already. There's so much to look forward to over the next few days.

Which session or speaker has been the most rewarding for you so far?



Organic

5,706 people reached

3,922


Paid

1,784

View Results

131 Likes · 9 Comments · 26 Shares


Like · Comment · Share



SNAICC - Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
Published by Danko V. Savage (T) · 15 September at 20:17 · v

Day 1 of the 6th SNAICC National Conference has finished, with some incredible feedback coming through already.

For a review of the day's key highlights, checkout the latest update on the SNAICC LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/.../secretariat-of-national-aborigin...>



Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

The 6th SNAICC National Conference is underway following an extraordinary Day 1, starting with a remarkable Opening Plenary and concluding...

LINKEDIN.COM

Organic

5,670

Paid

2,959

View Results

8,629 people reached

173 Likes · 8 Comments · 33 Shares

Like · Comment · Share



SNAICC - Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
Published by Jessica Jane Brennan (T) · 17 September at 20:08 · v

And it's a wrap! Thank you to all who attended our 6th National Conference in #Perth - an excellent 3 days of learning and sharing experiences. For a summary of today including our communique of actions check out our LinkedIn page: <http://www.linkedin.com/.../secretariat-of-national-aborigin...>



Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

SNAICC is the national non-government peak body in Australia representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Founded in...

LINKEDIN.COM

Organic

1,637

Paid

3,907

\$17.95 Left





5,544 people reached

230 Likes · 8 Comments · 13 Shares

Like · Comment · Share



Twitter Feeds

	SNAICC @SNAICC · Sep 14 What can we expect from this week's #SNAICC2015 Conference? Read up on the outlined focus points: ow.ly/Saulx View Tweet activity	2,786	68	2.4%
	SNAICC @SNAICC · Sep 15 .@TurnbullMalcolm @ScottMorrisonMP Invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids – safe in culture, not in care #SNAICC2015 View Tweet activity	2,072	75	3.6%
	SNAICC @SNAICC · Sep 16 "Their law changes, but our lore, our Aboriginal lore, that goes on and on" #SNAICC2015 View Tweet activity	626	42	6.7%
	SNAICC @SNAICC · Sep 17 "If this is not a stolen generation I don't know what is!" Professor Fiona Stanley, #SNAICC2015 pic.twitter.com/7zAe7OwlfZ View Tweet activity	1,550	51	3.3%





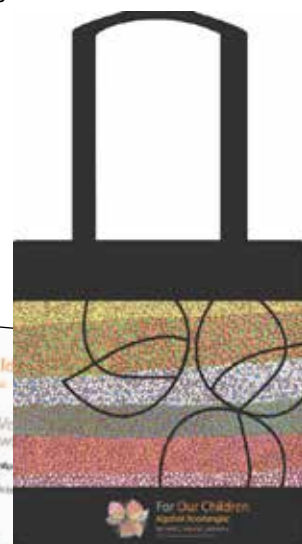
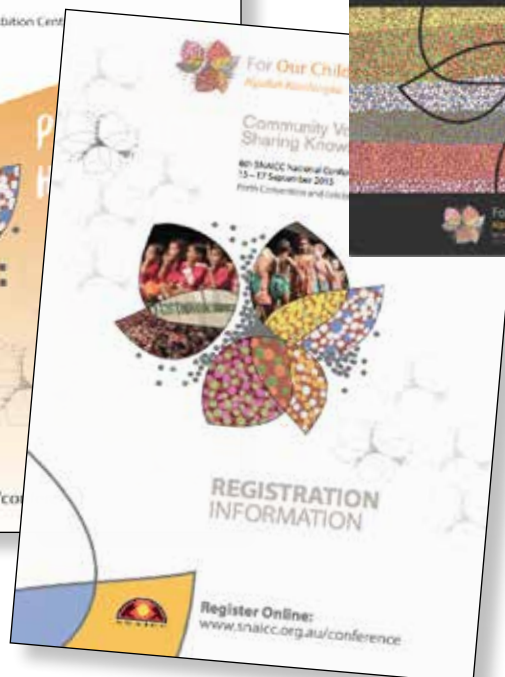
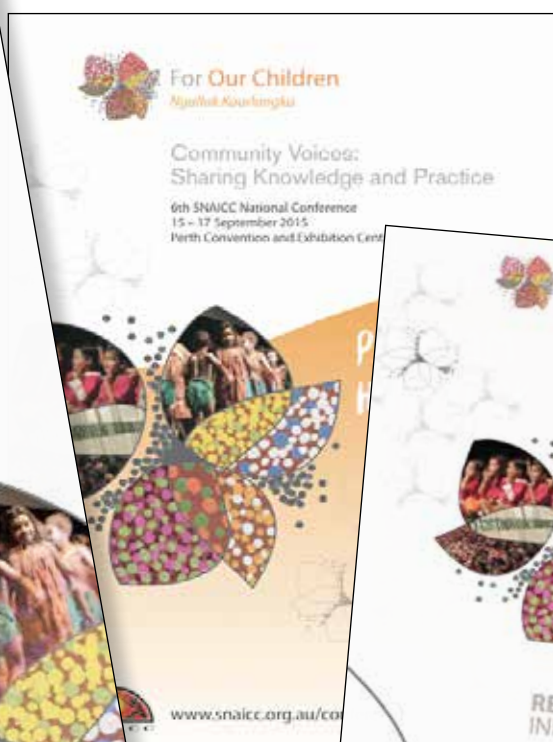
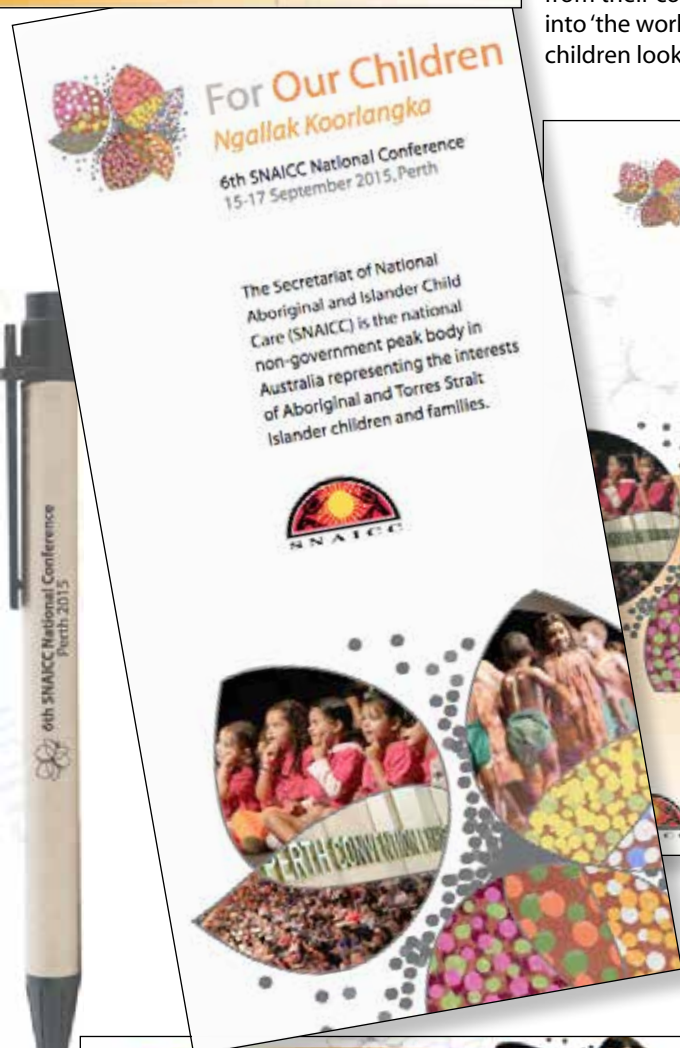
PROMOTION

The conference branding was based on elements from an artwork sourced from Bertha Kalion (WA) and the final design created by Mazart Design Studio. Elements from Bertha's 'Nuntalara' artwork were incorporated into the conference logo along with the conference title 'For Our Children' Ngallak Koorlangka, translated in the Noongar language (Perth). The design has an overall 'Australia wide' theme and the overall shape represents an abstract of Australia. This represents community involvement and participation in building a stronger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture nationwide. The dots represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children branching out from their communities and venturing into 'the world'. It also depicts our children looking into the future.

This logo design formed the basis of all conference branding across all conference materials, signage and other conference items that were produced.

Printed Materials

- 5000 DL flyers
- 500 Sponsorship & Exhibition Prospectus
- 2500 Registration Booklets, A4, 34 pages full colour
- 1100 Program Handbooks, A4, 48 pages, full colour
- 1200 Conference Satchels
- 1200 Lanyards
- 1200 Name Badges
- 1500 Pens
- 50 Staff T-Shirts





WHAT WE LEARNT

Overall evaluation feedback from the conference was overwhelmingly favourable with the majority of delegates very satisfied with the SNAICC Conference in Perth.

The shift from staging the conference every 2 years instead of every 3 years has allowed us to gather within a closer timeframe. This has allowed presenters to participate and share their work within a shorter period, and helped address previous feedback of allocating more time for presentations and discussion.

Although the majority of attendees were satisfied, there was a small portion that found the scale of the conference challenging. Over capacity in some sessions like yarning circles made sessions difficult to hear and participate in, a diverse program and high volume of concurrent sessions also made it frustrating for some delegates not able to attend all their sessions of interest. Providing spaces that everyone feels safe in and accommodating sessions for participants where English is not a first language are also areas we will continue to consider when planning future events.

In regards to the conference content a number of areas were highlighted throughout the conference that SNAICC will continue to address and drive change through, these include:

INVESTING IN THE EARLY YEARS:

Just 2.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids participate in Commonwealth early childhood education and care programs, while making up 5.5% of the population. Not enough is being done to help get these kids into early years programs despite evidence showing that these formative years of a child's life are a critical predictor of their successful transition to school, life-long education and employment outcomes.

CULTURAL CONNECTION PROMOTES SAFETY AND WELLBEING:

The strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in creating protective environments for children are evident and strongly recognised, but commonly undervalued in policy design and implementation.

PRIORITISING EARLY INTERVENTION:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are grossly over-represented in Australia's child protection systems. They are over 9 times more likely to be in out-of-home care than their non-Indigenous peers. Change will remain difficult until policy supporting prevention and early intervention is matched by expenditure. Holistic, community driven and owned services demonstrate significant potential to strengthen families and reduce child abuse and neglect in Australia.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTICIPATION IN CHILD PROTECTION DECISION-MAKING:


Reports and inquiries in Australia consistently confirm a lack of robust and meaningful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation as major contributors to past failures of government policy. This is nowhere more evident than in child protection. Strong strategies are required to build participation into legislation, policy and practice, and see support for community-controlled, Indigenous specific services, which enhance access, engagement and outcomes for families.

HEALING AND TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACHES: Research has highlighted that the trauma resulting from the inter-generational impacts of colonisation, disempowerment, child removal and entrenched disadvantage contributes significantly to risk factors for child abuse and neglect. Significant healing programs are unrolling across the country as are explorations of how healing informed approaches can be integrated into child and family support practice.

We will take on the feedback and resolutions from the Perth conference and look forward to gathering again in 2017 to collectively share our work and stories for a better future for our children

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Session Types

-  Workshop
-  Panel
-  Yarning Circle

The SNAICC Conference program has identified some sessions as 'Yarning Circles'.

How are we defining 'Yarning Circle'? A yarn up or yarning is an Aboriginal term meaning to converse or have a conversation. A non-Aboriginal equivalent would be a discussion circle. This is an informal way of learning, where a facilitator or discussion leader assists the communication flow so that discussion and information is shared and equally distributed around participants.

At the SNAICC Conference we want the Yarning Circle to be about open conversations, learning from others, whilst allowing equal participation in a safe space where every person in the circle can feel comfortable to share, feel supported and is respectful of each other's learning styles and wisdom.

All other sessions will include short presentations.

DAY 1: TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

Opening Plenary

9.00am - 10.30am

Keynote Address

Professor Michael Chandler

- > **Cultural Wounds Require Cultural Medicines: How Cultural Continuity Reduces Suicide Youth Risk in Indigenous Communities**

This presentation will summarise a quarter-century of research into the health and wellbeing of a subset of Canada's First Nations communities. Youth suicide is taken as a marker of community distress, and the ongoing program of research to be described aims to search out distinctive features of those communities that enjoy low or absent youth suicide rates. The broad conclusion to which these data point is that those groups that enjoy remarkably lower rates of suicide are different from their more distressed counterparts by having achieved substantial measures of community control over their own cultural identity. More particularly, those communities that have sustained meaningful connections to their cultural past (i.e. language preservation; the maintenance of cultural rituals and practices; and the development of facilities to support cultural maintenance), and that are otherwise engaged in related practices meant to guarantee jurisdiction over their own cultural future (e.g. control over health and social service delivery; education; and matters of social justice) are just those communities with lower burdens of ill health, including youth suicide. Special attention will be focused on how such cultural control factors impact ongoing negotiations with governments and health delivery systems.

Concurrent Sessions 1 - 10

11.00am - 12.30pm

1 Pathways to Safety

Pathways to Safety and Wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

This session explores priorities for action to implement Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led approaches to promoting the safety and wellbeing of children, with particular reference to implementation action for the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.

Sharron Williams (SNAICC, VIC)

Hearing their Voices: Self-Harm and Help-Seeking among Aboriginal Children and Young People

This presentation describes the finding from the National Children's Commissioner's 2014 examination into intentional self-harm among children and young people aged 0-17 years, as they relate to the particular issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Megan Mitchell (Australian Human Rights Commission, NSW)

2 Heal our Families, Heal our Children

An outline of how healing gatherings are assisting communities to come together and have the opportunity to discuss openly issues that are impacting their families and communities in negatives ways, creating pathways to restore harmony and balance to community life.

Steven Torres-Carne & Frank Cook (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation, ACT)

3 Management for Success: The Importance of Cultural Supervision

Management for success: the importance of Cultural Supervision, and a black and white approach in the decolonisation of the mind and the further development of Aboriginal organisations and services.

Fran Illingworth (Mara Mara Healing, VIC) & **Michael Moran** (Njerrnda Aboriginal Corporation, VIC)

4 The Voices of Aboriginal Kids in Care

A space to focus on the voices of kids and their experiences in OOHC.

Michael Higgins, Jessie Longbottom & Julie Welsh (AbSec, NSW)

5 Community Connection and Building Techniques Improving Early Years Outcomes

Making a Difference – Lulla's Children and Family Centre

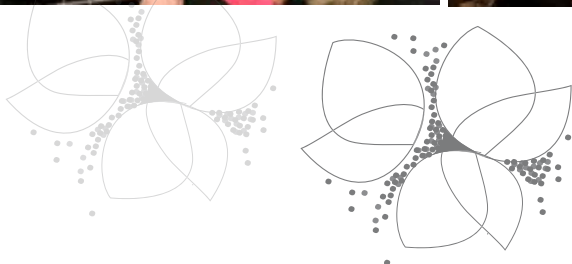
Lulla's, in partnership with Shepparton Communities for Children, uses community building and sustaining techniques, lateral approaches to problem-solving, to deal with issues now for those children who need it most. Hopefully participants will take away a sense of optimism that much can be achieved against the odds and that with a strong community a bright future is possible for children whose start in life has been far from ideal.

Miranda Borlini (Lulla's Children and Family Centre, VIC)

Leading a Sense of Independence, Belonging and Empowerment in Young Children through Open-Ended Questioning

Through an interview and recount of real life experiences of working with young children, we will learn how open questioning and providing greater connection to family and community develops success and promotes better outcomes for young children.

Tanya Robinson, Kirsten Holland & Jacqueline Toby (Creche & Kindergarten Association, QLD)



Working Together in a Remote Town to Provide a Strong Voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

The School Partnership Journey with early years and health services to support a community driven strategic plan. This session focuses on a process to develop and apply user-friendly tools to assist the community to understand and apply wellbeing data to support health outcomes.

Dallas Harris (Nganggawail Aboriginal Health Service, WA)

6 Community Healing Groups

Tiwi Islands - An Example of Working Collaboratively towards Creating a Resilient Community

We will look at the women's and men's groups that are held on a weekly basis in Wurrumiyanga, Tiwi Islands, as an example of building community resilience.

Marisa Taylor, Henrietta Hunter & Richard Tungatulum (CatholicCare, NT) & **Peter Ulbrick** (CatholicCare, Voyager Hypnotherapy & The Healing Foundation, NT)

Little Black Duck Spreads its Wings

Following on from SNAICC 2013, Little Black Duck programme responds to Community need and now includes couples and family counselling with an emphasis on healing grief and loss in Community.

Nerida Oberg & Louise Crawford (Anglicare – Shoalhaven, NSW) & **Darryll Farrell** (Anglicare - Shoalhaven & Jerrinja Aboriginal Community, NSW)

7 Driving Change in the Justice System

They're Just Kids – Amnesty International's Campaign for Indigenous Youth Justice

An overview of Amnesty International's national research and campaign to reduce the representation of Indigenous youth in the justice system within a generation.

Tammy Solonec (Amnesty International, WA)

Building Communities not Prisons: 'Justice Reinvestment' Opportunities for Community Driven Change

This session will draw on Australian and international examples of 'justice reinvestment' initiatives and explore what opportunities they present for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop holistic place-based, community-driven solutions aimed at creating long-term, sustainable social and economic change.

Ben Schokman (Human Rights Law Centre, VIC)

8 Transforming Carer Assessment Practice: Introducing Winangay Resources across Australia

Participants in this interactive workshop will be able to see the use of the Winangay carer assessment tools in practice, and talk with the Winangay and Australian Centre for Child Protection researchers about their successes and challenges in achieving the "seismic shifts" required in policy and practice for Stronger Ways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

Sue Blacklock (Winangay Resources Inc, NSW & Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia), **Fiona Arney & Jenna Meiksan** (Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia), **Paula Hayden, Gillian Bonser & Karen Menzies** (Winangay Resources Inc, NSW)

9 Education and Empowering Youth

Making Tracks to Tertiary Education: In Pursuit of Better Learning Outcomes for Indigenous Care Leavers

This presentation focuses on the tertiary educational experience of Western Australian Indigenous young people in out-of-home care, drawing on a recently completed national report on higher education outcomes of Australian care leavers.

Charmaine Walley (Salvation Army, VIC) & **Andrew Harvey** (College of Science, Health and Engineering, La Trobe University, VIC)

Indigenous Excellence and Cultivating a Generation of Positive Change Makers

This presentation will explore the impact of a positive discourse on a generation of young Indigenous people in Redfern/Waterloo who are engaged in NCIE programs that celebrate culture and the positive impact of young people in the community.

April Long (National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, NSW)

10 Cultural Competency Models

Creating Cultural Safety: A Model of Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients and their Families in a Tertiary Paediatric Hospital

Providing culturally sensitive and responsive services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and their families in a tertiary paediatric hospital.

Sharon Mongta, Selena White & Margaret Rowell (The Royal Children's Hospital, VIC)

Development of Culturally Informed Addendum to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services Standards Evidence Guide

This presentation will discuss the 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 and relationships between Aboriginal and non Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations.

Eveanne Liddle (VACCA)

Concurrent Sessions 11 - 20

1.30pm – 3.00pm

11 Community Driven Initiatives Empowering Change

Stronger Communities for Children: Giving kids the best start to life in remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory

In 2013, the Australian Government committed to the Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) program in 10 sites. The program aims to empower communities to lead sustainable local solutions for children and families to thrive. SCfC Boards are responsible for deciding on local priorities, and informing new initiatives and service delivery decisions based on these. These Boards also advocate for changes in service arrangements to better meet the needs of children in their communities.

In this presentation, SCfC Board Members from three different sites will present on 'what's worked' with SCfC in the early years, emerging evidence and the challenges faced along the journey.

Taren Williams (Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre, Ntaria), **Bernadine Kungul** (Kardu Lurruth Ngala Purrrungime Committee, Wadeye), **Marie Tirak** (Kardu Lurruth Ngala Purrrungime Committee, Wadeye), **Gaylene Gurruwiwi** (Yolngu Wanganhamirr Mitj, Galiwin'ku), **Helen Gupul** (Yolngu Wanganhamirr Mitj, Galiwin'ku), **Ingrid Johanson** (Ninti One, Alice Springs, NT)

To Achieve Change, First Change the System

The evidence is in. Three decades of effort, involving considerable funds and high aspirations, have failed to achieve change in First Nation communities. This presentation will argue that this represents a failure of the system, rather than organisations or, as is so often assumed, the communities themselves. Five systemic reforms which challenge the status quo, and which are being applied by Children's Ground in partnership with the Mirarr people in Kakadu West Arnhem, will be presented for reflection and discussion.

Jane Vadeloo (Founding CEO, Children's Ground, NT)

12 No More Violence: Exploring Whole of Family and Community Approaches to Preventing and Responding to Family Violence

This workshop will incorporate a focus on agreed "Good Practice Principles" developed through the SNAICC Safe For Our Kids research and in consultation with the sector, which identifies key values, approaches and strategies when working with family violence issues.

David Ellis, Eveanne Liddle & Lorena Thompson (SNAICC, VIC)

13 Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in Nyoongar Country



This workshop will provide a brief overview of FASD and some of its impact on children with FASD; and families.

Robyn Williams (Curtin University, WA)

14 'Pirrjirdi Warlpiri Wangkanjaku Manu Pirrjirdi Warlpiri Kurdu-Kurdu Wita-Wita-Ku' (Strong Warlpiri Voices, Strong Warlpiri Children) Stories of Warlpiri Early Childhood Governance



An interactive session with representatives from Warlpiri Early Childhood Reference Groups sharing their stories of: Pirrjirdi wangkanjaku (strong voices); Pirrjirdi nguru (strong communities); Pirrjirdi walarlja (strong families); for strong children.

Warlpiri Early Childhood Care and Development Project Representatives

15 Early Childhood Journeys

"Beyond Education" in the Early Years Education Environment

A partnership approach to supporting Aboriginal children, families, communities and educators to provide a holistic early years' service.

Lisa Rananah (Australian Childhood Foundation, VIC), **Alyson Ferguson** & **Josh Kenny** (Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative)

Kindy is Deadly! – Our C&K 'Soft Entry Approach' to Increasing Access and Participation to Kindy in an Urban and Regional Location in Queensland

The presentation will showcase effective community collaboration and proven techniques to assist children to attend an approved kindergarten program.

Sandi Lascelles (C&K – Central, QLD), **Jackie Bennett** & **Dorothy Brown** (C&K – Pre Kindergarten Diversity Program, QLD)

16 Out-of-Home Care and Kinship Care

Carer Yarning Circle Cultural Training Package

The Carer Yarning Circle is designed to add value to the direct care work carried out by carers and support workers within the Out-of-Home Care Program Primary Care Team – General and Tier 1 Placements, in order to provide culturally sensitive, safe and responsive support to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and non-Indigenous children placed within the protective care environment.

Helen Humes (Centrecare, Djooraminda, WA)

Finding Families for Aboriginal Children in Care: Kinship Connections WA

The presentation will outline a new model of finding family members of Aboriginal children in care and will report on the recent pilot project funded by the Department of Child protection and family Support in 3 District Offices in Perth, WA.

Mike Clare (Clare Consultancy, Kinship Connections, WA & The University of Western Australia) & **Ann Oakley** (Kinship Connections, WA)

Creating a Partnership to Care for Aboriginal Children and Young People: MacKillop Family Services and Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation Working Together to Empower Community to Provide Culturally Connected Kinship Care and Foster Care

This presentation will explore, reflect on and detail learnings from partnership between MacKillop and WMHSAC that aims to deliver the best possible care to Aboriginal children and young people, through supporting kinship care and foster care that is culturally aware. It also discusses recruiting and retaining Aboriginal staff in order to empower the community to care for their children within the community, and staying connected to community and culture.

David Fox & **Ross Councillor** (MacKillop Family Services, VIC) & **Sophia Davis** (Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation - WMHSAC)

17 First Peoples Disability Network



'Living My Way' – The Untold Story of Disability in Childhood Development

This is a workshop to capture narrative from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with lived experience of disability, and present how these narratives can be used to influence policy and practice.

Scott Avery, **Damian Griffis** & **June Riemer** (First Peoples Disability Network (Australia), NSW)

18 Holistic Supports Starting Early

Bumps to Babes and Beyond – Supporting Aboriginal Mothers in the Journey to Parenthood

Sharing the practice wisdom and key learnings from the Bumps to Babes and Beyond project, which supported Aboriginal women who were vulnerable from the ante-natal period until their child was 18 months old.

Beverley Allen (QEC Early Parenting Centre, VIC), **Danielle Dougherty** & **Ada Petersen** (Mallee District Aboriginal Services, VIC)

Cradle to Kinder – Working in Partnership with Aboriginal Families

Supporting Aboriginal mothers to connect to their infant, health promotion, safety and wellbeing of children and assisting the parents to make positive changes in their lives.

Sarah Bailey (QEC Early Parenting Centre, VIC), **Djimp Hood** and **Myra Pinney** (Northern VACCA)

Improving Service Coordination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families through Pregnancy, Birthing and the Early Years

We will outline the key priority issues related to service fragmentation in South East Melbourne, identified through consultations, service mapping and qualitative research. In addition to this, we will present a case study illustrating these factors and propose key questions for a comprehensive systematic review of strategies, to improve service coordination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Catherine Chamberlain (The University of Melbourne)

19 Child Protection Policy and Practice

Insights on Progressing Indigenous Child Wellbeing in Neo-Liberal Political Climates

This session shares insights from a recent academic roundtable, led by Aboriginal leaders, which reflected on our current approaches and explored new or expanded frameworks to progress Indigenous children's wellbeing in the current political context.

Muriel Bamblett (VACCA) & **Emma Sydenham** (SNAICC)

20 A Community of Practice Approach in the Torres Strait Islands



Meke Yumpla Pikinini Safe (Make our Children Safe)

In 2011 a critical practice issue led to a training partnership in the Torres Strait Islands. An outcome of the training initiative was the development of an ongoing Community of Practice in the Torres Strait Islands. Through this workshop we will explore:

- The process used to develop the Community of Practice in the Torres Strait Islands including the opportunities and challenges presented by the process;
- The factors identified as critical in effective partnership and cultural responsiveness;
- The indicators that the Community of Practice is achieving positive outcomes in the Torres Strait Islands
- The next steps in the process ... where to from here?

Toni Cash & **Deb Hall** (Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, QLD), **Gabriel Bani** (Port Kennedy Association, Torres Strait Islands, QLD) & **Wayne Laza** (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islands Domestic & Family Violence Service, Mura Kosker Sorority, Torres Strait Islands, QLD)

21 Government Tools and Innovations to Support Child Safety and Wellbeing

Building Safety Together

This presentation will focus on how a child protection worker put the voice of an unborn child in the centre of joint safety planning to successfully engage both of the baby's parents, their family, the Department and the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service.

Kim Reader (Department for Child Protection and Family Support and the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service, WA)

Getting Back to the Kurturtu (Heart) of Good Practice

This presentation highlights the complexities and rewards encountered when implementing the Signs of Safety framework (SofS) in a regional and remote setting. When we get back to the Kurturtu (heart) of good practice, and work with the family and community of Aboriginal children, it ensures the delivery of good cultural outcomes.

Russell Gregory (Department for Child Protection and Family Support, WA)

22 From Punishment to Prevention: Broadening our Advocacy Strategies to Achieve Systemic Change

This interactive workshop will explore how we can broaden our advocacy strategies to convince governments to shift their focus from punishment to prevention, and more effectively support the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Ben Schokman (Human Rights Law Centre, VIC)

23 Healing – 'Indigenuity', Listening is a Gift

Throughout this experiential workshop, participants will explore the healing process inherent in and integral to, the gift of listening.

Alison Elliott & Robyne Latham (The Bouverie Centre, La Trobe University, VIC)

24 Early Learning Strategies

School Readiness Initiative – Little J and Big Cuz

Developing resources and a television production acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pedagogies and working from the strengths of culture within the early years of learning.

Lisa Norris & Priscilla Reid-Loynes (Australian Council for Educational Research, VIC)

Playing it Smart at Playgroup: Best Early Games for Guaranteed Success at School

This presentation will provide an overview of strategies and games used in Playgroup WA's Indigenous playgroup programs to support improved literacy outcomes for Indigenous children and families through the development of phonological awareness skills.

Christine Hawkes & Kate Stack (Playgroup WA), **Ann Jacobs** (Ann Jacobs Speech Pathologist, WA)

25 Driving Change in Early Childhood

The Northern Territory BBF Quality Improvement Workshop Series 2015-2016

The Quality Improvement journey of BBF services across the Northern Territory.

Jan Fleming (RRACSSU NT IPSU)

Innovative Delivery 'Promising Results'

This presentation will expose you to the journey of the collaboration and the learning experience of an Anangu Education Worker in Certificate 3 in Children's Services.

Sue Wilson (TAFESA) & **Ann Marquard** (Anangu Schools, SA)

Building Community through Playgroup

We aim to share the story of our playgroup by explaining the research project we are conducting with the Early Child Reference Group, BIITE, WVA and Charles Darwin University, in relation to Wirliyajarrayi Kurdu-Kurdu-Wita Wita Kurlangu playgroup.

Connie Borg (Warlpiri Education and Training Trust, NT), **Jasmine Spencer** (Charles Darwin University, NT) & **Melinda Noe** (World Vision Australia, NT)

26 Intergenerational Trauma and Community Safety

Victor's Story

The story of one Aboriginal family's journey over six generations, naming and healing from inter-generational trauma.

Jackie Stewart & Melissa Stubbings (Family Worker Training + Development Programme Inc, NSW)

Community Safety Research Project through Maari Ma Health

Community Safety Research Project – a joint partnership between Maari Ma Health and the University of NSW.

Marsha Files (Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation, NSW)

27 Cultural Support Planning for Kids in Care

Cultural Support Planning for our Kids in Care (NSW)

The important process of developing and implementing cultural support plans for Aboriginal children and young people in care must be respected and acknowledged as significant and meaningful work that will keep our kids strong in culture and connected to family, community and country.

Michelle Lester (AbSec, NSW)

All Children have the Right to know who they are and where they come from

Keeping a child's life story is critical to the child/young person's sense of identity and long-term wellbeing.

Raylene Popovich (Barnardos Australia, NSW)

28 Coordinated Approaches for Better Outcomes

Engaging Community Sector Agencies to Build and Embed Cultural Competency to Provide Better Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their Families in Canberra

This session will discuss an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led sector development program which aims to increase the accessibility and effectiveness of service responses to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities living in Canberra.

Julie Butler & Kim Peters (ACT Council of Social Service)

We're not Ticking Boxes Anymore

A presentation about a new, coordinated way of working for government agencies with very disadvantaged young Aboriginal people and their families – showing some surprising results.

Joanne Willox (Department for Child Protection and Family Support, WA) & **John Foster** (Western Australia Police)

29 Supporting Children with Special Needs

Supporting our Children with Disabilities: Yawarra Community & Child Care Centre & the STaR Childcare Support Program in Western Sydney

This presentation shares successful support methods for children with Disabilities by Yawarra Community & Child Care Centre within the STaR Childcare Support Program in Western Sydney.

Karen Minter (Ngallu Wal Aboriginal Child & Family Centre and Yawarra Community & Child Care Centre, NSW)

Autism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

Discussing ASD in Aboriginal children and communities, and highlighting support pathways.

Florence Williams & Kris Jennings (Early Days, QLD)



Empowering Whole School Communities to Support Aboriginal Children with Autism or Diverse Learning Needs: Inclusive Practices through Our Six Step Model

This presentation will outline the six step model we use to create significant change within Aboriginal communities to improve the educational outcomes for children with autism, and other diverse learners.

Suzanne Donnelly & Lee Casuscelli (Positive Partnerships, NSW)

30 Collaborating to Create Deadly Resources and Storytelling

Story Telling can Make a Change: A Participatory Action Research Model of Engaging Aboriginal Leaders in the Development of Social and Emotional Wellbeing Resources

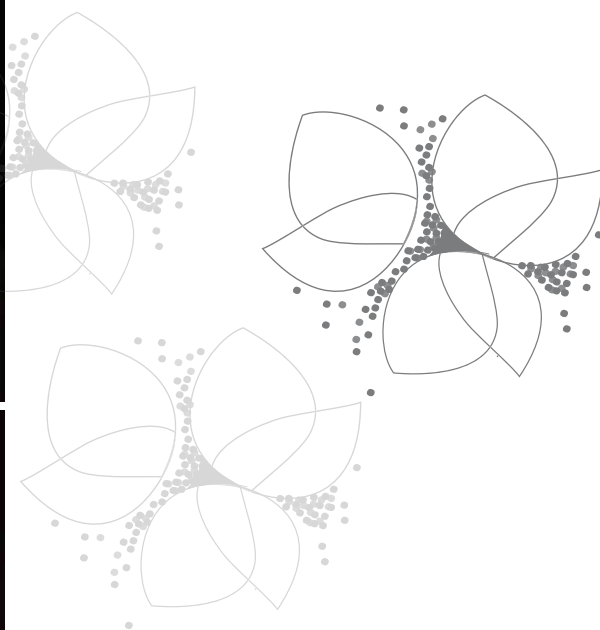
The Australian Psychological Society created 12 animations that communicate key messages and deeper meanings about the importance of connecting to culture, drawn from the life events and the stories shared by Indigenous storytellers in a participatory framework to grow knowledge and inspire leadership on social and emotional wellbeing.

Lisa Watts (Charles Darwin University, NT), **Dianne Kerr** (Wurundjeri Elder), **Alf Bamblett** (KidsMatter - Australian Psychological Society) & **Ronald Briggs**

1000 Deadly Kids, 1000 Deadly Books

Challenges and rewards of a large-scale book-making event for National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. (NATSICD 2015). How we set about the creation of 1000 books by 1000 children utilising the wePublish App.

Myles Russell-Cook (Kids' Own Publishing, VIC)





DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Plenary Panel Discussion

9.00am - 10.30am

> Family Matters – Kids Safe in Culture, Not in Care

An update on the Family Matters initiative, followed by a dynamic and frank Q&A style discussion with community, national and international leaders on reversing the tide of child removals.

With more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care every year, an increase in punitive approaches across jurisdictions, and child protection systems across the country appearing more and more broken, it is time to debate strategies to reverse this trend in the current political and social climate.

Facilitator: Narelda Jacobs

PANELISTS:

Muriel Bamblett, VACCA

Dr Cindy Blackstock, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Judge Matthew Myers, Federal Circuit Court of Australia

Andrew Jackomos, Victorian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

Emma White, Director General, WA Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Concurrent Sessions 31 - 40

11.00am - 12.30pm

31 The Australian Government Early Childhood Sector Reform – How will Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children Fare?

A panel and discussion on structural changes underway in the sector and how they will impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

PARTICIPANTS:

Geraldine Atkinson (SNAICC, VIC)

Christine Foreshe (Yenu Allowah Aboriginal Child and Family Centre)

Professor Fiona Stanley (Telethon Kids Institute, WA)

Jackie Wilson (Deputy Secretary, Department of Social Services)

32 Transition to School

PARTICIPANTS:

'Getting Ready': A Collaborative Transition to School Program for Aboriginal Families

This presentation will describe the planning, implementation and evaluation of a transition to school program piloted in Southern Eastern Sydney involving children's group sessions and a concurrent parent information and support program.

Danielle Chytra, Bianca Warner, Laura Hagan & Frances Dobson (South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, NSW Department of Health)

The Journey to Big School: Improving Educational Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

Working in partnership with communities to develop culturally appropriate and holistic transition to school programs that lay a strong foundation for life long educational success.

Lisa Coulson (SNAICC, VIC)

Lift off to Learn – Early Intervention for Pre-School Aged Aboriginal Children in Regional WA

'Lift Off to Learn' is a program starting children's learning journey from birth: structure, principles and outcomes.

Cate Ham, Amanda Baxter & Rheanna McCleary (Wanslea Family Services Inc., WA)

33 Strong Women's Voices = Strong Communities Program. Family Worker Training for Aboriginal Women in the Sector

The Western Sydney Cultural Support Program offers Aboriginal women working in the community sector a year-long program to build cultural connections and strong voices.

Jackie Stewart & Melissa Stubbings (Family Worker Training + Development Programme Inc, NSW)

34 Healing Approaches and Trauma Informed Practice when Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People



The workshop will discuss the challenges and possibilities when working closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities affected by trauma.

Nick Joseph (SNAICC, VIC) & **Sue-Anne Hunter** (VACCA)

35 What is the Family Matters Strategy and how can you Participate?



Family Matters: Kids Safe in Culture not in Care is a national initiative to stop child removal, ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are safe and cared for within family and culture. This session is a workshop to input on the draft Family Matters objectives and strategic priorities. It will also allow state/territory discussions on strengthening state based strategies for change.

Sharron Williams, Frank Hytten (SNAICC), **Natalie Lewis** (QATSICPP), **Tim Ireland** (AbSEC), **Richard Weston** (The Healing Foundation) & **Brian Babington** (Families Australia)

36 Child and Family Centres and their Deadly Stories

Bubup Wilam for Early Learning Aboriginal Child and Family Centre – Belonging, Being and Becoming – Where are we now?

Strong and deadly children at Bubup Wilam through self-determination and community control.

Lisa Thorpe (Bubup Wilam Early Learning Aboriginal Child and Family Centre, VIC)

South Australian Children and Family Centres – Establishing and Growing Services for Aboriginal Children and Families in their Local Community

Staff from SA Children and Family Centres share stories of their journey in establishing centres that reflect a philosophy of acknowledgement, engagement and inclusion of Aboriginal families and children.

Heather Ward, Catherine Cavouras & Kellie Bails (Department for Education and Child Development, SA)

Walking Alongside Families with Young Children – Children and Family Centres in Western Australia

Exploring the challenges, opportunities and achievements of the five Children and Family Centres located in Western Australia, highlighting the Ningkuwum-Ngamayuwu Halls Creek Children and Family Centre.

Sandy Freimond (Department of Education Western Australia) & **Maria Lovison** (Wunan, WA)

37 Out-of-Home Care and Connection to Culture

Factors Influencing Connection to Culture by Indigenous Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care in Australia

Cultural connection is vital for Indigenous children and young people, and an understanding of its importance is essential for those caring for them.

Joseph McDowall (CREATE Foundation, QLD)

Connecting Kids to Family and Culture

How do non-Aboriginal foster carers, fostering Aboriginal children, ensure that children are connected to their culture and family.

Stephan Lund & Jodie Plug (Wanslea Foster Care, WA)

Building Identity, Self-Esteem, Resilience and Empowerment in Aboriginal Children and Young People in Care

An overview of the Djooraminda model for ensuring Aboriginal children and young people in Family Group Homes are resilient, independent and culturally secure.

Tony Culbong (Centrecare, Djooraminda, WA)

38 Strong Aboriginal Men Driving Change

The Metamorphoses of a Noongar Men's Group in Regional Western Australia

Establishing a Noongar Men's group in a fractured community in regional Western Australia: processes, relationships and outcomes.

Cate Ham, Tony Evers & Derek Woods (Wanslea Family Services Inc, WA)

The Strengths of Maambart Maam (my Father) for Maali Moort (Urban Families)

Using a community participatory action research framework within an Aboriginal male worldview, our project explored the mental health of Aboriginal male carers during the perinatal period. The aim of our project was to understand, respect and recognise the needs of male carers in order to develop and evaluate a program suitable for male carers' needs in raising their family.

Cheryl Kickett-Tucker & John Kalin (Pindi Pindi, Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Wellbeing, WA), **Caroline Nilson** (Murdoch University, WA) & **Quinton Tucker** (Burnna Yurral Aboriginal Corporation)

39 Community and Child Health Care

Maitjara Wangkanyi: Talking about Food

Maitjara Wangkanyi started as a nutrition research proposal to research food habits in three South Australian APY communities, to know how to appropriately support change. With Maitjara Wangkanyi, we are trialling ways to open the discussion around food habits and keep it open.

Suzanne Bryce (NPY Women's Council, NT)

Aboriginal Child Health Success Stories

There is some excellent work being delivered in Aboriginal child health service delivery across WA to improve health and development outcomes for young children.

Diann Peate & Leonie Hellwig (Department of Health, WA)

40 Tapping Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom

Strengths of Australian Aboriginal Cultural Practices in Family Life and Child Rearing

Based on findings from the recently published Strengths of Australian Aboriginal cultural practices in family life and child rearing, discussion focuses on how traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices can strengthen families and communities, and have positive effects on children throughout the life course.

Jenine Godwin-Thompson (SNAICC, VIC)

Sharing our Grandmothers' Stories

Supporting the intergenerational transmission of Indigenous cultural knowledge for Aboriginal women in Central Australia.

Christine Armstrong (Waltja Tjutangk Palyapayi, NT)

Concurrent Sessions 41 - 50

1.30pm – 3.00pm

41 Creating Change through Partnerships



This panel session focuses on initiatives promoting genuine inter-agency partnerships in child and family services. It includes presentations and discussion on:

SNAICC's Creating Change through Partnerships training program Emerging partnerships supported by QATSICPP and SNAICC in the Queensland Family and Child Connect initiative.

The process and outcomes of partnerships principles developed by Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT).

PARTICIPANTS:

Brionee Noonan & Theresa Roe (Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT)), **Michael Currie** (QATSICPP, QLD), **John Burton** (SNAICC, VIC)

42 Holistic Wellbeing for Victims and Survivors of Family Violence

A presentation on the AFVLS holistic wellbeing framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims/survivors of family violence.

Mary Cowley (CEO of Aboriginal Family Law Services and Deputy Convenor of National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum)

43 DRUMBEAT – New Interventions for Parents and Children using the Combination of Rhythm and Reflection



This session will showcase two new interventions from Holyoake based on the award winning DRUMBEAT social and emotional development program. DRUMBEAT uses hand drumming to explore relationship issues that support community connection and healthy lifestyles. It is used in Aboriginal communities across Australia and First Nations communities in Canada and the USA.

Holyoake also released their child computer game 'DRUMBEAT QUEST' which is the world's first computer game for social and emotional learning that incorporates the latest neuroscience on rhythm and regulation.

For further information on both programs visit:
www.holyoake.org.au/drumbeat

Grace Trusso (Holyoake DRUMBEAT Program, WA)

44 First Nations Children v. the Government of Canada



For the first time in history, the Canadian Government was held to account for alleged contemporary discrimination against First Nations children before a legal body that can make binding orders. Learn about the 8 year history of this case, the evidence and its implications for Indigenous children's rights worldwide.

Cindy Blackstock (University of Alberta, Canada)

45 Sharing and Strategy Workshop for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Years Services (Closed Session)



This session will provide a space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood education and care services to exchange experiences and learnings internally. Participants will discuss upcoming sector changes with the Child Care Assistance Package, key questions for the Department of Social Services and priorities to ensure the early years needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are best met.

Child Care Assistance Package Workshop

Have some questions about the Child Care Assistance Package? Please come to raise your questions at this workshop with the Department of Social Services. It will provide a space to discuss the package and what it will mean for your service, and attending children and families.

Joanna Stanion (Department of Social Services)

46 Supporting Families through Improved Child Protection Systems

Centrecare Djooraminda – Working with Aboriginal Families

An overview of holistic outreach based support to families with children aged 0-17 within the Perth metropolitan area.

Debra Coker & Jason Thompson (Centrecare, Djooraminda, WA)

Please Help, they Took my Child Away and I Never See him? NPYWC Child Advocacy: An Innovative Service Supporting Aboriginal Families Negotiate Complex Tri-State Child Protection Systems

On account of increasing requests for support from Aboriginal families who reported feeling confused, overwhelmed and disempowered in their interactions with the tri-state child protection agencies of central Australia, the NPYWC Child Advocacy service has been designed to provide families with culturally appropriate, practical, advocacy support with the ultimate aim of keeping children safe and connected to family, community and culture.

Hannah Stanley (Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (NPYWC), NT)

Luwinta Mana-mapali Krakani Waranta – Reclaiming our Jurisdiction in Child Protection

A presentation from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre report on changes needed in the child protection system, including consultation based research and recommendations on how the transfer of the child protection jurisdiction to the community would result in an improved system for children and families.

Lisa Coulson (TACCA, TAS) & **Heather Sculthorpe** (Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, TAS)

47 Community: Collaborative Approaches

It's Moorditj, the Time's Right

Connecting and working together with the Midland Aboriginal community: The journey of the Swan Alliance Communities for Children.

Di Ryder, Carol Ryder, Jude Bridgland Sorenson & Jennifer Brodie (Swan Alliance - An Equal Partnership between Mission Australia, Anglicare WA & Ngala, WA)

Alekarenga Multi-Media Project: How a Community Development Approach is Giving Aboriginal People a Stronger Voice in Community Decision Making

A discussion about how a community development approach has supported a remote Aboriginal community to take greater control over decisions affecting their community.

Dave Howard & Graham Beasley (Central Land Council, NT)

48 Working with Families in the Early Years

'ReadnPlay' – A Pre-Kindergarten Partnership

This presentation showcases a collaborative partnership between two North Queensland Indigenous organisations that successfully developed, trialled and delivered an inspiring and fun program for families to use at home with their Under 3's. The program 'ReadnPlay' helps parents learn more about the many ways young children learn, and provides practical resources and support to encourage positive parent/child interactions every day.

Relena Ara (Napranum Pal Group Limited, QLD)

Tharawal Aboriginal PlayLinks – Supported Playgroup: A Family's Playgroup Journey

History of Tharawal Aboriginal PlayLinks (supported playgroup), a collaborative partnership between Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation and Northcott, and a family's journey through a supported playgroup.

Leanne Franklin & Tamika Briggs (Northcott, NSW) & **Linda Bolt** (Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, NSW)

49 Early Childhood Education and Literacy

The Impact of School Engagement on Educational Outcomes for Victorian Aboriginal Primary School Children

It's not about making Aboriginal kids go to school, it's about creating an environment that helps them engage in school that will lead to their best education outcomes.

Scott Winch (University of Melbourne, VIC)

Read to me – I Love it! An Innovative Indigenous Family Literacy Program for Remote Communities in Western Australia

Read to me – I love it! is the only literacy project in Western Australia that distributes quality resources to families with preschool-aged children over a two-year period. This paper presents the findings of a three-year evaluative study of the project.

Lennie Barblett (Edith Cowan University, WA)

50 Young People's Journeys in Out-of-Home Care

Jilya-Balya 'Learning how to Fly'

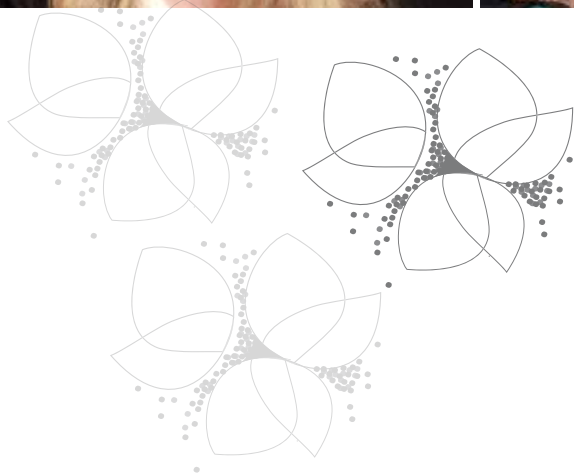
This is the story of a young Bunjima girl's journey through out-of-home care, the development of the community that supported her through this journey, and how she left the out of home care system a strong, resilient and courageous young woman at the age of 18. It also describes the lessons that children in care workers learnt through her story.

Sarah Edwards, Mel Curran & Renee Abercrombie (Department for Child Protection and Family Support, WA) & **Kyia Coffin** (Bunjima Language Group, WA)

Indigenous Specialist Reconnect - The Journey to Better Practice in Working with Aboriginal Young People who are at Risk of Homelessness

This workshop will focus on the key learnings, achievements and challenges associated with establishing an Indigenous specialist case-management model.

Ross Wortham & Johnna Flavell (Save the Children Australia, WA)



Concurrent Sessions 51 - 60

3.30pm – 5.00pm

51 Moving to Prevention-Intensive and Targeted Family Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families

This session explores good practice in intensive and targeted family support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and research that reviewed practice in 5 community-controlled organisations.

PARTICIPANTS:

Clare Tilbury (School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University, QLD), **Raymond Brunker** & **Natalie Lewis** (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak)

52 My Rights, My Voice: Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children to Participate in Matters that Affect them

This session will provide an overview of children's rights as they are relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, including an introduction to best practice youth participation principles, practical tools and case studies.

Aivee Robinson (UNICEF, NSW) & **Ben Schokman** (Human Rights Law Centre, VIC)

53 Holistic Aboriginal Led Integrated Services

Baya Gawiy Children and Family Centre, Fitzroy Crossing – A Coolamon Model of Service Delivery

Like a coolamon, Baya Gawiy Children and Family Centre gently cradles and protects our community's children with an integrated suite of services for children and their families.

Sarah Cleaves & **June Oscar AO** (Marninwarntikura Fitzroy Women's Resource Centre, WA) & **James Fitzpatrick** (Patches Paediatrics & Telethon Kids Institute, WA)

Achieving Deep and Enduring Change – A Bininj Led Approach to Learning, Family Health, Community Development and Wellbeing

This is a brief presentation that celebrates the strength of Bininj culture and what can be achieved when Bininj lead the way in achieving the best outcomes for our children.

Roxanne Naborlhborlh, **Christine Alangale** & **Kestianna Djandjomerr** (Children's Ground, NT)

54 Learning through Culture

The Cousins' Program – To Engage Local Indigenous Youth as Mentors with our Preschool Jarjums, to Foster a Positive Sense of Self and Identity before they Begin School

Cath Gillespie & **Kirby Barker** (Evans Head Woodburn Preschool, NSW)

HIPPY Australia and Barnardos Australia: A Partnership to Ensure Successful Community Engagement in the HIPPY Program in Wellington NSW

Ron Holmes (Brotherhood of St Laurence, VIC) & **Donna Ashley** (Barnardos Australia, NSW)

Balee Koolin Bubup Connecting Children and Families to Boonwurrung Country

Aunty Fay Sewart Muir (VACL), **Priscilla Reid-Loynes** (Indigenous Early Years Consultant, VIC) & **Sarah Bingle** (Library has Legs Project, Windermere's Communities for Children Cranbourne, VIC)

55 Abuse Prevention Resources

Community Risk-Mapping Exercise

Community Risk-Mapping exercise is a visual display and gathers qualitative data that can give adults the insight into where and why children participate in risk-taking and private behaviours. It also identifies areas in community where they feel safe and unsafe.

Holly-Ann Martin (Safe4kids, WA)

Innovative, Interactive Resources for Abuse Prevention Education in the Early Years

Innovative and effective ideas and tools for teaching Abuse Prevention Education to young children including those with special needs.

Holly-Ann Martin (Safe4kids, WA)

56 Healing through Cultural Connection

Wayapa, An Aboriginal Wellness & Connection Practice

Wayapa is an Aboriginal Wellness & Connection Practice that combines cultural mindfulness, traditional movement and narrative meditation to create earth, mind, body and spirit wellbeing.

Jamie Thomas (Wayapa Wuurrk, VIC)

57 Connecting with Culture through Creativity

Crayons, Calico and Cups of Tea: An Unlikely Friendship

Sharing the evolution of an innovative cultural planning idea designed to link Aboriginal children in care, their families and communities, foster families, departments and NGO services - so that the children can grow up safe in culture, strong and proud.

Verity Roennfeldt & **Natasha Orr** (Department of Child Protection and Family Support, WA)

The Future of our Dance Lies with our Children who will Carry it on

I will present an interactive case study about the work I am doing nationally and internationally with the Wagana Aboriginal Dancers.

Jo Clancy (Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre, NSW)

58 Respecting the Rights of Children with Incarcerated Parents

Supporting Indigenous Children Impacted by Parental Incarceration by Assisting them to SHINE (Supporting, Hope, Inspire, Nurture, Empower)

The aim of the presentation is to raise awareness of the unique needs of Indigenous children impacted by parental incarceration to practitioners working in the Out-of-Home Care environment.

We aim to facilitate a collective discussion utilising a number of stakeholder engagement methods to enhance collaborative practice across the sector. It is our aim to build a knowledge base across the sector to improve collaboration.

We will be showcasing a number of initiatives that SHINE for Kids currently runs in supporting Indigenous children in NSW, ACT and Victoria.

Carol Vale (Shine for Kids, QLD)

59 Grandmothers Against Removals: the Fight Against Continuing Stolen Generations

More of our children are being stolen than ever before and the situation will only get worse until we mobilise in big numbers to force a change that puts Aboriginal people in control. Grandmothers Against Removals is made up of families who have suffered from child removal and have decided enough is enough! Since 2014 we have organised street protests, meetings and helped many families to win their children back. We have built strong alliances and support networks, and forced negotiation with welfare departments. Come and hear about our struggle and find out how you can get involved.

Debbie Swan (NSW) & **Vanessa Culbong** (WA)

60 Supporting New Mothers and Fathers

Changing Lives by Delivering Culturally Secure and Holistic Maternity Care

The importance and effectiveness of providing culturally secure and holistic health care to Aboriginal women and families.

Alison Gibson (Moort Boodjari Mia Department of Health, North Metropolitan Health Service, Public Health and Ambulatory Care, WA)

A User-Designed Website for Young Aboriginal Fathers

Video presentations of young Aboriginal fathers will be shown to illustrate the website features and development.

Craig Hammond (University of Newcastle, NSW)

DAY 3: THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

Plenary

9.00am - 10.30am

Keynote Address

Professor Fiona Stanley

- > **Early Childhood: Overcoming Intergenerational Trauma for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Populations**

The evidence around the impact of healthy pregnancies and early childhood development to provide for future health and wellbeing is now overwhelming. Psychosocial and neuroscience research shows clearly that brain development in the first 4 years is crucial for a range of capacities and capabilities. It also shows that negative influences have profoundly negative impacts early on children's future potential and poor health (such as alcohol, poor nutrition and stress). Early intervention focusing on parental empowerment has been shown to be particularly effective for disadvantaged groups if they are appropriate, intensive and long enough.

Keynote Address

June Oscar AO

- > **Learning Across Worlds: Nurturing the Future of the Fitzroy Valley with New Practices in Early Life Education and Care**

June Oscar AO, CEO of the Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre (MWRC) in Fitzroy Crossing will share her and her community's remarkable story of community led development, unheard of in Australia. In recent years, Marninwarntikura has become renowned for acting on the women's powerful convictions, through spearheading a movement which saw the enforcement of alcohol restrictions, leading to a ground-breaking study called Liliwan, which has recorded the prevalence of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). The results are shocking; 21% of the region's children has been assessed to have one or many of the FASD related conditions.

The Liliwan study, conducted in partnership between the Fitzroy Valley community, the Telethon Institute, Sydney University and the George Institute for Global Health has given the women and their families the rigorous evidence base they need. The continued engagement between researchers and the community is enabling the Fitzroy Valley to become increasingly informed in how to respond to, care for and prevent children being born and growing with complex developmental conditions. These new multidisciplinary approaches to the education and therapy of children and families living with FASD are being practised in Marninwarntikura's Baya Gaway Early Childhood Learning Unit.

Oscar's presentation encourages us to imagine a growing generation that is empowered to grasp all educational opportunities, no matter the challenges each child faces. As Oscar argues, it is diverse, creative and inclusive educations that have the power to unleash the boundless potential of youth, so an entire generation can walk together into a more promising and equal future.



Concurrent Sessions 61 - 70

11.00am - 12.30pm

- 61 **Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participation in the Child Protection System**

PARTICIPANTS:

Evaluation of VACCA's Guardianship Program

Sue-Anne Hunter (VACCA)

Absec, Creating a State-Wide Approach

Michael Higgins (AbSec, NSW)

Community Controlled Child Protection and 'The Voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families'

Michael Currie (QATSICC, QLD)

- 62 **Remember the Past, Change the Future: Drawing from the Roots of the Ancestors**

Understandings and stories to bring forth strong healthy fruits in families' lives for the next generation. Yolngu from East Arnhem walking together 'bala rali' (working together) to bring yolngu cultural understandings alongside a strengths-based family strengthening program 'FAST' to enable their families to be strong to help their children grow up and succeed.

Phillip Dhamarrandji, Susan Garawirtja, Jessica Wurungmurra & Malcolm Galbraith (FAST NT)

- 63 **The Aboriginal Therapeutic Home Based Care Program**

This presentation will discuss the aims, strengths and challenges, and examples of the work of the statewide Aboriginal Therapeutic Home Based Care program in Victoria.

Chris Tanti (Take Two, VIC), Sue Hermans (Mildura District Aboriginal Cooperative & Take Two, VIC), Gavin Barker (Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative & Take Two, VIC), Kim Duncan (Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative & Take Two, VIC), Kylie Briggs (Njernda Aboriginal Cooperative & Take Two, VIC), Laura Green (Winda Mara Aboriginal Cooperative, VIC) & Patrick Byrne (Bendigo & District Aboriginal Cooperative, VIC)

- 64 **Early Childhood Sector Development**

Indigenous Educators Inspiring Success

Indigenous Priorities – a strategic approach to strengthening and the ongoing sustainability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood education programs and educators, and supporting the sector and educators within it.

Milly Phillips & Ursula Barber (Queensland Department of Education and Training)

Prioritising Aboriginal Early Childhood – The NSW Policy Experience

The presentation will outline various policy changes in NSW to promote access and participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in early childhood education and care services and explores the implications within early childhood services.

Angela Webb, Emma Beckett & Ross Hughes (AECCL Inc, NSW)

- 65 **Raising Strong Children through Healing**

Growing Our Children Up Strong: Creating Pathways to Healing

Outlines the process undertaken in the co-design and development of school-based healing programs for young people and their families in Bourke and Brewarrina, NSW.

Caitlin Mullins (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation, ACT) & Joan Dickson (Far West NSW Medicare Local)

VACCA's Report on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Support Team: Lessons Learned

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has provided agencies, such as the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, with a unique opportunity to reflect on how best we can keep Aboriginal children in out-of-home care safe. How as an agency do we train our carers and workforce about sexual abuse and sexually abusive behaviour and foster an environment where children can speak out and feel culturally safe enough to disclose any abuse they are experiencing? How do we ensure we hear the voice of the child?

Jeannie McIntyre, Jenny Kirby & Nathan Bird (VACCA)

66 Inequalities in the Child Protection System

Is Australia Creating a Second Stolen Generation?

This presentation will consider recent child protection data relating to the admission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to out-of-home care, with a particular focus on Victoria.

Mick Naughton (Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, VIC)

Inequality Disguised as Equality – The New Stolen Generation and the Failure to Protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children (and how Legislation Entraps and Destroys Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families)

A discussion of the failure of non-Indigenous legal systems, evolved from, if not identical to, those prior to 1967, to protect and serve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the present day and perpetrating significant injustice by treating as equal those whom generational disadvantage and post-colonial subjugation have rendered unequal before the law.

Joe Harman (Federal Circuit Court of Australia, NSW)

67 Aboriginal Participation Models

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

Kate Walker and her colleagues will discuss how the Koori conferences, established in the Children's Court Conference Centre, have been created to empower and encourage the participation of Aboriginal families involved in Child Protection matters.

Kate Walker, Angela Carney & Julia Zanin (Children's Court of Victoria)

Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making (AFLDM): Why it Works

This presentation will provide an overview of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency's (VACCA) Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making (AFLDM) program, with reference to a case study. The case study will demonstrate a best practice approach to working with Aboriginal families who have been disengaged in the child protection system.

Richard Penrith (VACCA)

68 Learnings from the Parent and Community Engagement Program

Lessons Learnt and Outcomes of a Collaborative Program Evaluation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clients in the Parent and Community Engagement (PaCE) Program

This presentation will describe a collaborative evaluation pilot undertaken by The Benevolent Society Research and Evaluation team, in partnership with program staff and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, on the Parent and Community Engagement (PaCE) program in Cairns.

Claudine Wiesner (The Benevolent Society, QLD)

Working with Koorie Children with Additional Needs

This presentation explores the development of support material for Koorie families with children with additional needs in Victoria, through the Parent and Community Engagement (PaCE) program.

Geraldine Atkinson (Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. (VAEAI) & SNAICC, VIC)

69 Family Supports: Exploring New Ways

Supporting Families with a Cultural Coach Approach: Ngallu Wal & The Youth Hope Program in Western Sydney

This presentation shares successful cultural coaching methods by the Ngallu Wal Aboriginal Child & Family Centre to support young people and their families within the Youth Hope Program in Western Sydney.

Leonnie Herczeg (Ngalluwal ACF, NSW)

Supporting Vulnerable Families and Children – Our Way

We will outline our evidence-based approach to linking social, family support and comprehensive primary health care services to better support the needs of vulnerable families; to promote child and family wellbeing and resilience; and to deliver better outcomes for our children, young people and their families.

Jennifer Savage, Robyn Goodman, Roxanne Ross & Jo Stout (Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Health Service, QLD)

70 Partnership Models for Young People

Building a Strong Tomorrow – Partnerships in Service Provision

Collaborative partnership to provide intensive mentoring for at risk young people in care.

Cheryl Dunkley (Centrecare Djooraminda, WA) & **Steve Dyson** (Save the Children Australia, WA)

The Koorie Youth Traineeship Program

This presentation describes a partnership project aimed to strengthen and improve the outcomes for Aboriginal people by creating an enabling and culturally relevant traineeship model, to increase Aboriginal employment within the child and family sectors.

Bonnie Presley (MacKillop Family Services, VIC) & **Brenda Young** (VACCA)

The South East Corridor Youth Partnership Project – Collective Impact in Practice

The South East Corridor Youth Partnership Project is an innovative two-year Collective Impact initiative focused on supporting the community's most vulnerable children and young people. This workshop will focus on the key learnings from developing and delivering a community-based collective impact model on youth justice.

Anania Tagaro, Preston Culbong & Andrew Yarran (Save the Children Australia, WA)

Closing Plenary

Plenary Panel Presentation

> The Decade Ahead: Learning from the Past to Create a New Future

Aboriginal leaders reflect on the past decade and think strategically and constructively about the focus of the decade ahead, to see all of our children strong, proud and deadly - living their dreams.

We can get demoralised by the national statistics and figures our about kids, and forget about the amazing developments happening every day across communities. What is working to support our most vulnerable children? How are communities standing up to demand a better life for our children? What needs to happen to forge a national movement and see nation-wide change?

FACILITATOR:

Professor Pat Dudgeon

PANELISTS:

Muriel Bamblett (CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency Co-op Ltd)

Mick Gooda (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission)

Andrea Mason (CEO, NPY Women's Council)

Antoinette Braybrook (CEO, Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria)

CLOSING REMARKS:

Sharron Williams (CEO AFSS, Chair of SNAICC)



