

# Partners in Action Research Evaluation (PARE) project

Presentation by Cheryl Barber, Ray Burrows,  
Veronica Coutts, Liz Orr, Carmel Moyle, Roslyn Von Senden,  
Desley Thompson

QLD IPSU Conference Workshop (Sept 2008 )  
[www.snaicc.asn.au](http://www.snaicc.asn.au) PH: 03 9489 8099



# Overview

- Acknowledgements
- Evaluation
- PARE aims
- SRS evaluation SA + QLD PARE project
- SNAICC + IPSU partnerships
- QLD PARE – Who, where, why + what  
Gundoo, Gooddo + Undoonoo workshops, resource development, accredited training + sharing learning
- Sustainability of PARE in QLD – where to next...



# Why evaluate?

- Gathering feedback
- Accountability
- Cultural awareness
- Making and learning at the same time
- Capacity strengthening
- Growing what works
- Promotion and education
- Identifying gaps





# SNAICC Resource Service Evaluation Poster

## WEAVING TRACKS

### An Action Research Evaluation Story of the SNAICC Resource Service (SRS)

Starting from a flat place the ants build up something together... It is important, hard, constant work... layer upon layer, lots of communication, to and fro.

Working together, it takes time... every effort and piece of soil or grass matters... these are part of building a nest.

The border weaving represents the important relationship between SRS, *Beyond...* and the SNAICC members and partners.

#### HOW DO WE WALK AND TALK TOGETHER FOR OUR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

#### Culture as the Central Reference Point

There are many voices and stories about the value of the SNAICC Resource Service to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and communities. SNAICC is working in partnership with external evaluators *Beyond...* to ensure cultural accountability both internally and externally by:

- Respecting people and place - acknowledging custodians, spirituality and protocols
- Gathering stories in many different ways and from people within and outside of SNAICC
- Giving voice - to the good, the bad and the deadly
- Having an open door and transparent evaluation plan
- Looking forward and looking back
- Making connections and building a picture together
- Finding new tracks and acknowledging existing tracks

- Working through the challenges
- Reflecting on feedback and making changes
- Sharing skills and knowledge
- Creating check in points and giving enough time
- Strengthening connections, networks and partnerships

#### Evaluating SNAICC Resource Service

The SNAICC Resource Service (SRS) fills resource gaps and distributes information and shared learning to strengthen the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and families across the nation under its four priority areas:

- Early childhood development, parenting and child rearing:** our communities and families are supported to provide the best possible start in life for children through increased participation in

culturally appropriate and enriching early childhood programs and developmental activities.

**Child and family wellbeing:** our children and families are supported to build on strengths to improve physical, social and emotional well-being, and assist families to be culturally strong and healthy.

**Prevention of family violence, child abuse and child neglect:** services, communities and others are supported in developing community-based strategies to understand and respond to family violence, child abuse and child neglect.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance and organisational development:** services are assisted to articulate their strengths and extend their capacity to manage and deliver effective family and children's services.

The context of this poster is SNAICC 2017 period where challenges questioned 'let light be revealed'.

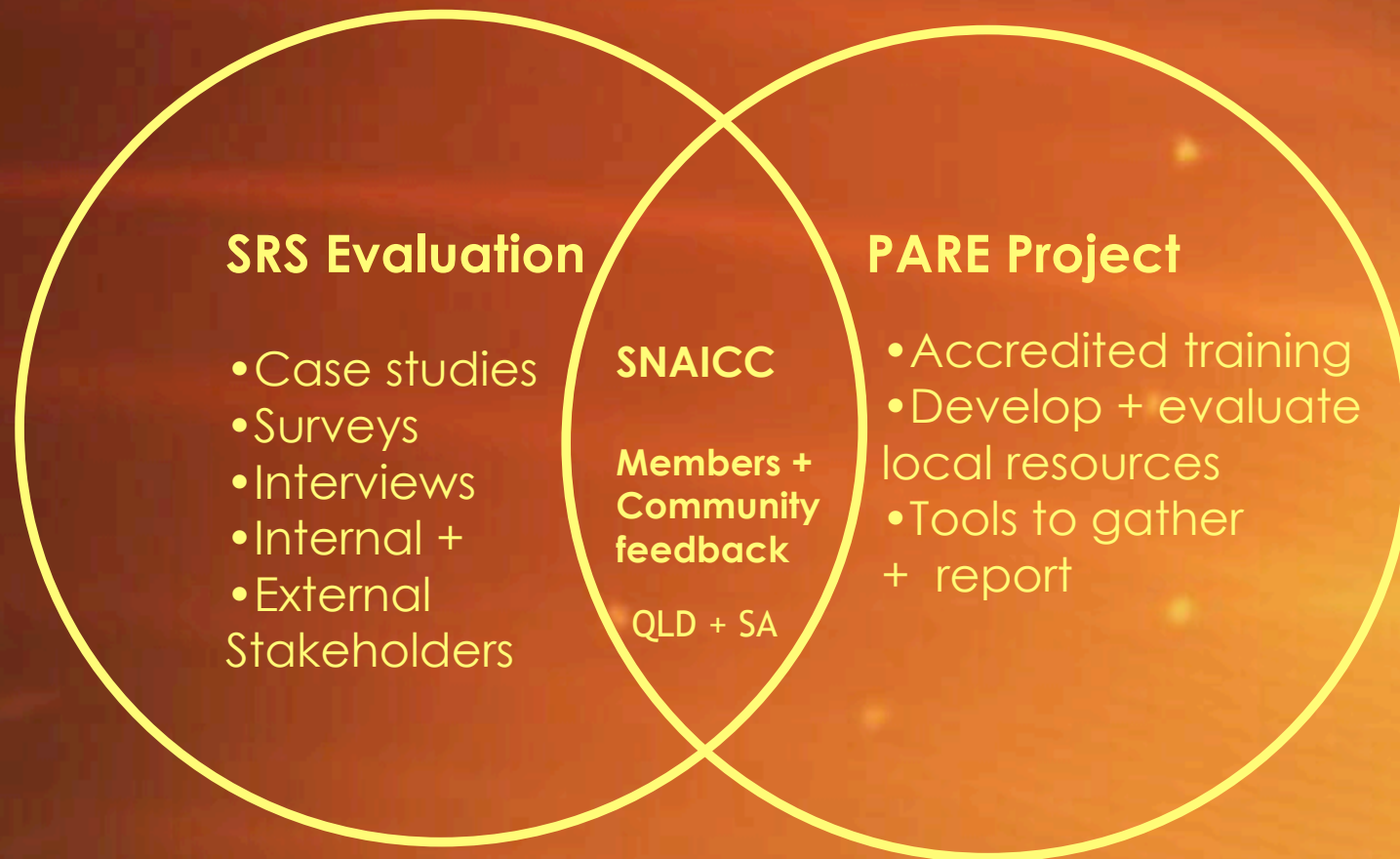
Report by Veronica Adams, Executive Director, Project design by Andrew Jones of David & David Design.

The SNAICC Resource Service evaluation is funded as an 'Early Childhood' project in 2017-18 by the Australian Government under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy.

**SNAICC**  
PO Box 1443  
North Sydney NSW 2060  
Ph: (02) 9439 8300  
Fax: (02) 9439 8244  
Web: [www.snaicc.net.au](http://www.snaicc.net.au)

**SNAICC – THE SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHILD CARE**  
THE NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENT PEAK BODY IN AUSTRALIA REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

# Partners in Action Research Evaluation(PARE): Growing what works





# Partners in Action Research Evaluation (PARE) Aims

- deliver accredited community based evaluation training
- gather feedback about SRS resources and activities
- develop evaluation tools

# PARE uses participatory action research

- Plan-permission + involve participants
- Gather stories + information
- Make use of feedback - reflect on stories with participants + take action
- Give information back to the community and plan for the future
- Plan-permission + involve participants

# What are we learning about community evaluation?

- Everyday evaluation
- One size doesn't fit all
- Yarning + dialogue
- Hands on evaluation of resources and activities





# Queensland PARE Outcomes

- 12 participants completed accredited modules of the Diploma of Community Education in July 2007
- PARE presentation 'Community ways of evaluating' Ngadluko Ngartunnaitya SNAICC Conference Adelaide 2007
- Community Posters made at Cherbourg, Woorabinda and Palm Island during 2008
- QLD PARE presentation to 'Heart of our Children and People' IPSU Conference Townsville 2008
- Further accredited training Sept/Oct on Palm Island 2008

# Celebrating accredited training



# QLD PARE Evaluation Poster

- Poster about action research evaluation created at first workshop
- The word PICTURE is used to explain why evaluation is important
- Aboriginal children's services value evaluation - words to describe this are included in smaller bars across the poster





Giving value and strength to our work and what we do for our children   Its about me, its about you..   Knowing if we are on the right track or not   Getting community people to have their say   Strengthening



## Partners in Action Research Evaluation (PARE)

# Evaluation: a Picture and Story of the Cherbourg workshop July 2007



P  
I  
C  
T  
U  
R  
E  
PLACE  
MAGINATION  
COLOUR  
EXTURE  
NITE  
REMEMBERING  
MOTION

Doing even better next time and knowing why and how   Its valuing what matters ...   Change, refine, learn, improve   Old and new ways to share our stories   Walk the talk   Valuing our ways - mine and yours



Queensland Partners in Action Research Evaluation: SNAICC Resource Service, the Indigenous Professional Support Unit of Queensland, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the Multifunctional Aboriginal Childrens Services in QLD, Gundoo Day Care Centre, Undoonoo Child Care Centre and Gooddo Day Care Centre.





# Undoonoo Child Care Centre



National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day  
2007



Involving dads 2008



Woorabinda

( Kangaroo sit down )

Knowledge

Understanding

Learning



Respect your Elders



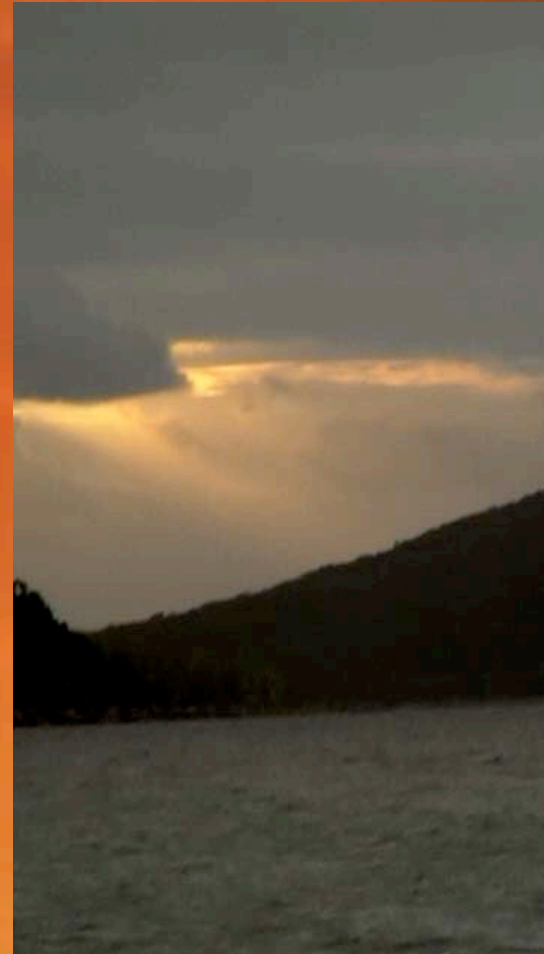






# Gooddo Day Care Centre

- Parent involvement
- Involving elders
- Involve whole family





# Family Gathering



Involving Bulloo

Dads Sharing  
Culture



Our Generation  
Our Future









# Wombats



Everyday  
Learning



# Sharks





# Gundoo Day Care Centre

- Day to day program evaluation
- Making local posters of families







*Children are  
Our Future*



**Doondem**  
Mother

&

Child  
**Gukooore**











*Children learn by*  
**Cultural Values** *what they see and are taught.*



**SRS**  
SNAICC Resource Service

Centre  
for  
Cultural  
Values



# What we learnt about community evaluation?

- We evaluate everyday
- There are many ways- one size doesn't fit all
- Yarning + dialogue
- Hands on evaluation of resources and activities helps us to make even better resources

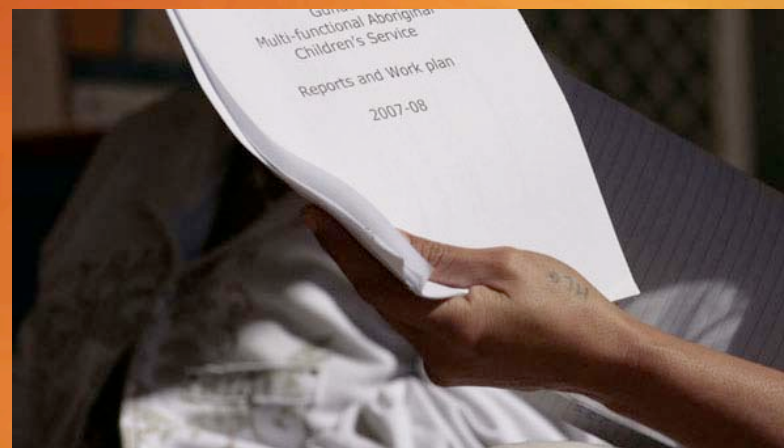


# Queensland PARE

- Partnership between RMIT and SNAICC to deliver the initial training workshops
- Ongoing support facilitated through SNAICC and QLD IPSU
- Developing partnerships with local TAFE and University providers

# Where to from here?

- Future evaluation work
- IPSU, SNAICC and services ongoing partnership work





# Websites

SNAICC Resource Service- go to projects and see PARE for resources and links

[www.snaicc.asn.au](http://www.snaicc.asn.au)

QCOSS/Indigenous Professional Support Unit IPSU

[www.ipsu.com.au](http://www.ipsu.com.au)

Co-operative research centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health

[www.crcah.org.au/research/researchtransfer.html#RT\\_tools](http://www.crcah.org.au/research/researchtransfer.html#RT_tools)

The communities and families clearinghouse Australia

[www.aifs.gov.au/cafca/index.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/cafca/index.html) see action research