



SNAICC Partners in Action Research Evaluation (PARE)

**Tjitji Tjapu Tjuta Child Care Centre and
Umoona Aged Care Centre,
Coober Pedy SA
Basket making using SNAICC Activity Kit**

By Patti Dorrestijn and Vicky Antoniadis

As an evaluation of the 2007 Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc. (SNAICC) Activity Kit, with the theme **Raise Children Strong in Culture – Pathways to Healing and Revival**, we did a small survey with people from four children's services in Coober Pedy.

Following, is the feedback we received from the survey about the relevance of the Activity Kit to the services and recommendations.

- It is well known to the surveyed services
- It is well utilised by half of the surveyed services
- It is a useful tool to raise indigenous awareness
- It is culturally relevant and inclusive, allowing for use across the service programs with children, staff, families and the wider community
- Its instructions provide support and guidance for new staff
- It can be used regularly at the services as well as for extension activities as required at community events
- It can be adapted to allow for children's age, stage and developmental appropriateness
- It may prompt the user to build on their current knowledge

Recommendations to SNAICC

- Provide more language activities – particularly South Australian indigenous languages
- Include more indigenous traditions, eg Aboriginal child raising practices
- Dreaming stories relating to South Australian indigenous traditions

What did we learn?

- Basket making is a traditional Aboriginal skill
- The Elders also make baskets from natural products such as leaves, spinifex and bark
- Emu feathers are included in the making of bags and purses
- Everyone enjoyed themselves and wished to maintain the connection between Umoona Aged Care and the Tjitji Tjapu Tjuta (Umoona) Child Care Centre.

Building from our use of the SNAICC Activity Kit, we invited Elders from Umoona Aged Care to attend at the centre to share their basket making skills with the children.



Elders, staff and children at Tjitji Tjapu Tjuta doing basket weaving

