



Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc.

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SNAICC MEDIA RELEASE

Budget needs to deliver on promise to close the gap for Indigenous children (for immediate release Tuesday May 13th 2008)

SNAICC Chairperson, Muriel Bamblett, AM, said today that, “ tonight's Federal Budget has to start delivering on the governments pre-election promises of ‘*halving the gap in mortality rates between Indigenous and non Indigenous children under the age of five within a decade; and halving the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievement within a decade*¹’.

“ Labor promised to achieve these goals by ‘*expanding early learning programs into Indigenous communities and introducing a comprehensive package focussing on Indigenous children's early years.*’ In recent months there has been a lot of talk about quarantining welfare payments but there is a lot more to a comprehensive early years package than this,” Ms Bamblett said.

She added, “ The Prime Minister's big idea for the 2020 summit was universal childcare that integrates care and education for children with support and assistance for families. SNAICC provided the government with a detailed budget submission in January proposing the expansion of these services into priority locations. Tonight we find out how serious the Government is about this idea of universal childcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.”

SNAICC will be available for media comment on initiatives relating to the Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio, Health and Ageing portfolio; Employment, Education and Workplace Relations portfolio and in relation to issues impacting on Indigenous children including:

- Child protection and prevention of family violence and child abuse
- Welfare reform measures and quarantining income support
- Early childhood education
- Childcare services and programs
- Children’s health and well being
- Northern Territory Intervention

Media Comments and Interviews:

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SNAICC Executive Officer, Julian Pocock, (m) 0419 379 764

¹ *New Directions 'An equal start in life for Indigenous children'. ALP May 2007*