



SNAICC

# SNAICC NEWS

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**25** still  
Years going  
1983–2008 strong

Secretariat of National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care Newsletter

April 2008



## Saying sorry is the first step

### EDITORIAL

By Julian Pocock,  
SNAICC Executive Officer

The formal apology by the national parliament to the Stolen Generations and their families has recognised the anguish the Stolen Generations have experienced and offered them significant comfort. With the dignity of the occasion, it gave acknowledgement to, and respect for, the Stolen Generations' experiences and offered hope and a promise of future renewal for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia.

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The photographs in this publication are intended for illustrative purposes only. No inference is intended or implied that the children or adults depicted in the photographs are the subject of any issue(s) raised in this newsletter.

Contributions, feedback and suggestions to *SNAICC News* are welcome. Copy deadline for our July edition is **26 May 2008**.

**For publication inquiries, contact:**

Mark Lawrence, Publications Officer  
Email: [publicatons@snaicc.asn.au](mailto:publicatons@snaicc.asn.au)  
Telephone: (03) 9489 8099

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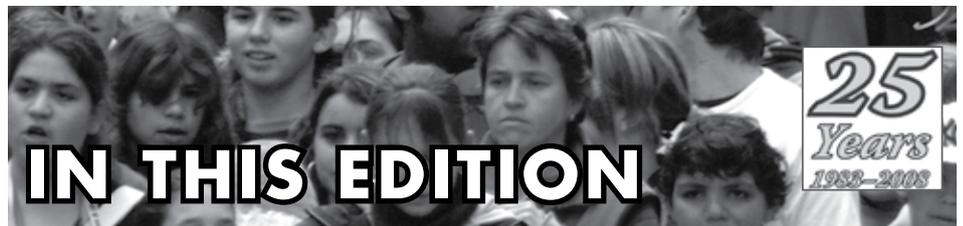
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**For subscription inquiries, contact:**

Angelique Davis  
Email: [admin@snaicc.asn.au](mailto:admin@snaicc.asn.au)  
Telephone: (03) 9489 8099  
SNAICC, PO Box 1445, Fitzroy North, Victoria 3068  
[www.snaicc.asn.au](http://www.snaicc.asn.au)



**IN THIS EDITION**

Welcome to another extended edition of *SNAICC News*, with an eight-page **Special Feature on the national apology to the Stolen Generations.**

Because the apology was so significant to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and there were so many stories and perspectives on the apology to share, we decided to delay the special theme on Health and Nutrition to the next newsletter (July), and to devote this edition to the National Apology instead.

We asked members of SNAICC's National Executive to share what the apology means to them (**page 10**). We are also privileged to share the perspectives of our elders – members of the Stolen Generation. It was also important for us to hear from young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about what the apology means to them. In all, there were more stories and photos than we could fit in, so we are using the **Yarning** and **Faces** features of our newly launched website to publish this material. We also encourage you to share your stories and photos this way. More information is on **pages 12 and 13**.

This is a big year for SNAICC – it is our **25th Anniversary**. This edition, we recount the timeline of SNAICC's long journey to the inquiry into the Stolen Generations (**page 17**) – it is a good way to remember how we got to this point of the government offering an apology. Look out for more silver anniversary stories this coming year, and do share your recollections with us.

I look forward to hearing from you and receiving your feedback.

– **Mark Lawrence, Publications Officer**

**Cover photograph:** Candles on the lawns of Parliament House spell out "Sorry the First Step" on the evening before the national apology. This was an initiative of supporters and campaigners for the National Apology, including online campaigning group GetUp!. Photograph courtesy of Get Up! – <http://www.getup.org.au>

**Deadlines and themes for SNAICC News 2008**

**Next edition: July 2008**

**Theme: Health and nutrition**

Do you have a case study, story, successes or perspective on improving the **health and nutrition** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pre-schoolers, children and young people? We would love to hear it!

Send us your story or perspective for the next edition of *SNAICC News* **before 26 May 2008**.

In 2008, each newsletter edition will have a theme, with a key article on the theme's issues and a list of resources and services offering more information or support. We welcome readers' contributions, suggestions and articles addressing the theme. The themes are in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.

All contributions of announcements, articles, reviews or news to SNAICC's quarterly newsletter should be sent to us no later than the deadlines listed below.

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Copy Deadline</b>	<b>Theme</b>
July 2008	26 May 08	Health and nutrition
October 2008	25 August 08	Focus on Torres Strait Islander communities

Each edition is usually mailed out the first week of the month the edition is named for.

Contact Mark at SNAICC for details:  
telephone (03) 9489 8099; email: [publications@snaicc.asn.au](mailto:publications@snaicc.asn.au)

## EDITORIAL

# Sorry is the first step

As SNAICC Chairperson Muriel Bamblett said in a statement on the occasion, "the apology is the right thing. It acknowledges that to forcibly remove and permanently separate a child from their family is harsh and cruel. Most of the children removed were swept into a life of poverty and hardship. They had their innocence, their childhood and their culture stolen from them."

SNAICC welcomes the apology by the national parliament, and appreciates Prime Minister Rudd's sincere approach to the apology, including his consultation with members of the Stolen Generations over how it should be expressed, and his making it a priority in his first term of government.

**"Acknowledging what happened in the past, and saying sorry, is crucial to the healing that is needed – not only for members of the Stolen Generations, but for the whole community."**

In SNAICC's statement immediately after the apology, Muriel Bamblett said, "Through the formal apology and his speech, the Prime Minister demonstrated with his heart and mind that he understands how important the apology is for the Stolen Generations and the nation as a whole." And whilst 13 February 2008 was certainly a day to celebrate, the apology did bring mixed emotions as we paused to remember the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have passed away and were not physically with us to hear the apology.

SNAICC argued for the apology over 10 years, arguing the importance of acknowledging the past and of an apology to the healing our communities require. As outlined in SNAICC's key policy platform, 'Seven Priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families':

"A national apology that acknowledges the harsh injustices of past child removals, and the ongoing impact of these on the health, happiness, and parenting skills of current generations

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, is a foundation upon which the success of many other initiatives will depend. When we fail to recognise how the past lives on, we allow the injustices of the past to continue."

Acknowledging what happened in the past, and saying sorry, is crucial to the healing that is needed – not only for members of the Stolen Generations, but for the whole community. This moment also rekindles the hope that the path to reconciliation between all Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians can be renewed, and a brighter future can be shaped for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

As importantly, the apology can assist the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and the broader Australian community, to have faith in the new government's integrity in the area of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family welfare.

This is crucial now as the Rudd government has embarked on an ambitious, but overdue, plan to 'close the gap' between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians – particularly focusing on young children, with targets to improve the deplorable mortality rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants and young children within the next ten years, and to improve literacy and numeracy rates in early primary education.

In his speech during the apology, the Prime Minister also committed his government to ensuring over the next five years that every four-year-old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child in remote communities is enrolled in, and attends, a proper early childhood education centre or program.



Prime Minister Kevin Rudd addressing guests at Parliament House after the historic national apology to the Stolen Generations. The children pictured here are holding photographs of their grandparents, who had been removed from their families as children. Photograph by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, published with permission. For more information, see [http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social\\_justice/index.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/index.html)

SNAICC will pursue this national objective with all our resolve, and will also pursue having this objective applied to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in every city, town and community across the land – as part of a broader plan to secure the well-being of our children.

Prime Minister Rudd also announced the establishment of a bipartisan commission to set national targets for overcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage – and for parliament to work together to achieve them.

**continued on page 13**

**25**  
*Years*  
1983–2008

**This year SNAICC celebrates 25 years of advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.**

As part of our anniversary celebrations, in each newsletter edition this year we will bring you a story recalling an aspect of SNAICC's history and our many campaigns.

### **We want to hear your story**

Do you have a story of your experiences with SNAICC, or your service's involvement with our organisation, over the last 25 years? Do you have SNAICC posters, publications, or other memorabilia to share with your story? If your story is published in our newsletter, we will give you a copy of *The Dreaming: Springboard to Learning* DVD and education resource featured in our previous edition. A limited number is available.

**Contact Mark at SNAICC to share your stories and material:  
telephone (03) 9489 8099 or email: [publications@snaicc.asn.au](mailto:publications@snaicc.asn.au)**

# SNAICC Update

## 'Evidence-based' review of the NT intervention

Last December, SNAICC wrote to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin, MP, in relation to the government's proposed review of the Northern Territory (NT) intervention.

The Minister has stated that the NT intervention will be reviewed against the evidence of what works and the outcomes being achieved for children. SNAICC supports this approach and believes the NT intervention should also be reviewed against the best international evidence of what works in child protection.

Since the announcement of the intervention, SNAICC has argued that, while the stated reason for the intervention was a concern relating to child abuse and neglect, aspects of the intervention have no clear link to the prevention of child abuse or neglect.

**“Any short-term outcome of improved access for children to basic daily food and household items may come at the cost of raising a generation of Aboriginal children with the belief that Aboriginal people are incapable of parenting well.”**



The review of the intervention should be based on clearly identified indicators relating to the well-being of children and families with the review itself conducted in an open, independent, transparent and consultative manner.

In recent discussions with the Minister's office SNAICC has been informed that the review will take place towards the middle of this year, will be independent, evidence based and focus on what is being achieved for children.

SNAICC would argue that there is a need to identify and respond to the negative consequences from the NT intervention such as fallout from the removal of CDEP, the further criminalisation of public drunkenness, the impact of alcohol withdrawal on people with alcohol dependency and a possible deterioration in the role and authority of parents through the compulsory income management regime.

SNAICC is concerned that aspects of the intervention and in particular the broad community wide application of the income management regime will further stigmatise Aboriginal parents and diminish their confidence and capacity to parent. Any short-term outcome of improved access for children to basic daily food and household items may come at the cost of raising a generation of Aboriginal children with the belief that Aboriginal people are incapable of parenting well.

Similar good intentions are often claimed to have motivated Aboriginal child removal in previous generations. With the benefit of hindsight we know these policies did inter-generational damage to the parenting capacity of families and communities, the results of which we are still trying to address.

Clearly the welfare reform measures introduced in the NT are not about removing children from their parents but they do remove parental decision making from parents. Evidence tells us that the more the state takes over the parenting role from parents the worse the long term outcomes are for children.

The review should examine how the federal government can achieve the best outcomes for children and families for the level of federal government investment associated with the NT intervention.

**– Julian Pocock, SNAICC Executive Officer**

## SNAICC submission on 2008 federal budget

SNAICC has called on the federal government to direct significant financial commitments in the 2008 budget to support the healthy early-years development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children as the most effective form of child abuse and neglect prevention.

We made this clear in a submission to the Prime Minister, Federal Treasurer and other relevant ministers as part of the federal government's budget consultation process. SNAICC's submission was made in January.

**“SNAICC's perspective is that supporting the healthy development of children in the early years is the truest form of child abuse and neglect prevention.”**

The submission identifies major priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families for the government to direct funding to, including \$48 million over four years for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child abuse and neglect and family support initiative.

We also call for \$40 million over four years to expand the capacity of current Indigenous-specific child care services and the establishment of new multi-functional Indigenous-specific child care services in areas of high need, amongst other priorities.

Because of the shorter time than usually available for preparation of budget initiatives, SNAICC's submission focusses particularly on the need for a long-term response to child abuse, child neglect and family violence that is guided by a set of principles.

SNAICC's perspective is that supporting the healthy development of children in the early years is the truest form of child abuse and neglect prevention.

Long term improvements in the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children will be sustained by supporting families in their role of raising children. Strong healthy families raise

# SNAICC Update

strong healthy children and provide the best social support system for preventing child abuse and neglect.

You can download SNAICC's budget submission on the Submissions page of our website:

[http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/default\\_news\\_resources.cfm?loadref=62](http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/default_news_resources.cfm?loadref=62)

## National Child Protection Framework

SNAICC is working with a coalition of children's and families' organisations and the federal government to develop a National Child Protection Framework. The Framework will bring together state, territory and federal governments and community-based children's services and organisations to implement common guidelines to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect.

Work on developing the Framework was initiated last year by representatives from a broad group of community organisations. SNAICC is part of this group, now called the Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children.

The Coalition met with the Hon. Jenny Macklin, the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, in late January this year to discuss the development and implementation of the Framework, and again in February. SNAICC is actively involved in the process, with SNAICC Chairperson Muriel Bamblett participating in the meetings.

Minister Macklin has asked the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to develop a discussion paper that outlines the Framework, which will be available soon for community comment. This consultation will inform the formation of the Framework. SNAICC understands the time available for comment will be limited, and we suggest that member organisations keep informed of the process and timelines to ensure you have enough time to contribute to the consultation. Feedback can also be made to SNAICC.

SNAICC will be actively involved in the consultation process and the Framework's development, as part of our commitment to the development of a national approach to preventing child abuse and neglect. We will report regularly on the progress through this newsletter and via our website.



Left: SNAICC Website Manager Tatiana Doroshenko describing the key SRS features of the new SNAICC website during the launch. Right: SRS Program Manager Veronica Johns (left), SNAICC Chairperson Muriel Bamblett, and Fraynetwork Multimedia General Manager Anne Walsh at the launch. Photos by Mark Lawrence © SNAICC 2008



The Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children was established in November 2007 to work with governments to develop the National Child Protection Framework. The Coalition represents the majority of organisations that provide services to vulnerable children, young people and families on the ground across Australia, as well as many key researchers. There are 51 members in the Coalition.

After the first meeting between the Coalition and Minister Jenny Macklin in January, Brian Babington, Director of Families Australia and spokesperson for the Coalition, said, "The Minister has given a strong commitment to the Commonwealth working collaboratively with the states and territories, as well as the community sector, to find both practical short and long term ways to tackle the child protection crisis in Australia".

The Australian Labor Party announced its commitment to develop a National Child Protection Framework during the election campaign last year. It is heartening to see the new Rudd Labor Government take a proactive, consultative and national approach to child abuse prevention as it moves to quickly implement its election commitment to develop a Framework.

More information on the Coalition and the National Child Protection Framework is available from Brian Babington at Families Australia, or from Julian Pocock at SNAICC:

Brian Babington, Director of Families Australia, **tel: (02) 6273 4885**  
<http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au>

Julian Pocock, Executive Officer, SNAICC, **tel: (03) 9489 8099**

More information on SNAICC's call for a national plan to prevent child abuse and neglect is available on the Policy and Advocacy Initiatives page of our website:

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/default.cfm?loadref=55>

## New SNAICC website now live

Go to: <http://www.snaicc.asn.au> 

SNAICC Chairperson Muriel Bamblett launched the newly redeveloped and expanded SNAICC website at the National Executive meeting on 5 March 2008.

Speaking at the launch, SRS Program Manager Veronica Johns described the extensive creative thinking, planning and development process behind the redevelopment, especially in creating the new SNAICC Resource Service features of site.

She said, "This website will help us all keep in touch, stay informed, build capacity, praise and strengthen good practices in our services, and help us all evolve, evaluate and improve our work."

"This website is a tool, a resource. It is interactive (for both SNAICC members and the broader community), user friendly, accessible, fluid and dynamic, relevant, culturally appropriate, knowledgeable, respectful and reflective of people, places, programs and processes. It allows feedback and input from across Australia."

Muriel Bamblett acknowledged all the work on behalf of the SNAICC Executive, saying, "This new website far exceeds what we had originally imagined!"

The website was developed by Fraynetwork Multimedia, who were represented at the launch by their General Manager, Anne Walsh, and Romain Raffard.

The new features will house an extensive collection of resources, tools, information and networking functions that will assist and resource community services, government departments and other organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families

You can find SNAICC's website at:  
<http://www.snaicc.asn.au>

**continued on page 6**

## SNAICC Update

### National Executive's March meeting

The SNAICC National Executive met in Melbourne from 5 to 7 March 2008 and considered a broad range of issues. The Executive discussed a range of recent significant developments such as the national apology by the National Parliament to the Stolen Generations and the Federal Government's policy initiatives in the area of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, including the proposed National Child Protection Framework.

In addition the Executive commenced planning for celebrations for SNAICC's 25th anniversary this year, and the next SNAICC National Conference, planned for 2010.

The meeting continued developing a SNAICC Service Access Policy, which has been under discussion by the Executive since 2007. The policy is intended to provide a response by SNAICC to the broad issue of 'mainstreaming' that has been prominent in recent times.

The Executive also reviewed SNAICC's policy document 'Seven Priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families', which the Executive identified as a major policy focus for 2008 (see the report on this later in this section).

The Executive completed the review and update of the SRS Overview document that outlines the SRS's guiding purpose, role and functions. This document will provide the outline of the next four years operation of the SRS and the next SRS four-year budget and work-plan. SNAICC is pursuing the re-funding of the SRS (see the report in this section).

The Executive also discussed SNAICC's position on the federal government's commitment to establish a National Advisory Board (see report in this section).

The next National Executive meeting is scheduled for 23–25 July.

– Kim Werner, SNAICC Governance & Planning Manager

### Future of the SNAICC Resource Service

The SNAICC Resource Service (SRS) was established by SNAICC with funding and other support from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in 2004.

The function of the SRS is to promote and accelerate the development of services, programs and community initiatives working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the early childhood and family and children's services sectors.

**“Major priorities of the new government, such as early childhood education, child abuse prevention and parenting support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, align with the work of the SRS.”**

The SRS has developed and distributed a range of resource materials, products and projects over the past three and a half years, which support children's development and family well-being. SNAICC and the Department are currently discussing the ongoing funding and operation of the SRS.

We are hopeful that continuing funding will be provided particularly as

major priorities of the new government such as early childhood education, child abuse prevention and parenting support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families align with the work of the SRS.

In November 2007 the SNAICC National Executive and AGM considered an independent evaluation report of the SRS and reviewed the four priority areas that the SRS works within. It was agreed to retain the existing four priority areas with updated descriptions (see below) and to have the SRS continue as an integral part of SNAICC's long-term operations.

#### Priority Area One: Early childhood development, parenting and child rearing.

Supporting services and communities to provide culturally enriching and developmentally appropriate early childhood programs, documenting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parenting and child rearing approaches and creating resource materials for distribution that encourage this knowledge to be put into practice.

#### Priority Area Two: Child and family well-being.

Supporting services and communities to provide responsive and holistic child and family welfare programs that build on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family strengths and approaches to parenting and aim to improve the cultural, physical, social and emotional well being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

#### Priority Area Three: Prevention of family violence, child abuse and child neglect.

Engaging services, communities and other stakeholders in developing community based strategies to understand, prevent and respond to family violence, child abuse and child neglect involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

#### Priority Area Four: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance and organisational development.

Assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community based and controlled services to identify, articulate and build on their strengths, and to extend their capacity to develop, manage and deliver effective family and children's services.

The independent evaluation recommended the ongoing funding of the



Elcho Island's Chooky Dancers at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra. They were amongst thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people who gathered in Canberra to hear the national apology to the Stolen Generations. Photo by Rosie Elliot



SRS for at least a further six years and made a number of important recommendations on how to improve and extend the work of the SRS. These included having the SRS provide additional support for project implementation, a stronger role and better resourcing for the SRS clearinghouse, working in partnership with Indigenous Professional Support Units, creating an IT support service for Indigenous early childhood services and supporting non-Indigenous services to develop culturally inclusive practice.

SNAICC anticipates that the future of the SRS will become clear by the time of the federal budget in May.

PS: Details about SRS projects and resource materials can be found on the recently re-launched SNAICC website, which also features the new SRS web features:

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au>

– Julian Pocock, SNAICC Executive Officer

## Seven Priorities policy review

SNAICC is currently reviewing our seven policy priorities that we believe all Australian governments must adopt to improve the health, welfare and education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The SNAICC National Executive identified this as a major policy focus for 2008.

These policy priorities are outlined in the policy paper 'Seven Priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families'. The paper also identifies the key reforms and initiatives needed to implement these policy priorities.

The review commenced with a workshop for members at the 2007 Annual General Meeting in Perth and was further progressed by the Executive in March.

For more information about the consultation and review, contact Julie Higgins, SNAICC's Policy Manager.

SNAICC's 'Seven Priorities' is available on our website:

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/default.cfm?loadref=67>

## National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day

Children's Day is celebrated on 4 August each year, and this year's theme is 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families – Nurturing Our Children to Flourish'.

This year, we encourage you to use our website to keep in touch with what is happening for NAICD, to register your NAICD event online, to share your photographs and stories from your NAICD events, and learn what others are doing for the day.

For details, go to the Children's Day page of our website:

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/children>

For more information regarding NAICD 2008, contact Angelique Davis at the SNAICC Office:

Phone: (03) 9489 8099

Fax: (03) 9489 8044

Email: [admin@snaicc.asn.au](mailto:admin@snaicc.asn.au)

## SNAICC response to Western Australia draft child neglect policy

The Western Australian Government Department for Child Protection initiated a process of drafting policy on child neglect, and invited SNAICC to comment.

In December 2007, SNAICC made its submission to the Department's review. The Submission is now available for download from SNAICC's website:

[http://www.snaicc.asn.au/news/view\\_article.cfm?id=31&loadref=8](http://www.snaicc.asn.au/news/view_article.cfm?id=31&loadref=8)

For information on SNAICC's submission, please contact SNAICC's Policy Manager, Julie Higgins:

email: [julie@snaicc.asn.au](mailto:julie@snaicc.asn.au)

tel: (03) 9489 8099

## NSW Wood Inquiry

In January, SNAICC made a submission to the Special Commission of Inquiry into child protection matters in New South Wales, led by Justice Wood. In our submission, we reiterated SNAICC's policies on the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be safe, and to retain contact with their community, family and culture.

SNAICC directed Commissioner Wood's attention to SNAICC's policy statements on the matter, including *Achieving Stable and Culturally Strong Out of Home Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children* (2005), the briefing paper 'Developing a National Action Plan and National Indigenous Children's Taskforce to prevent child abuse and neglect' (2007), and an international literature review of Indigenous child protection systems that SNAICC will publish later this year.



More information on Justice Wood's Special Commission of Inquiry is in the 'National Roundup' in this edition.

## Support for a National Indigenous Advisory Board

At its March meeting the SNAICC Executive affirmed its support for the formation of a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory body to the Federal Government and decided that the following factors should be taken into account in determining its composition: a balanced representation of Aboriginal diversity and Torres Strait Islander diversity, states and territories, gender, age groups (including Elders and young people), representation from existing community controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service peaks and national NGOs, and remote, rural and urban communities.

The role and function of the elected body should be focused on policy development and advocacy to government (not program delivery), establishing performance benchmarks and targets relating to the well-being of children and families, monitoring performance of government programs and services; and having the capacity to consult and liaise with communities and existing organisations to develop its policy views and 'set the agenda' for governments.

The Executive also endorsed the position that representation on the body should be a combination of appointments, co-option and elected representatives from existing national and peak structures.

– Kim Werner, SNAICC Governance & Planning Manager

Also see the SRS Update on page 20 for more news on the SRS.



## “When people get angry, they don’t seem to remember that the kids are watching”

### An interview with Tiwi Islander Cathy Stassi

By SNAICC Project Officers Nikki Butler and Rosie Elliott

Cathy Stassi is a Tiwi woman from Pirlangimpi, Garden Point (Tiwi Islands). She has seven children and 15 grandchildren and works part-time as a community-based facilitator for the Northern Territory Correctional Services Indigenous Family Violence Offenders Program (IFVOP).

“I have lived at Garden Point all my life. I first started working in family violence with the Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services (CAAPS) – it was a long time ago, in the early 1990s. I went to CAAPS to learn to cope with alcohol issues in my community. We got training and then I worked with Sister Therese and Sister Dorothy on alcohol and drugs (paid on CDEP),” said Ms Stassi.

“A women’s shelter was set-up in Pirlangimpi, and the women would come to my home, especially at night, and I’d take them to the women’s shelter and a few of us women would stay with them overnight. If we ever had any trouble we could call the cops in, they usually came when we called”.

“Us women who provide shelter in our community are all widows with older children and families. I don’t like to get involved in people’s problems, because they are all family to me. I just provide safety and shelter, but things seem more difficult today

– there’s more blaming and we don’t have that women’s shelter anymore.”

“But there’s more trouble now. I can’t keep sheltering women at my home. We need a woman’s shelter again. I don’t get scared doing this work, but sometimes I get upset if people won’t go to the police or get a restraining order and they go back to the violence.”

**“Both the perpetrator and the victim need to recognise that they have a problem. Some of them don’t understand this – they are so used to the violence, or grew up with it, watching their father hit their mother.”**

“This new Indigenous Family Violence Offenders Program has been running for two years now. There are four of us working as program facilitators at Garden Point – three women and one man. My daughter does the administration work. We work about two to four hours a day and it’s getting better now we understand the program better.

“We are working with perpetrators and family, working with the People’s Courts and the Tiwi Land Council, banning people from the club and working as mediators between families and the court. I try to help people realise that violence is not on, and help is available. We try to get them to recognise they have a problem and try to fix it – because most people want to stay together as a couple. (See the box at right for more information on the IFVOP.)

“Both the perpetrator and the victim need to recognise that they have a problem. Some of them don’t understand this – they are so used to the violence, or grew up with it, watching their father hit their mother. They think it’s normal. The tension builds up and they don’t trust anyone to talk about it with, and they don’t know you don’t have to fight.”

“But I feel good about how it is going. Two or three couples have stopped the violence and while some other couples are still fighting, they all drop in and I think we will get somewhere with them. Things have also gotten better because the club is now open four days a week instead of six days like before.”

“We try to have a weekly Strong Men’s group and a Strong Women’s group, but people are ashamed to speak up and fear trouble afterwards. We need the older men to come and make the men’s group strong, and the young people and the old people need to come to trust and listen to each other too.”

“Sometimes the meetings work through us facilitators starting off sharing our own experiences. If the participants feel comfortable they will share too. Really, we need facilitators for these meetings who are fair people and who are not judgemental”.



Top: Cathy Stassi (left) visiting the SNAICC office, pictured with her niece Nikki Butler, who is a Project Officer at SNAICC. Photo by Rosie Elliot. Above: Cathy Stassi (left) silhouetted on the front cover of the *Bringing Them Home* report, published by HREOC in 1997

When asked what she thought about the new SNAICC resource, *Through Young Black Eyes – Community Leader's Guide*, Cathy said, "It could be useful. Maybe we could try running the meetings looking through the children's eyes, seeing how we can all think about the children, because when people get angry, they don't seem to remember that the kids are watching."

## Indigenous Family Violence Offenders Program (IFVOP), NT

The IFVOP is delivered as a 16 module course over 50 hours. This unique program was developed by both Commonwealth, state and non-government stakeholders. The program now covers all NT regions, targeting Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander offenders of family violence.

Participants are usually referred through the court system but may also be self-referrals, or referrals from other agencies. Partners/spouses of participants are also offered a shorter program which is usually available towards the end of the offenders program. If court referred offenders/perpetrators do not attend the program then they are breached under The Act and must appear in court again. Also offenders/perpetrators can also be banned from clubs/pubs by local councils and police.

Indigenous Family Violence Offenders Program (IFVOP) 16 Modules address:

- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander family violence
- personal values and beliefs
- cultural context of violence
- intergenerational aspects of violence
- the law and family abuse
- motivation to change and changing controlling behaviour
- power versus equity
- dynamics of family violence
- functional self talk
- relationships
- taking responsibility for own behaviours
- resolving conflict without violence and change

Thanks to Veronica Cubillo, Top End IFVOP Coordinator, for the program information.

For more information, contact:

**Sue Rhodes, General Manager IFVOP**  
**Tel: (08) 8935 7559**  
**email: sue.rhodes@nt.gov.au**

## EARLY YEARS



By Judith Keller, National Program Manager – Supported Playgroups, Playgroup Australia Inc

**D**oes your community need a playgroup? Would you like some assistance to get started? Your state or territory Playgroup Association can help.

Under the national Supported Playgroup Program funded by the Australian Government, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families can receive assistance and support from a Playgroup Worker for between 3–12 months to help set-up and organise their playgroup.

At a Supported Playgroup, the Playgroup Worker's role is to empower parents and family members to develop the confidence and skills to run their playgroup independently – to create an environment where pride in family, community and cultural identity can be fostered through play and positive interactions between parents and their children.

In addition to helping families to identify and develop their own strengths and resources, the Supported Playgroup Worker will also help family members to access other services that may be able to support and assist them in caring for their children.

In this way, the Supported Playgroup Program seeks to work in partnership with and complement the activities of other organisations already working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the community.

**"We think that our community needs a Supported Playgroup. What should we do next?"**

The first step is to contact your state or territory Playgroup Association on 1800 171 882 (free call from everywhere in Australia) and ask to speak to the State Supported Playgroup Coordinator. The State Supported Playgroup Coordinator assesses potential Supported Playgroup sites and seeks approval to fund the establishment of new playgroups.

Some state and territory Playgroup Associations also have other programs and activities specifically funded to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and Australian South Sea Islander families.

Find out more about what is available and happening in your state or territory by visiting Playgroup Australia's website:

**[www.playgroupaustralia.com.au](http://www.playgroupaustralia.com.au)**

Or contact your state or territory Playgroup Association:

**1800 171 882 (free call from everywhere in Australia)**

Playgroup Australia is the national body recognised as the leading representative and advocate for playgroups

Photo: Children participating in a playgroup in Yarrabah, Queensland. Photograph kindly provided by Playgroup Queensland Inc. © Playgroup Queensland Inc.



# SORRY – THE FIRST STEP

## Special Feature on the National Apology

The national apology was certainly a significant moment for members of the Stolen Generations who gathered at Parliament House to hear, at last, the formal national apology for the practice of removing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, and its bitter legacy. It was certainly also significant for those – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous – who worked long and hard to secure justice and recognition for the Stolen Generations.

But it was not all just happening in Canberra. It was amazing to hear stories from around the country of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, particularly members of the Stolen Generations and their families, gathered in community centres and

in public squares to witness the live telecast of the apology from Parliament House – side by side with non-Indigenous Australians who were also anxious to hear these healing words. And let's not discount them as just words, as many have made a compelling case for their importance.

It is important to record and share these stories and perspectives. They allow us to learn from our past, to understand how it affects us today, and to resolve to shape the future by learning from past mistakes. But this is just a beginning.

As Auntie Zita Wallace of Central Australia says in her account of the day in this edition, in words that sum up the whole theme for our coverage of the apology, "Saying sorry is a big milestone, but it is only the first step towards healing." 🐦

### The apology in words and pictures

## A day of sadness, joy and hope

SNAICC staff member Rosie Elliott travelled to Canberra to witness the apology by the National Parliament to the Stolen Generations. She joined with thousands to watch the parliamentary apology telecast on the large screen on the lawns of Parliament House. More of Rosie's photos and her story are also available on the SNAICC website. Go to the 'Faces' photo gallery page of the new SRS section of the website:

<http://www.srs.snaicc.asn.au>

Story and photos by Rosie Elliot.

We came up from Melbourne to see the apology. We arrived at the Tent Embassy early, took some photos of those gathering, including the many young people, and joined the Smoking Ceremony, presided over by Isobel Coe (right). She remembered all those who had gathered around this Tent Embassy fire over many years.

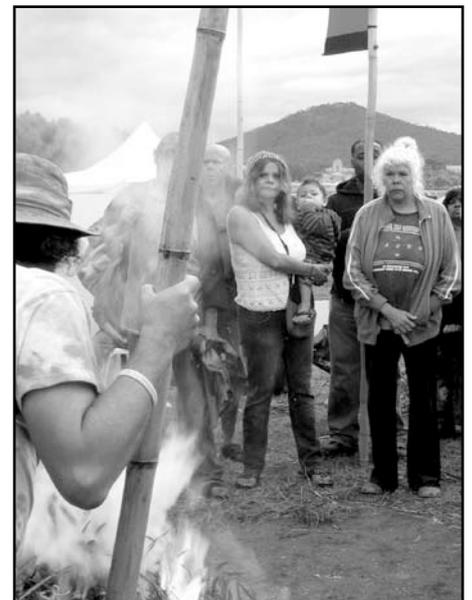
"This is a sad day for many of us," Isobel said to those gathered around. "It's got to stop now, our kids being taken away to jails



and institutions. We need our Aboriginal sovereignty recognised."

But as well as the sadness, there was joy and hope. And tears. We were proud to take the SNAICC banner (top) out on the short march from the Tent Embassy to the lawns of Parliament House to be part of the unfolding events."

Isobel Coe was a founding member of SNAICC. She remained on the SNAICC Executive for around 15 years and has long been associated with the Tent Embassy. Isobel painted the painting used in SNAICC's 1995 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day poster, which reiterated our call for a National Inquiry into the Stolen Generations with the slogan 'Never Again – Break the Chains'. ●



**Clockwise from left:** the raw emotion of the day brought many people together; the SNAICC banner on the march to Parliament House; long time Stolen Generations campaigner Isobel Coe overseeing the Tent Embassy fire



**SORRY – THE FIRST STEP**  
**Special Feature**  
**on the National Apology**

I believe that the National Apology was long overdue. On February 13 2008 the Australian Government made a fundamental acknowledgement of past practices. I know from experience the impact these practices had on all community members.

The apology provoked mixed feelings. There has been grief and sadness, but also happiness and optimism. From this point there will be a sense of being able to move forward. Saying sorry is a progressive step that was absolutely necessary and it is something to feel hopeful about.

– **Geraldine Atkinson**, President, Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc.



The apology means that the past wrongs do mean something to the Australian people. It is an acknowledgement that we as Aboriginal people were wronged; that the people who dispossessed us of our land, massacred many nations of our people, who removed our children and imposed impoverishment on us when placing us on missions – that they did wrong.

This wrong continues to create what Australia would call dysfunction, leading to our children being taken away, our men being imprisoned, our people dying young. It is a recognition for our old Grandmothers and mothers of their hiding their children and not feeling safe in their own homes or communities, of being too frightened to ask for help because it only had one solution “to take them away”.

To me the apology is the right thing, it is the Australian thing to do. It is only when the Australian Government apologises can we as a nation truly move forward.

– **Muriel Bamblett** is Executive Director of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency and Chairperson of SNAICC



# What the apology means to me

Members of the SNAICC National Executive share what the apology means to them

As a member of the SNAICC Executive I am proud to know that SNAICC was the first national organisation to call for the inquiry into the Stolen Generations and now in 2008 our government has given a national apology to the Stolen Generations.

The apology means a lot to so many Aboriginal people who were victims of the Stolen Generations. I know it won't help or erase the years of suffering they have been through but it will be a healing starting point for many of them and for Aboriginal people in general.

I also see it has a positive sign that the many non-Indigenous people in Australia want this apology to happen as well and that one little word is so important to all of us in Australia. From there we need to work out policies and strategies to help Indigenous Australians get a better future for all of us no matter where we live or what our situations are. This can only happen with a lot of hard work and appropriate support and resources from all areas to help us build a better future.

From the early childhood point of view, I would like to see more early childhood centres being built, more resources for our early childhood programs that cover better educational outcomes, greater availability to all areas of training for our staff, access to better health services, financial and management support and advice and lots of lots of our culture being installed in services all over Australia that will build our little ones' self esteem and they can feel even prouder of being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

I also believe we should always strive for higher achievements in all areas and with the right support and resources our children can and have already started closing the gap.

So for me the saying of the word 'sorry' does need to happen and from there we need this government to support us to work hard at building a better world for us as Aboriginal people. We don't need the word 'sorry' to make us feel proud because we are already a proud, strong race of people and over the many years of struggles we have proven how strong we can be and together we can support each other to become stronger and stronger.

– **Debbie Bond** is the Coordinator of the Aboriginal Resource & Management Support Unit, SA



I have thought deeply about “what the apology means for me”, and the only constant feeling I get is “nothing really – what does it mean?” Will there now be equality among people, will there perhaps be equitable funding for our peoples? Does this mean that situation where our children who continue to be removed at a rate four times that of white children will improve rapidly?

Will it mean a future will be provided and assured for the next generation – our children and grandchildren? After all it is not about us. Will it mean our people providing services for our people? Will it mean less government control?

Unless the future path for our next

**continued on page 12**



Former SNAICC Chairperson Brian Butler (left) with SNAICC's current Chairperson Muriel Bamblett, at Parliament House for the national apology. Muriel represented SNAICC in the parliamentary public gallery to hear Mr Rudd's apology to the Stolen Generations. Photo by Nigel D'Souza  
 © Nigel D'Souza 2008

## What the apology means to me – continued

SNAICC National Executive members share their perspectives

generations is spelt out formally and enshrined in legislation, “the apology will always mean nothing to me”.

Kevin Rudd is calling upon all the brilliant minds in the country, of which a select few will be invited, to share their ideas for the future, but take a step back and think - who determines who is a brilliant mind? The real solutions rest with ordinary people living ordinary lives, people who struggle to meet the challenges life throws at them but they never give up. So how does Mr Rudd intend to find the real people with the real solutions?

– **Donna Klein**, CEO of Central Queensland AICCA, represents the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Child Protection Partnership on the Executive



In the days leading up to the National Apology, I began to get very interested in the wording of the apology and found myself watching the news to see what it would say. I knew from talking with local members of the Stolen Generations how important ‘sorry’ was to them. I was reminded by them that sorry business in Aboriginal culture was of huge importance due to the levels of respect shown to those who have passed and that saying ‘sorry’ was not just a word but a sign of love, respect and honour, and important to our culture.

So when the opportunity arose for me to be in Canberra to attend the National Apology in person, I took that as a great honour and a great way of representing my people (Worimi) who could not attend or who are no longer with us. I spoke to my family who supported me attending to show our respect for the Stolen Generations. I also spoke to the local Lands Council, they too saw it as an opportunity for the Worimi to be represented at such a special event.

I was extremely privileged to be able to sit in the public gallery at Parliament House and to witness the Prime Minister read the apology. However, what made the day so much more important was that I was sitting beside two ladies who themselves were survivors of the impact of the Stolen Generations. To share their emotions and to witness their relief that the Government of Australia had finally acknowledged and apologised for their policies which led to so many children being removed from their families, was an overwhelming highlight for

me personally.

Throughout the reading of the apology I was driven to think about my job as the General Manager of an out-of-home care agency which deals daily with Aboriginal children removed from their birth families. I was constantly going over in my mind how important it is to make sure that any Aboriginal child who enters out-of-home care (foster care) is placed with their family. Many states and territory’s now have an Aboriginal Placement Principle, but not until that moment has it meant so much to make sure that principle is followed.

And so now I am back in my office re-developing our agency’s policies to ensure that Aboriginal children who can’t live with their birth families get to live with extended family or at the very least have contact with their birth family so that the ties to family are built strong and that never again will Aboriginal children need to search for their mob, that knowing where you belong is a part of growing up in the lives of *all* Aboriginal children. That’s what the National Apology means to me.

– **Steve Larkins**, General Manager of Hunter Aboriginal Children’s Services, represents AbSec on the Executive



I had strong emotions before the Apology – those emotions grew stronger during the Apology and I was able to allow those centrifugal emotions out after the Apology. I wept.

The Apology to me was recognition of truth. The truth that the stories our people have been telling for decades is believed. The truth that the sorrow and blame felt for decades by Aboriginal people is believed. The truth that the wrong-doings of the past are never to be allowed to happen in the future.

I was moved by the story of Nanna Fejo and the manner in which the Prime Minister referred to Nanna’s words.

I was moved by the words of the Prime Minister when he said to the Stolen Generations, “As Prime Minister, I am sorry. On behalf of the government of Australia, I am sorry. On behalf of the parliament of Australia, I am sorry. I offer you this apology without qualification.” I was moved when members of the Parliament turned to the gallery and applauded. I am thankful that I have lived to hear the Apology.

I feel that the apology is the first step in a long process of healing, a process of much sadness, another process for the Stolen Generations to re-tell their stories and an opportunity to keep the Prime Minister true to his word with regard to our children and our future generations.

The Prime Minister in his Apology said in reference to the Stolen Generations, “They are human beings, human beings who have been damaged deeply by the decisions of parliament and governments. But, as of today, the time for denial, the time for delay, has at last come to an end”.

Compensation must be sought and given without conditions.

I look to the future with smiling eyes and a ray of hope that one day Aboriginal people my people will be treated as an equal in Australian; that the constitution, legislation and laws of Australia recognise Aboriginal people as First People and show due respect.

– **Garry Matthews** is CEO of Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Family Community Care Centre



We are all embracing the moment – this historic occasion of the federal parliament in Canberra offering the national apology to the Stolen Generations on 13 February. This is a healing process for all involved, and a special moment for members of the Stolen Generations. We want to see 13 February declared an annual National Day – as a Sorry Day – to commemorate this moment across the nation for years to come.

– **Shirley Wilson**, New South Wales early childhood representative on the Executive, made this statement on behalf of all the MACS of New South Wales

### **What does the National Apology mean to you?**

**Share your story with us through the new Yarning section of SNAICC’s website.**



Go to <http://srs.snaicc.asn.au/yarning> and click on the ‘National Apology Yarn’ to share with others what the apology means to you, or to your family.

You can read these and other perspectives on the ‘National Apology Yarn’ on the Yarning feature of our website.

## Lorraine Peeters and the message in the coolamon

Following their speeches, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Opposition Leader Dr Brendan Nelson, with Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin, greeted the guests seated in the visitors' gallery, including 69-year-old Stolen Generations member Lorraine Peeters. Lorraine presented Mr Rudd with a glass coolamon.

Mr Rudd and Dr Nelson then stood together in the parliamentary chamber before handing the gift on to House Speaker Mr Harry Jenkins, who said, "I gratefully receive this gift on behalf of the House. It will represent a very important point in the history of not only this Chamber but our nation."

"We have a new covenant between our peoples"

Lorraine Peeters presenting Prime Minister Kevin Rudd with the coolamon. Photo courtesy of Ms Peeters



It contained a message to Mr Rudd, on behalf of the Stolen Generations, saying 'thank you' for saying 'sorry'.

The message also says:

"We have a new covenant between our peoples – that we can do all we can

to make sure our children are carried forward, loved and nurtured and able to live a full life."

Lorraine Peeters is one of eight children removed from her family and community when she was aged four. She is the creator of the Marumali Healing Model. "I was overwhelmed by the whole day," she said. "It put closure on everything for me. I have been through my own healing process but nobody had apologised to my own mother and father and community from Warren NSW."

The beautiful red, black and yellow glass coolamon came from the Warlayirti artists community, Balgo Hills WA. It is currently on public display in Parliament House in Canberra.

– Rosie Elliott

continued from page 3

## EDITORIAL

### Sorry is the first step

SNAICC welcomes this commitment to bipartisanship. We also welcome the support provided for the national apology from the Federal Opposition. Whilst Mr Nelson may have said more had he said less in his speech, the journey to reconciliation has many starting points and we acknowledge the beginning Mr Nelson has made.

SNAICC will also continue to pursue with the government the implementation of all the 54 recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home* report. This includes full reparations for the Stolen Generations – the apology is one part of what was recommended, financial compensation is another.

The 54 recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home* report provide a blueprint for reform that the government should follow. SNAICC is still calling for all Australian governments to implement a National Action Plan to stop child abuse and neglect that is developed, implemented and monitored via the Council of Australian Governments. We are also calling for national monitoring of how the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle is implemented in all states and territories.

In this regard, SNAICC is supporting the Federal government's development of a National Child Protection Framework and we will continue taking an active part in its development (see the report in the

'SNAICC Update' in this edition).

Nonetheless, the lack of progress in implementing the recommendations remains a concern. In fact, it is troubling that 10 years after *Bringing Them Home* recommended all governments support greater Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control of child protection, out-of-home care and family welfare and support services, the last remaining Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency in the Northern Territory will have to close its doors, rather than there being new ones opening (see page 18 for the report on this closure).

The national apology is a first step – and certainly in the right direction. So too is the government's commitment to 'close the gap' – and to report annually on how well it is succeeding in doing so. The government's approach to reducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage must create a future of hope, safety, equality of opportunity, health and well-being for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children that embraces, rather than forsakes, their cultural identity and pride. This is the promise that the apology holds for children of today.

In its resolution offering a formal apology to the Stolen Generations, the national parliament also envisaged, "A future where this Parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again." SNAICC will hold them to that. And more. ●

See [www.snaicc.asn.au](http://www.snaicc.asn.au) for our extended coverage of the National Apology, including some of the stories found here.

Coolabaroo Neighbourhood Centre MACS celebrated sorry day with a party lunch for all the children to have together. The children in our pre-primary kindy room painted an Aboriginal flag for the younger groups and brought the flag down and presented it to the younger groups to display while all the children had a party lunch.

– Anne Egan, Acting Director, Coolabaroo Neighbourhood Centre MACS, Perth, Western Australia

### What did your service do for the National Apology?

Did your service hold a celebration for kids, or a gathering for family and community? Did your staff attend a public viewing of the telecast of the apology with others in your community?

**Share your story and your photos with us in the new 'Faces' photo gallery on SNAICC's website.**

<http://srs.snaicc.asn.au/faces>

Go to the 'National Apology' gallery to view the photos from across the country.

To share your photos of how your organisation observed the apology, email your photos and a short explanation to SNAICC Publication Officer Mark Lawrence:

**email: [publications@snaicc.asn.au](mailto:publications@snaicc.asn.au)  
or call: (03) 9489 8099**



# SORRY – THE FIRST STEP

## Special Feature on the National Apology

### The apology – young people have their say

We asked some young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to share with us what the national apology means to them. Thank you to VIYAC (Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council) for sharing some of these reflection with us, and to SNAICC Project Officer Nikki Butler for compiling them for the newsletter.

## What did the apology mean to me?

**Rebecca Phillips, a young Bangerang woman, who works in Indigenous Education & Interpretation, shares her perspective.**

I was down at Federation Square the day of the National Apology. I was amazed to see all the non-Indigenous people there – that is what made the event real for me. The apology would have been meaningless without non-Indigenous Australians supporting it. I was silently impressed by the words of Rudd, I think that he had demonstrated the sensitivity and respect that the matter truly deserved.

The words were well thought out and delivered with integrity, it was something all Australians could be proud of. It was not blaming and shaming but acknowledging past governments' attempt at genocide, ruling out any debate that it happened and stating the facts so the healing could begin for the Stolen Generations.

It made me really feel like an Australian, I even felt proud for a moment before Nelson tried to justify his own misunderstanding of the issue. In my own opinion, too many outspoken people have confused present day welfare practises and neglect cases with the past race based removal of children from loving families. I wish to thank the man who pulled the plug out of the speakers so we didn't have to listen to Nelson gloss over the issue, talk about himself and blur his speech with the intentions of past policies rather than the outcomes it created.

The atmosphere at Federation Square was thick and at the moment those words were said by the PM you could feel the heavy burden of this truth become a lighter load that everyone shared. No longer was the weight being carried for those of the



Rebecca Phillips, a young Bangerang woman, felt proud to be Australian upon hearing the national apology to the Stolen Generations at Melbourne's Federation Square. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Phillips

Stolen Generations who never thought that one day an apology would come for them, acknowledging the wrongs they endured. May they now rest in peace. I hope for the people still looking for their families and identity that the actions following the Apology help the timely and emotional process of reuniting to be less challenging.

From an Indigenous youth perspective in the year 2008, the National Apology means more in symbolism than what it was intended for. My generation are the lucky ones who were not primarily affected by the past governments' assimilation policies, only the repercussions they caused in our families' wellbeing.

I believe that this day will be celebrated in future by people who believe in equality and common courtesy and are true to balanced Australian values. It gave Indigenous Australians and non-Indigenous Australians a day to celebrate together – a milestone finally reached in our shared history. ●

Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council (VIYAC) State Coordinator Jade Colgan asked VIYAC members, "As a young person who is going to 'live it', what do you think the future of reconciliation is now, after the apology?" Here are some of the VIYAC member's responses.

I believe the national apology on 13 February 2008 increased the likelihood of Australia achieving reconciliation in my lifetime. I was present at Federation Square to watch the apology and was overwhelmed by the number of non-Indigenous Australians who stood beside me to witness and support this historic event. Their support and positive response enforced the notion that reconciliation is alive and more importantly is achievable.

The national apology is testament that considerable action does not happen over night, but it is proof that such milestones are feasible. I am confident that Australia will achieve reconciliation in my lifetime.

**Ursula, 22 – Eastern Arrente**



I found the apology surprisingly sincere. Mr Rudd has set an important precedent. I dare say that now other members of our government will find it very hard to avoid the pressing issues in Indigenous advancement in many areas of our laws, policies, services etc. I hope those who have suffered from the tragedies of our past find comfort, closure, peace and hope.

In terms of reconciliation, Mick Dodson wrote, in one of my favourite pieces of writing, "Denial is the enemy of Reconciliation", so in my humble opinion this is a first step. I hope that better and stronger relationships in our organisations, services and most importantly amongst individuals are formed. This is imperative for the benefit of all Australians.

Reconciliation at the grassroots level is just as important as at the top, so let's start and continue in our communities.

**Jamie, 23 – Mount Isa**

## Young people have their say – continued



I am very appreciative of the apology made by Prime Minister Rudd and the fact that he acknowledged all colours of Aboriginality and all the successive generations. I, however, do not acknowledge the attempted apology made by [Opposition Leader] Brendan Nelson as it was against the spirit of the apology and it felt like a slap in the face after the Prime Minister's tear inspiring apology. I, as a young person, am grateful for the apology and the acknowledgement of the pain and suffering that has affected Australia as a country ever since the Stolen Generation was allowed to happen.

I will personally be living up to the apology and raise my daughter in that spirit and to have a love of Australian history both bad and good, because it has made us who we are today as a country. I am proud to say that I am an Aborigine and have ownership and claim to one of the oldest and awe-inspiring cultures in the world and belong to such a strong and beautiful country, Australia.

Reconciliation is still a long road ahead in my personal opinion. Speaking from personal experience I believe it will be difficult for Aboriginal Australia to reconcile with non-Indigenous Australia when we have trouble reconciling amongst ourselves. Hopefully with the apology the tensions will ease and we can all make the effort to better ourselves and redefine ourselves as a nation and a culture both nationwide and individually.

**Shantelle, 24 – Barkindji**



I think that the national apology was the first step toward real reconciliation. The apology has been long over due and we can all now really come together as a nation and focus on moving forward together.

**Nikayla, 19 – Gunditjmarra**

**VIYAC** is a Victoria-wide network of volunteer Indigenous young people between 12–25 years who provide a voice to government and community on issues of importance to them. VIYAC is an avenue for Indigenous young people to come together and voice their ideas, passions and interests, in a safe, structured and supportive environment.

Contact Jade Colgan, State Coordinator, on 03 9267 3788 or [viyac@viyac.org.au](mailto:viyac@viyac.org.au) or check out the website at [www.viyac.org.au](http://www.viyac.org.au)



Mrs Zita Wallace (right) with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and his wife, Ms Thérèse Rein, at Parliament House the day he made the apology on behalf of the national parliament to the Stolen Generations. Photograph courtesy of Mrs Wallace

## What the apology means to me

**Mrs Zita Wallace**, Chairperson of the Central Australian Stolen Generations and Families Aboriginal Corporation in Alice Springs, shares with us her reflections of the apology.

**W**as wonderful to be part of such a historic occasion ... it was just magic.

A month before the Prime Minister's apology I travelled with a group of Stolen Generations Alliance members and advisors to Canberra to assist in the wording of the apology. It needed to recognise the detrimental affects that past policies have had on those like me who were removed and the trans-generational impact these policies still have on the lives of our families and communities. The Prime Minister incorporated everything we asked to be included, plus more.

On the day of the apology I was one of many Stolen Generations members who were invited to Parliament as special guests of the Prime Minister. Both Mr Rudd and his wife met everyone personally, shook hands and listened to people's stories. He stood there and genuinely listened.

There was complete silence as the Prime Minister addressed Parliament. You could have heard a pin drop. There was not a dry eye in the house after the apology as the standing ovation went on and on and on. It was almost surreal to finally hear those words. Finally, recognition that what had happened to me – my removal

from my mother, my family, my land and culture – was not right. I immediately felt a weight lift off my shoulders. I now am more empowered to progress with achieving other recommendations for reparations as outlined in the 1997 *Bringing Them Home* report. Saying sorry is a big milestone, but it is only the first step towards healing.

Since the apology our corporation has been inundated with calls from Stolen Generations members. They want to be acknowledged, and like me they feel empowered to speak up, not deny what happened or hide the impact and issues we are facing as a result.

**“Finally, recognition that what had happened to me – my removal from my mother, my family, my land and culture – was not right.”**

The Central Australian Stolen Generations and Families Aboriginal Corporation is moving forward with an application to the Federal Government for reparation in the form of compensation for our members. Our corporation commends Senator Andrew Bartlett for taking the initiative to put forward a Bill for compensation to the Stolen Generations.

It is the right step in honouring the recommendations of *Bringing Them Home*, and we hope the Labor Government will follow this example and put compensation on the agenda.

# Treasure the elders, lest we forget again

On the occasion of the national parliament's apology to the Stolen Generations, **Anna Haebich** asks all of us to remember the men and women who sacrificed so much to start our nation on the long journey to this historic occasion.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this article contains the names of people now deceased.**

Our nation has a long history of remembering and forgetting the Stolen Generations. We remembered them in the 1990s when the nation was rocked by disclosures in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Paul Keating's Redfern Speech, the Going Home Conference in Darwin, the Kruger case, the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children, the *Bringing Them Home* report and the Gunner Cubillo case. Then, after a sustained period of often vicious debate, the issue suddenly disappeared from the headlines, only to be revived in 2008 by the Rudd government's Statement of Apology.

This cycle of remembering and forgetting has happened down the years. Who remembers the nation's shocked reaction fifty years ago to West Australian parliamentarian Bill Grayden's film footage of diseased and starving children at Warburton Mission and his allegations that government plans for their mass evacuation contravened the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights? What of the horrific report in 1968 by Reg Worthy, Director of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Victoria, on the "trafficking" of Aboriginal children in Melbourne and the finding that over three hundred had been "illegally adopted" into white families?

During the 1970s a new Aboriginal leadership put their stamp on the issue, but who remembers this? In 1974 the nation was divided by sensational media reports condemning or praising the actions of Bill Ryan, Director of Northern Territory Aboriginal Legal Aid, who rejected government directives and returned an

Aboriginal girl to her parents after she was kept in foster-care for eight years without just cause. A heated national debate on the fostering of Aboriginal children erupted and culminated in calls from the National Aboriginal Consultative Council for a federal inquiry.

Bill Ryan told his own tragic story of removal to the press and called for a Royal Commission into the "dangerously cruel" practice. Gordon Bryant, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the Whitlam government, announced that he would appoint an inquiry into foster placements in the Territory and that the children would be returned to their families. Shortly after he was removed from office, reportedly because of his handling of the Darwin case.

**"The decades of sacrifice had taken a heavy toll on our elders."**

What do we remember of the struggle for practical strategies and resources to restore rights to Aboriginal families? A leading force here was Molly Dyer, daughter of Margaret Tucker whose autobiography *If Everyone Cared* remains a classic account of removal. Working for the Aboriginal Legal Service in Melbourne in the 1970s, Dyer noted the link between Aboriginal child removal and imprisonment and the high rate of breakdowns of adoptions and foster placements.

She fought successfully for the development of an Aboriginal Child Placement Principle based on Aboriginal values and practices and a national network of Aboriginal Child Care Agencies to deliver professional Aboriginal foster care and link-up services. Dyer also built networks of exchange with indigenous groups overseas. Adding fuel to her campaign were international debates on the Convention of the Right of the Child adopted in the United Nations in 1978 and celebrations for the 1979 International Year of the Child.



Brian Butler, former SNAICC Chairperson, at the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra. Brian was in the public gallery of Parliament House to witness the apology by the national parliament to the Stolen Generations in February. Photo by Nigel D'Souza  
© Nigel D'Souza 2008

In 1981 Brian Butler became the public face and driving force behind the new Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care. Criss-crossing the country he lobbied relentlessly for federal control of services for Aboriginal children and families, claiming that the 1967 referendum made this a moral and legal obligation.

A new generation of leaders led the national campaigns of the 1990s, and many of them were in Parliament for the Apology. But the decades of sacrifice had taken a heavy toll on their elders. Of those mentioned here only Brian Butler was present in the House of Representatives to hear the historic Statement of Apology.

These elders are national treasures. As we join to remember the Stolen Generations we should seize the opportunity to ensure that these men and women who sacrificed so much are enshrined in our national history – lest we forget once again.

**Professor Anna Haebich**, of Griffith University, is the author of *Broken Circles The Fragmentation of Aboriginal Families 1800-2000* and *Spinning the Dream Assimilation in Australia 1950 to 1970*, both published by Fremantle Press.

First published in ABC New Online Opinion on 19 February 2008. Republished with permission. © Anna Haebich 2008



## SNAICC'S JOURNEY TO THE STOLEN GENERATIONS INQUIRY – A TIMELINE

This year marks SNAICC's 25th anniversary. This is the first of a series of pieces we will publish to commemorate our journey and work over a quarter century. This timeline also provides a good historical context to this year's national apology.

**This timeline represents some key events and initiatives in SNAICC's work to bring about, and support the implementation of, the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families. It is not intended to be a definitive representation of all developments along this journey.**

### 1989

SNAICC writes to ABC television presenter Peter Couchman following his program on the removal of children from the British Isles. In response, Couchman agrees to do a programme on the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, with SNAICC assisting in organising members of the studio audience, which screens in February 1990.

### 1990

SNAICC Chairperson Brian Butler presents a paper at the 1990 Australian Child Protection Conference, and calls for a national inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal children.

### February 1990

The SNAICC Annual General Meeting in Brisbane resolves: "That, as a result of conclusive evidence highlighted in various research, reports and recommendations in child welfare practices and policies, the Executive investigate the possibility of SNAICC calling for an enquiry into the effects that these policies have had on Aboriginal communities."

### August 1991

SNAICC's National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day theme for 1991 is 'The Stolen Generation – Demand an Enquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Islander Children'.

Through its media release for Children's Day, SNAICC becomes the first national Indigenous organisation to call for a national inquiry into the Stolen Generations.

### August 1992

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day in 1992 continues the focus on the Stolen Generations with the theme 'My family... Where are you? Enquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Islander Children'.

### August 1993

In his contribution to the special edition of the Australian Institute of Family Affairs journal, *Family Matters*, marking the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples, Brian Butler outlines the history and rationale of SNAICC's campaign against child removal policies. The publication increases the profile of SNAICC's call for the national inquiry.

### October 1994

SNAICC supports member organisation Karu AICCA and other Northern Territory Stolen Generations groups to organise 'The Going Home Conference', the first major conference of Stolen Generations people.

### April 1995

SNAICC Chairperson Brian Butler, along with a representative of SNAICC member organisation Karu AICCA, is part of a delegation of Aboriginal people from Darwin who serve a writ on the Commonwealth government in relation to the removal, as children, of six Aboriginal people from their families in what is to be the first major Stolen Generations High Court case.

SNAICC's Executive Officer Nigel D'Souza publishes an article, 'Call for a National Inquiry into the Removal of Aboriginal Children', in the ACOSS journal *Impact*.

### June 1995

The President and five commissioners of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission meet with SNAICC representatives Brian Butler, Wanda Braybrook, Sharon Slater, and Nigel D'Souza at SNAICC's Fitzroy offices to discuss issues related to the establishment of a National Inquiry into the Removal of Aboriginal Children.

### August 1995

The theme for Aboriginal and Islander Children's day in 1995 is 'Never again... Break the Chains', referring to the past and current practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child removal.

Brian Butler tells the Australian Law Reform Commission that SNAICC reiterates its 1991 call for the upcoming national inquiry into child removal to investigate whether the removal policies fell within the definition of genocide under article 2(e) of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Act 1949.

Attorney-General of Australia Michael Lavarch formally requests HREOC to inquire into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families. He had originally requested the Inquiry in May 1995, but later re-issues his call for the Inquiry with extended Terms of Reference.

### November 1995

SNAICC's Chairperson, Brian Butler, and Executive Officer, Nigel D'Souza, are appointed as SNAICC representatives to the Indigenous Advisory Council of HREOC's National Inquiry.

### December 1995

SNAICC Chairperson Brian Butler presents SNAICC's oral evidence to the Inquiry at Wybalenna, Flinders Island, Tasmania.

### May 1996

SNAICC holds a national workshop in Uluru, Northern Territory to (amongst other purposes) discuss the progress of the National Inquiry.

### August 1996

SNAICC presents its written submission to the National Inquiry.

### May 1997

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission releases *Bringing Them Home*, its report from the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families, at the Australian Reconciliation Convention in Melbourne.

### August 1997

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day focuses on the release of the Inquiry's report and calls for the full implementation of its recommendations with the theme 'Bring Them Home'.

**Originally published in SNAICC's publication 'Remember Me': Commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report, published last year. This publication is available for download and order from SNAICC's website:**

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



This edition of SNAICC News sees the return of National Roundup – a digest of news from our sector across the country

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### Wood Special Commission into child protection in NSW

After numerous concerns and allegations of mismanagement involving the State's handling of child protection matters, the New South Wales Government established a Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in the state. They appointed retired Supreme Court Judge James Wood AO QC to lead the Inquiry.

The NSW Aboriginal Child Family and Community Care State Secretariat (AbSec), the peak body for Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies (AICCAs) in the state, has actively represented the interests and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and the concerns of the AICCAs, in the Inquiry's proceedings.

AbSec has made a detailed formal submission to the Inquiry, has appeared before the special commissioner to give oral evidence, and has participated in forums alongside other community organisations and peak bodies in the areas of out-of-home care and children's welfare.

SNAICC has also made a submission to the Inquiry (see the SNAICC Update in this edition for more information). SNAICC is also liaising closely with AbSec over the proceedings of the Inquiry. AbSec is a member of the SNAICC National Executive.

The Special Commission of Inquiry's website has more information, including the full terms of reference, various submissions made to the inquiry that are available to download and transcripts from oral evidence and forums:

<http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/cpsinquiry>

To find out more about AbSec's submission to the Inquiry, and the concerns being raised by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's welfare services in New South Wales, contact:

**Bill Pritchard, Executive Officer, AbSec**

Tel: (02) 9264 0088

or Freecall: 1800 888 698 (for NSW callers)

website: <http://absec.org.au>

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

### Karu loses Link-Up funding

Karu Aboriginal Family Support Agency based in Darwin has in a tender process recently lost its only source of funding – that for the Link-Up program in the top end of the Northern Territory.

Karu was one of the earliest established Aboriginal child welfare agencies in Australia, having been established in the early 1980s. Since its formation Karu has been a member of SNAICC and has served for many years on the SNAICC National Executive. Karu played the critical role in initiating and hosting the 'Going Home Conference' in 1994, which propelled the rights of the Stolen Generations onto the national political agenda and created much of the momentum that led to the 1997 HREOC inquiry into the Stolen Generations.

### “Karu was one of the earliest established Aboriginal child welfare agencies in Australia.”

Karu also led the establishment of the Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Service, Minbani, in Darwin. Regardless of the outcomes of the Link-Up tender process, nothing can take away the proud history and work of Karu on behalf of Aboriginal families and children.

The loss of Link-Up funding for Karu (following the earlier removal by the NT government of funding for the alternative care program) leaves Karu with no ongoing funding and threatens the continued viability of the agency.

That Karu lost its Link-Up funding in a competitive tender process to another Aboriginal organisation is of concern to SNAICC – not because of which organisation was successful, but because the consequence of Karu not winning the tender may mean the closure of a significant Aboriginal organisation.

SNAICC believes that the way governments do business with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations means they often lose sight of the long-term need to build and extend the capacity of Indigenous managed services. While Karu not winning the tender may be justifiable on the merit of the tender applications (and SNAICC can make no judgement about this) the loss of an agency like Karu is neither justifiable nor desirable.

The current Director of Karu, Natalie Hunter, has actively advocated that the case files of current Link-Up clients these files must remain confidential and protected, with the handover of files managed in a way that respects the wishes of Link-Up clients. SNAICC agrees.

By Julian Pocock, SNAICC Executive Officer

## QUEENSLAND

### Building cultural competence in early childhood services

'Building Cultural Competence' was a meeting held recently for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood education and care professionals in Brisbane, 22 January 2008. The 'Building Cultural Competence' meeting was funded by the Queensland Professional Support Coordinator (Health & Community Service Workforce Council Inc.) and the Queensland Indigenous Professional Support Unit.

Tara Lee Franks, Project Officer with the Child Care Skills Formation Strategy, PSCQ, at the Health & Community Services Workforce Council Inc, facilitated the meeting. Participants attended from:

- Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services (MACS) from Palm Island, Cherbourg, and Woorabinda
- Inclusion Support Agencies (ISAs)
- Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU)
- Professional Support Coordinator (PSC)
- Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait

## National Roundup continued...

Islander Children's Services Advisory Group

Very informative and inspiring sessions were facilitated by:

- Roslyn Von Senden, on 'Within ourselves', about our journeys, connections and learnings, and about centering ourselves.
- Karen Martin, on 'Keeping your feet on the ground – If you don't stand for something ... you'll fall for anything', and 'Merging cultural, personal and professional identities' (Aboriginal ways of teaching-learning, living and working); and
- Tara Lee Franks, on 'What are people currently doing to build cultural competence or Indigenous inclusion within children's services across Queensland?' From this question, distinct themes emerged:
  - One voice
  - Identity
  - Unified vision

The themes were gathered from these practice ideas:

- Past, present and future – linking
- Unity, together, community involvement, empowerment, mentoring, relationships
- Teaching Australia's true history to children, awareness and listening, sharing knowledge, understanding and knowing, services cultural understanding



- Yarning circle (sharing stories, knowledge), communication
- Acceptance, respect, encouraging a sense of belonging and self worth, positive attitude, open minded, nurturing and identifying strengths, support
- Confidence, inspiration, motivation, advocacy
- Performance measurement tool, commitment, accountability
- Resources, "environment" resources, equipment, funds

A number of things were identified to take forward from this workshop:

- Future of OUR children
- Advocacy
- Continuing to build strong relationships and connections
- Mentoring from a professional & cultural perspective
- Documenting practice to assist inclusion.

### For more information:

#### Tara Lee Franks

Child Care Skills Formation Strategy/  
Professional Support Coordinator  
Queensland (PSCQ)  
Health & Community Services Workforce  
Council Inc  
Phone: 07 3234 0434  
or: 1800 112 585 (freecall)  
Fax: 07 3237 1497

**Contributed by:** Veronica Johns (SNAICC) and Tara Lee Franks (PSCQ); photos kindly provided by Tara Lee Franks

Participants at the 'Building Cultural Competence' workshop in Brisbane last January. Photographs kindly provided by Tara Lee Franks



## VICTORIA

### SNAICC Executive member honoured in Victorian Women's honour roll

Geraldine Atkinson, Deputy Chairperson (Early Childhood) of SNAICC, has been inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women this year in recognition of her achievements and leadership in early childhood education in her community in Victoria.

Ms Atkinson is President of Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. (VAEAI) and General Manager of Batdja Preschool in Shepperton, Victoria.

About 25 years ago, Ms Atkinson helped set up an Aboriginal child care centre, Lidje, in Mooroopna, Victoria. She told *The Age* newspaper, "We needed a child care centre that would lead into good education pathways, so students would complete year 12 and go into further study or employment."

"Back then, Aboriginal kids believed they didn't really count for much so we wanted to develop their self-worth. We believed that by learning about their culture, it would reinforce their cultural identity and if they had that, they'd complete their education and have more choices in life."

"I really believe we're developing leaders for the future," Ms Atkinson said.

The Victorian Women's Honour Roll this year recognised and honoured 30 women from all walks of life, whose achievements, leadership and contributions to their community have made a difference.

The inductees for 2008 were announced on 7 March, in time for International Women's Day on 8 March 2008.

### For more information:

#### The Victorian Honour Roll of Women

[www.women.vic.gov.au/  
CA256EAE0012F311/Womens%20Policy/  
Women+as+leadersVictorian+Honour+Roll](http://www.women.vic.gov.au/CA256EAE0012F311/Womens%20Policy/Women+as+leadersVictorian+Honour+Roll)

#### Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. (VAEAI):

[www.vaeai.org.au](http://www.vaeai.org.au)

**Sources:** VAEAI and 'A Vote of Thanks', *The Age*, 8 March 2008

### Contributions welcome

What's happening in your state/territory or organisation? Share your news, reports and issues in our next newsletter. Send contributions for our National Roundup to Mark at SNAICC.

Email: [publications@snaicc.asn.au](mailto:publications@snaicc.asn.au)

## ‘Walking and talking together for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families’

**H**i everyone, great to be out here talking with you again. I hope you are finding value in the resources and activities that are being developed through the SNAICC Resource Service.

We are very proud to have the new website for the Resource Service now available so please take the opportunity where you can to get online, check it out and put your information on the site.

SNAICC staff are becoming interactive with the site which will assist in making the site more accessible to stakeholders and building stakeholder capacity to find value in and utilise information technology. Making the time to go online is a whole new way of working. Look at what information is available on the SNAICC websites for you to read, download, talk about and learn about. Enjoy!

**“If you are one of the services that is participating in a project, we’d really love to hear from you.”**

A big ‘thank you’ to the services, SNAICC Executive members, partner organisations and individuals who provide us with feedback and input to our activities and the work in developing resource publications that we send out to our membership, subscribers and other interested groups, your shared ideas, thoughts and actions are invaluable.

The staff also do a great job to

manage and progress these activities and publications working collaboratively together within the SNAICC office to ensure outcomes are met in providing the resources and activities through the SNAICC Resource Service.

If you are one of the services that is participating in a project and would like to have a yarn with us or tell us about how you are going out there we’d really love to hear from you. One of our staff could also put your good practice stories and information up on our new website. We would also particularly like to hear from managers and leaders about the Support and Management (SaM) Online project and the Promising Practices Profiles resource and how you have used or benefited through this resource.

Below are some of the projects and activities that we are hoping will continue or be considered for the next SNAICC Resource Service 2008–2012 funding contract and workplan. This is pending confirmation of ongoing funding.

- Child Rearing Practices project
- Support and Management (SaM) Online project
- Clearinghouse
- Early Childhood Communication Online project (see the report on Phase 1 of this project in this section)
- Partners in Action Research Evaluation (PARE) project

### New resources coming soon!

Be on the look out for new resource publications coming out this year:

- Yarnin’ Up strength cards
- *Foster their Culture* resource book for non-Indigenous foster carers
- ‘You’re A Dad’ tip sheets
- *Through Young Black Eyes* workshop kit
- *Connecting Communities* – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children’s services directory
- National Aboriginal and Islander Children’s Day resources

The following resources that have been developed and distributed continue to be eagerly sought after:

- *Through Young Black Eyes Handbook 2007* (TYBE); reprinted and updated
- *Through Young Black Eyes* (TYBE) *Leaders guide*, reprinted and updated
- *Through Young Black Eyes* (TYBE) ‘How safe is your family’ leaflet; reprinted and updated
- Men and Parenting Posters – both local and national posters
- *The Dreaming* – six pack DVD set and teachers guide
- *The Dreaming: Springboard to Learning* – publication with DVD

If there is any information here you would like to know more about please contact me:

tel: (03) 9489 8099

email: [project7@snaicc.asn.au](mailto:project7@snaicc.asn.au)

**Veronica Johns**  
Program Manager  
SNAICC Resource Service

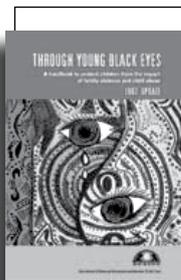
### Early Childhood Communication Online Project

**F**ollowing are some of the findings from the information technology (IT) audit that was conducted on approximately 60 children’s services across Australia:

- Basic training is a very high priority for all centres visited so far, and to a lesser extent advanced training
- Information Technology is not a high priority for many of the sites visited. Services are focussing on the work in caring for children.
- Most services visited have a reasonable level of hardware.
- All sites visited are now connected to the internet or have a better connection.
- Backup of data was not done in most of the services.
- Email and internet policies were not in place for use.

There is a clear need for:

- **Basic training** (a high priority for floor and room staff at all centres visited so far):
- In the use and operation of PC’s at a very basic level
- In the basic everyday software packages, i.e.: Word, Outlook, email, internet use



### Through Young Black Eyes: Manual – 2007 edition

The fully edited and updated 2007 edition of the Manual is now available to order

**Cost: \$25 includes gst, postage and packaging**

**Information about ordering and order forms is on SNAICC’s website:**  
[www.snaicc.asn.au/publications](http://www.snaicc.asn.au/publications)

**Advanced training** (for directors and administration staff):

- In the use and operation of PCs, peripherals and networks
- In everyday software packages, i.e.: Microsoft Word, Outlook, Excel, Publisher, Power Point, email, internet and intranet use

**Specialist training:**

- In sector specific software application for the directors and administration staff.

**Support:**

- For users in PC operation and problems
- For staff looking after PCs, printers, routers and associated equipment
- To perform repairs and upgrades, obtain impartial advice
- In administration for designing and growing their networks,
- With informed advice around IT equipment to be purchased and quotations for replacements and repairs that is affordable, cost efficient and takes into account relevant climates ie humidity, dust.

**Promotion and encouragement**

- In the use of PCs for the room staff, or "staff on the floor"
- Of the internet and www as a resource for knowledge and sharing of information
- Email and electronic sharing of information between their own and outside communities

**Education**

- On the importance of policies and guidelines for staff in PC, email and internet use
- On the importance of back ups and safe keeping of and retrieval of data
- On the importance of maintenance and looking after IT equipment

Each service participating in this project will receive information about their specific audit findings, IT recommendations for their service and the equipment and support provided at the time of the audit. The Indigenous Professional Support Units (IPSUs) will also receive a copy of these reports relevant to their state/territory.

The Project Working Group and Indigenous Professional Support Units recently met with the SRS Project Officer and Infoexchange Consultant to discuss recommendations from the preliminary report of the audit findings. Below are two of the recommendations identified for specific information and training through workshops for the Indigenous Professional Support Units which can then be channelled through to the services they work with.

1. To have IPSUs promote and encourage:

- The use of the www as a resource
- The use of email as an effect form of communication
- The deployment of and use of training DVDs
- The use of the Intranet as a means of sharing resources and tools
- The implementation of policies and procedures for back up and email / internet use

2. To develop and distribute in hardcopy and on any future intranet an IT resource guide that explains:

- Printer differences, options benefits and comparisons

- Selection of a printer and its maintenance
- Care and maintenance of PC's and peripheral devices
- Selection of a PC, screen and explanation of components
- Software requirements and selection
- Options available to not-for-profit centres in purchasing software
- The need for security and keeping of the software disks and licences
- Internet options, benefits, constraints and implementation
- Basic network operation and maintenance
- Planning and growing a network
- Differences between wireless and cable networks
- Back up procedures, implementation and data recovery
- Email and internet policies, the need for, development and implementation
- Other information as appropriate

Details about SRS projects and resource materials can be found on the recently re-launched SNAICC website, which also features the new SRS web features:

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

**Available in May 2008**

## Through Young Black Eyes Workshop Kit

**A kit to help run workshops about:**

- Family violence and its effect on children
- Child abuse and neglect
- Child sexual abuse
- Creating a child-safe community

**This kit contains:**

- Facilitators Guide
- Activity and information sheets
- Short films
- An CD version of all the above information – put the CD into your computer and adapt it to suit your needs.

**The Through Young Black Eyes Workshop Kit will help you run workshops where people can share information and stories to move forward and help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children be safe and happy.**

**Use the kit to help others make their own commitment towards creating a child-safe community!**

**Visit the SNAICC website to find out more and for information on how to order:**  
<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/publications>

**Orders and inquiries are being accepted from May 2008.**



**Have you moved or changed your address details?**

**Has your organisation changed its name?**

SNAICC receives a large number of returned mail due to incorrect postal details each time a mail-out is done. It would assist us immensely if you let us know whether your details have changed or are about to change. Please complete this change of address slip and either fax or post it back to SNAICC, attention to Angelique Davis.

**Send this form to SNAICC at:**

PO Box 1445  
Fitzroy North, VIC 3068  
fax: (03) 9489 8044  
email: [snaicc@vicnet.net.au](mailto:snaicc@vicnet.net.au)

Please tick :

Yes, we would like to stay on the SNAICC database – please update our details.

OR

Please remove us from the SNAICC database.

Organisation:	
Contact person:	
Address:	
State:	Postcode:
Phone:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Website:	

**Privacy statement:** SNAICC collects this information for our records and activities, including to mail our publications. This information is treated with strict confidentiality and is covered by our Privacy Policy. For details on how we protect your privacy, see [www.snaicc.asn.au/privacy.html](http://www.snaicc.asn.au/privacy.html)

# SNAICC Publications and Resources

## NEW – NOW AVAILABLE

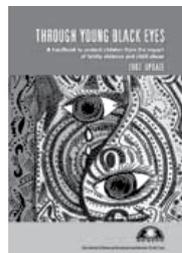
### Through Young Black Eyes: Manual – 2007 edition

A fully edited and updated 2007 edition of the Manual to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities stop child abuse and family violence.

Publisher: SNAICC

**Cost: \$25** (Handbook) incl. GST, postage and handling

**Order form available from our website**



## NOW AVAILABLE



### Through Young Black Eyes – Community Leaders' Guide

32 page DL full colour booklet

### & Keep Your Family Safe – leaflet

Full colour leaflet

Publisher: SNAICC

**Cost: free**

The fully updated and edited 2007 editions of the *Through Young Black Eyes* resources to assist communities to stop child abuse and family violence can now be ordered. Produced by the SRS.

### Promising practices in out-of-home care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers, children and young people: profiling promising programs (2007)

By Jenny Higgins and Nikki Butler

Publisher: Australian Institute of Family Studies

4 booklets, PDFs for online download or print copies for order

**Cost: free**

These booklets profile what works well for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

in out-of-home care, and promotes strategies to help organisations overcome barriers to delivering services to them.

Produced through a collaboration between the National Child Protection Clearinghouse and the SRS, commissioned by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on behalf of the Australian Council of Children and Parenting.

The series of booklets discussing the project's findings is available for download from the SNAICC website:

**Booklet 1:** Characteristics of promising Indigenous out-of-home care programs and services

**Booklet 2:** Assessing, training and recruiting Indigenous carers

**Booklet 3:** Comprehensive support for Indigenous carers and young people

**Booklet 4:** Indigenous responses to child protection issues

To download or order, go to:

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

### "Remember Me" – Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* Report (2007)

ISBN: 978-1-921174-11-7

Publisher: SNAICC

**Cost: free**

SNAICC's recent

publication to commemorate the tenth anniversary of *Bringing Them Home*. Order online from SNAICC's website.



## COMING SOON

### Foster Their Culture – Caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in Out-of-Home Care

Publisher: SNAICC

**Cost: free** to foster carers, foster care support groups, out-of-home care services and government departments

A resource to support non-Indigenous carers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Assists them keep children in care connected to their community, culture, identity and family. Available mid 2008.

**To order or download SNAICC publications, go to:**  
[www.snaicc.asn.au/publications](http://www.snaicc.asn.au/publications)