

# SNAICC NEWS



Jazmin Clark proudly displays the NAICD poster featuring her artwork. Pictured with Jazmin are sister Rechel, father Garry Clark and mother Priscilla O'Brien.

## 4 August

# National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day

**This year's National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day poster features the artwork of Jazmin Clark, a Year 5 student at Challa Gardens Primary School in the Adelaide suburb of Kilkenny, based on the theme *From Big to Small: Growing Stronger Every Day*.**

"I felt happy and excited to have my painting chosen for the poster," said Jazmin. "I was very proud, so was my mum, my dad and my brothers and sisters. My school was excited for me too."

Jazmin showed the poster at school assembly. Her family were there, all so proud. Her father said "It's the best thing that has happened for our family all year!"

Challa Gardens Aboriginal Education Teacher Robyn Amor, said: "No one can paint like a young child, their innocent way of expressing themselves is so powerful. I also love the thumb nails of all the work from other students on the back of the poster. Our teachers have been accessing the SNAICC website and showing

the paintings to their classes, so all the students who submitted paintings are also feeling extremely proud.

"They have been bringing their parents in to see their paintings on the poster too, and I am thrilled that they will receive their own copy. We will frame her poster and display it in our Inbarendi Room."

SNAICC is excited too – this was the first time that NAICD resources have been created for children, by Aboriginal children, and this approach is one way of valuing and validating their skills and knowledges. We hope you agree!

The photo above of Jazmin and her family was taken in front of her class entry in the whole-of-school art show. The leaves on the Class Tree represent the profile of each child and their family story. The school art show was inspired by the SNAICC NAICD competition and was based on the Reconciliation Week 2011 theme, *Let's Talk Recognition*.





## Josie Guy appointed CEO of new NT peak body for children, youth and families.

*"It is a great honour to be able to work for our people in such a senior role..."*

— Josie Guy

**On 18 October 2010, the NT Chief Minister Paul Henderson released the report by the Board of Inquiry into the NT's Child Protection System and announced major reforms in child protection. As part of the reforms, the Chief Minister announced the creation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child, Youth and Families Peak Body in the NT.**

After considerable community consultation and dialogue, Josie Guy was appointed as CEO for the new peak body in June 2011. The appointment has been welcomed by a number of agencies in the child welfare sector, including SNAICC, the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) and members of the Darwin Reference Group for Children, Youth and Families.

SNAICC CEO Frank Hytten hailed Josie's appointment as an important step forward for Aboriginal children and families of the NT in developing appropriately resourced community-based and controlled services.

Natalie Hunter, member of the Darwin reference group and former SNAICC National Executive member also endorsed the announcement. "It's a great appointment," she said "Josie has a strong history standing up for Aboriginal people, including in her work as an ATSIC commissioner. The reference group is strongly supportive of Josie's appointment and looks forward to working with her. Let the work begin to address our children, youth and families issues on the ground!"

AMSANT CEO John Paterson said: "Josie's proven leadership

skills, knowledge, experience and community networks together with her staunch commitment to the welfare and wellbeing of Indigenous people will enable her to be a key player in 're-visioning and re-orientating' child protection and family wellbeing policies, programs and services in the Northern Territory. Her extensive and diverse career has included senior executive roles in both government and Aboriginal controlled organisations responsible for policy, program and service delivery."

Mr Paterson said nominations for the Interim Board had been re-opened, "extending the range of people especially in the areas of youth services."

Announcing the appointment on 21 June, NT Children and Families Minister Con Vatskalis said: "The NT Government knows it needs to improve its working relationship with Indigenous communities to promote the safety and wellbeing of children, and this peak body will play a significant role in ensuring Government's children, youth and family services are culturally appropriate."

A Gurindji woman, Josie Guy (nee Crawshaw) said it was "a great honour to be able to work for our people in such a senior role."

"I think this development is well overdue in this sector – an Aboriginal community-controlled agency who can represent and advocate on behalf of our people about culturally-appropriate models of child protection and family wellbeing policies, programs and services."

## *Dawn Wallam elected as new Chairperson of SNAICC*

**Ms Dawn Wallam has been elected as the new Chairperson of SNAICC following the resignation of former chairperson, Mr Steven Larkins.**

A Wadandi/Bibbulmun Elder of the Noongar Nation, Dawn has served on the SNAICC National Executive since 1998. Dawn is CEO of Yorganop Association Inc. in Perth, WA, a position she has held for the past 12 years.

As CEO of Yorganop she has managed the operation of the Child Placement Service, the RTO and the Indigenous Professional Services Unit.

Dawn was a founding signatory in

2005 of the Sub Group on Indigenous Children to the United Nations Working Group on the Rights of the Child.

Following Dawn's election as Chairperson in May, the SNAICC National Executive issued a statement which re-affirmed the peak body's commitment to advocating for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

The National Executive said SNAICC remains focused on the many important tasks ahead, in line with its strategic plan. It will continue to work proactively with member organisations across Australia



to enhance capacity across the sector, improve governance, undertake research and develop policies.

SNAICC will also continue to produce important resources and materials, as well as develop new resources and materials on issues such as child abuse.

# How National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day supports the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

SNAICC has celebrated NAICD on August 4 every year since 1988. NAICD reinforces cultural pride and encourages partnerships between children, families, communities and services. It will also assist the early childhood sector in fulfilling the outcomes stated in the Early Years Learning Framework: **Belonging, Being and Becoming**.

The EYLF encourages a commitment to improving outcomes for all our children and calls on educators and workers to understand and respect cultural security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, our families and our communities.

Taking time out to celebrate NAICD in your community or service can assist our children to feel culturally included, respected and valued. It is an opportunity for families, the wider community and services to come together to show that our children are valued, and our culture is invaluable.

The EYLF encourages services to engage with families and community, and to work in partnership "to engage children in learning" (page 9). NAICD is an opportunity to build these relationships with those most involved in the lives of our children.

## Diversity, culture, identity and respect

One of the five key principles of the EYLF is a respect for diversity. The EYLF advocates for an education that "respects [children's] family, culture, identity and language" (p.5), and acknowledges that family, community, culture and place are fundamental connections in the lives of children.

Those supporting children are encouraged to take a break from their normal routine and organise NAICD activities involving children, their families, and the community to celebrate our culture and reinforce our children's connection to culture – providing children with a sense of connectedness and promoting cultural wellbeing.

It is a day of celebration for all children, and will also assist non-Indigenous children to "respect multiple ways of knowing, seeing and living ... and understand and honour differences". (p.16).

## Meaning-making and children as active participants

As children grow they come to make meaning of the world around them. Importantly, the EYLF notes "what is included or excluded (in children's

learning experiences)... affects how children learn, develop and understand the world" (p.9). NAICD is an opportunity to ensure that recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and their cultural experiences, is acknowledged through a celebration of culture.

The NAICD show-bags provides balloons, stickers, certificates and ideas for activities for the day – all of which will encourage children to actively participate in the celebrations. The EYLF highlights the importance of children being active participants in 'all matters affecting their lives' (p. 5) and emphasises the importance of children learning through connecting with people and place.

On NAICD, children, families, communities and services come together to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children – what better opportunity for children to make connections between such vitally important aspects of their lives?

These are just some of the ways in which National Aboriginal and Islander Children Day can support services to deliver activities that fit with, and enhance, the outcomes stated the Early Learning Years Framework. [AA]

Contact: moira@snaicc.asn.au

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We hope you have received and enjoyed the resources SNAICC sends out to those on our data base. To find out what's happening in our sector, subscribe to our free e-bulletin

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Full members receive all SNAICC publications, may nominate and vote for the SNAICC National Executive. Affiliate and Associate members may not vote or nominate for the National Executive.

SNAICC also welcomes all organisations or individuals as **subscribers**.

Subscribers receive SNAICC News, National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day material and relevant SNAICC publications. We

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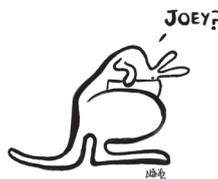
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### Love the kangaroos!

Thanks to SNAICC's graphic designer Nina Kelabora for her great kangaroo line drawing on page 6. Nina has produced a range of line drawings on the theme. Contact nina@snaicc.asn.au if you wish to use them.





## WINANGAY– ways of working with Aboriginal families & kinship carers

**In March, Paula Hayden from Winangay Resources attended the SNAICC National Executive meeting to present their new Aboriginal Kinship Care Assessment Tool for existing Aboriginal kinship carers. The tool is a culturally-appropriate resource, enabling review, support and planning through visually engaging dialogue between services and kinship carers. Winangay write:**

Our assessment tool is culturally appropriate, strength based and rests on a strong research foundation. It has been developed to assess and support existing kinship carers, through a series of interviews by identifying carer strengths, concerns and unmet needs.

The tool was developed by a team headed by Sue Blacklock with Paula Hayden and Gillian Bonser; and support from Flic Ryan and Karen Menzies. Sue Blacklock is a Nucoorilma woman of the Kamilaroi/ Gamilaraay nation from Tingha in NSW. She is known for her community work and the establishment of the Myall Creek Massacre Memorial. Paula Hayden has been an out-of-home care consultant for many years. Community services consultant Gill Bonser has facilitated the development of diverse resources. OOHC consultant Felicity (Flic) Ryan is a Wadi Wadi/ Wamba Wamba woman. Karen Menzies is a Wonnarua woman and lecturer with the

Wollotuka Institute (Uni. of Newcastle.)

The project team collaborated with an Aboriginal industry reference group of OOHC workers, ABSec, and the NSW Children's Guardian and received support of key academics, including Marilyn McHugh (UNSW) and Marianne Berry from the Australian Centre for Child Protection.

A partnership has emerged resulting in the formation of a new Aboriginal-controlled not-for-profit association (Winangay Resources) to develop resources supporting agencies working with Aboriginal children in care. The project team worked without funding, relying on pro-bono support and has recently received some FaHCSIA funding.

A tool for new kinship carers is under development. Many Aboriginal kinship carers have complex needs and lack support services. Existing assessment tools did not meet their needs. Many were for foster carers, not kinship carers, and others are not culturally appropriate.

The approach is culturally appropriate and empowering for Aboriginal kinship carers and communities. The resources include plain English questions for conversational interviews with existing kinship carers. After the relationship is established pictorial cards are used to rate strengths and concerns and develop a joint action plan to support the family and improve outcomes for children.

"They are easy to use and engaging and the ratings can be repeated at key milestones to document changes in the family," says Gillian Bonser.

The cards are visually appealing, and look at environment and basic needs; the kinship carer; kids and their wellbeing; carer's actions; and how they work with others.

The first pilot group was held in Sydney 31 May – 1 June, providing a resource overview and ask questions. Participants came from WA, Queensland and NSW. As one of the women noted, the room was full of power and some really awesome people. People went away fired up to bring change for Aboriginal families and kids.

"So now there are even more of us committed to walk together in strength and passion to make a difference" said Sue Blacklock. "These workers have taken the resources back to their communities to trial them with local kinship families. We look forward to hearing the stories and feedback about how it all goes, so we can refine them and make them even better."

A second pilot has been scheduled for early August. We hope to be offer this training soon.

Contact: [admin@winangay.com](mailto:admin@winangay.com)

**L–R: Row 4:** Dawn Wallam Yorganop WA; Veronica Bond Ganyjuu Family Support Services Qld; Karen Williams Nunjan Jarjin NSW; Leanne Zimbler & Nancy Pham Benevolent Society, Cheryl Nanini WA DCP Halls Creek; Brenda Bousted Indigenous Family & Child Support, Qld; Renee Edwards WA DCP Armadale; Judith Wilkinson WA Dept Child Protection (DCP) **Row 3:** Kathleen Pinkerton Yorganop WA; Viv Freeman & Breege Armstrong Barnados Australia, Katy Raftery WA DCP Aboriginal Engagement Unit, Annie Ross Indigenous Family & Child Support Qld; **Row 2:** Gillian Bonser & Aunty Sue Blacklock Winangay Resources **Row 1:** Kay Williams Nunjan Jarjin NSW, Paula Hayden Winangay Resources **Below:** Aboriginal Reference Group members Noni Greenwood, John Herington, Kay Williams, Flic Ryan and Joan Quinlin,



# Increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access and engagement with child and family services

Summary of a paper presented by SNAICC to FaHCSIA in May 2011:

**Many of our children and families are supported by the family welfare sector, a sector that is likely to grow over the coming years. As is widely reported, there is a significant over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care as has been recognised by Outcome 5 of the National Child Protection Framework. Despite this, statistics continue to indicate that there are low national levels of access to family support services.**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement with universal child and family services is particularly low, and SNAICC's most recent policy paper (*Increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Access and Engagement with Child and Family Services*, Policy Paper 3, 2011) considers current engagement levels with such services and how universal services can support and improve service delivery to our children and families.

## Community control of services

Two key aspects of engagement include a holistic responsiveness to a community's needs and cultural engagement. While SNAICC encourages universal service provision in a manner reflective of our children, families and communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services are better able to provide these aspects of service delivery. An appropriately resourced community-based and controlled model, such as the ideal AICCA, can overcome barriers to access and engagement with services. (See online paper SNAICC's Ideal AICCA Service Model - Policy Paper 2008.)

It is SNAICC's view that Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community controlled services are the most effective means for engaging and supporting our children, families and communities. This paper provides two case studies of best practice in the community-controlled child and family service sector. These were AbCare in NSW and Yorganop in WA.

Abcare is the primary child and family service provider for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the local government areas of Bellingen Shire Council, Coffs Harbour City Council and Grafton City Council. Abcare

identified three key factors that encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access to services. These were 'confidentiality, cultural respect and professional respect' (SNAICC 2011a).

Established in 1991, Yorganop is based in West Perth and provides direct service delivery across Western Australia. With note to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community engagement, Yorganop regards that maintaining connection with the children and families with whom they work is most important.

## Accessing non-Aboriginal services

SNAICC recognises that for various factors our children and families will access non-Aboriginal services. Therefore all services must be able to provide culturally competent, quality support. There is a strong need to develop Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural competency in all services, and a need for all services to adopt and work within an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural competency framework (see our *Working and Walking Together* resource for information on cultural competency).

Along with developing and enacting cultural competency within services, partnerships are of vital importance in building capacity and encouraging positive engagement and support.

SNAICC welcomes the Australian

Government's commitment to partnerships that support an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander design, development and delivery of services for our people. The current federal policy context provides recognition of the importance of partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisations.

## Partnerships the key

SNAICC thinks that partnerships offer the prospect of positive engagements and assist in building the capacity of all parties to deliver services to our children, families and communities. In addition, SNAICC views the design, development and delivery in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services as the key to successful outcomes for our children and families.

It is clear there is a need for further research both into how both universal and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander services can best engage and support our children and families, and how services can reflect the needs of our children and families through a cultural competency framework.

The above brief is an adaptation of papers developed by the SNAICC National Executive and our policy team – particular thanks to Emily Cheesman, Julie Higgins



# Us Young Women Matter

*We carry the knowledge of our families, our culture and the future of our people*

Early this year SNAICC supported workshops across six states and territories around the theme, *Us Young Women Matter*. These local workshops involved over 70 young women developing local resources; a national workshop followed in Melbourne in May.

The national workshop was held at the wonderful Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation Cultural Heritage Council at the Abbotsford Abbey, where the Yarra River and Merri Creek were in full flow.

Fifteen young women, their chaperones plus SNAICC and Wurundjeri Elders and staff together developed a rich load resources for national distribution about why us young women matter – paintings, words, photos, film, dance and song. The event just flew along. The only hiccup was the Thursday night dinner (“too many vegetables”, they said.)

All the participants will be sent a report on their beautiful work, along with some stunning photos of all of them Getting Gorgeous. The final national resources will be produced over the coming months and include a national poster, a DVD with a film of the event; presentations on foetal alcohol syndrome by NSW Schools As Communities, and on STIs by VACCA; and a song about just why us young women matter. These resources will be sent to SNAICC members and subscribers across the nation. Look out – Us Young Women Matter! This call will grow...

SNAICC thanks all the services, young women, service workers and parents for their energy and commitment, and looks forward to continuing this work.

Special thanks to the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation Cultural Heritage Council, to the Wurundjeri Elders and workers Stacey Piper, Doreen Garvey-Wandin, Winnie Bridges and Ringo Terrick, and to Nicky Ashby and Deline Brisco from Songlines.

SNAICC partners for the project are: Cape York/Gulf Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Advisory Association (RAATSICC) QLD; Aboriginal Family Support Services Inc. SA; Schools as Community Centres, Kempsey NSW; South West Aboriginal Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation WA; NAPCAN NT and Danila Dilba

Photo (left to right, from top)

Chasely Walker (FNQ)  
Chantelle Hopkins (NT)  
Larissa Walker (FNQ)  
Christine Mears (WA)  
Shari Roberts (NSW)  
Jayde Hopkins (NT)  
Sharnee Thorne (WA)  
Dakota Rose (NSW)  
Darien Williams (FNQ)  
Carina Denman (FNQ)  
Caroline Warradoo (FNQ)  
Nadia Fedderson (SA)  
Madeleine Donovan (NSW)  
Sammi Fatnowna (NSW)  
Suzanne Parson (NSW)  
Lyn Neinz (SA)  
Joyce Dimer (WA)



Health Services NT; Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association VIC.

Funding assistance was provided by Alcohol Education Rehabilitation Foundation, Oxfam Australia and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Some key messages were:

- We are awesome.
- We're prime.
- We are the future.
- We're strong black women.
- Us young women care about keeping culture strong to keep the generations going.
- Keep safe so we can pass on our knowledge to future generations, so our culture, beliefs and knowledge never get lost through time.
- Make good choices for our mob.
- If you are pregnant, don't drink grog. If you drink, don't get pregnant. Keep clean.
- We carry the knowledge of our families, our culture and future Aboriginal survival, we are the future of our people.

We are the future –  
stay strong  
Us young women  
Yes we matter  
Make good choices  
For our culture  
For our mob

- Given the opportunity to know whether you matter or not gives you a positive thing to think about – how you might matter, to whom, how and when.
- Thinking about how you matter is important in your development as a young woman in whatever role — mother, sister, friend, auntie, daughter, cuz, niece, grandmother and community member.

Contact: melissa@snaicc.asn.au

# New resources for Aboriginal carers in New South Wales

More than 3,500 Aboriginal carers around NSW will benefit from a brand new set of resources, including a unique DVD, which were launched during NAIDOC Week celebrations in St Marys in Sydney's west on 5 July.

In consultation with Aboriginal kinship and foster carers from around the state, Aboriginal caseworkers and the Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat (AbSec), the NSW Department of Family and Community Services has developed a special set of resources called Raising Them Strong.

The resources support Aboriginal carers who have the very important job of looking after Aboriginal children who have suffered abuse or neglect and can no longer live with their immediate families.

Community Services Deputy Chief Executive Helen Freeland said the new resources are an important and very practical tool for supporting Aboriginal foster and kinship carers.

Sadly in NSW, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children are over represented in the care system," she said.

"As of December last year, there were 5,947 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care – that's one third of the total number of children and young people in care in NSW.

"With this number rising, the need for Aboriginal carers is also increasing, and ensuring they are properly supported is critical."

Raising Them Strong includes a booklet, topic cards and a DVD with information on topics important to carers



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*"With this number rising, the need for Aboriginal carers is also increasing, and ensuring they are properly supported is critical."*

– Helen Freeland, NSW Department of Family and Community Services

such as health, education, attachment, loss and grief, family contact and information about how to 'navigate the system'.

Importantly it also encourages carers to seek help and assistance when they are caring for children, as there is no need for them to struggle alone when dealing with the challenges of being a carer.

The resources feature the 'voices' of real carers and case workers and the DVD storyline and characters are based on the experience of carers in Taree, western Sydney, Bourke, Armidale, Kempsey and other locations where groups of carers shared their stories and highlighted the help and support they most needed.

The drama features a story about a teenage girl, her Nanna and their struggles, two runaway boys settling in with their carers, and some wise advice from 'Carmel' – the experienced carer.

The book covers practical parenting style information and specific information about caring for children

who have suffered abuse and neglect. It features vibrant images and Aboriginal illustrations.

The DVD which uses drama to tell the stories of carers was produced by Real Play Media – a production company headed by respected actor and director Grant Dodwell.

The DVD features talented Indigenous actors such as Kylie Coolwell, Ivan Clarke and Elly Chatfield and some up and coming younger actors as well.

Its format overcomes barriers around access, literacy and geography as carers can watch the DVD in their own home regardless of where they live.

Ms Freeland said the resources are in line with Community Services commitment to improve support and training for Aboriginal carers.

"They also reflect our overall philosophy to keep Aboriginal families together whenever possible and maintain the identity of Aboriginal children and young people in out of home care."

# Making a big difference in Cherbourg

*Coordinator Robyn Simpson talks about life at the Gundoo Day Care Centre*

**Robyn Simpson is the supervisor for the Outside School Hours Care program, Gundoo Day Care Centre (MACS) in Cherbourg, QLD. She said:**

I am a 29-year-old woman and a descendant of the Wakka Wakka tribe of Cherbourg. I am the second youngest coming from a family of six (one sister, four brothers along with my parents.) I have lived in Cherbourg all my life.

My family all live in the same house, being kept close together by my parents, especially our dad, because his mother was forcibly taken away against her own will and placed on Palm Island to work.

One of the most important things dad taught us, was living the cultural lifestyle and having beliefs and values that we keep though our adult lives and will pass down to our children, nieces and nephews.

I attended Cherbourg State School and then went to Murgon High, leaving school at Year 10 and starting work at Gundoo Day Care Centre. I continued on to complete all my certificates and then the Advanced Diploma in Childcare through the Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE.

Currently I am the Out of School Hours Care coordinator at Gundoo and manage seven staff, which I enjoy very much. The program has been running for about five years every day between 2.30pm–5.30pm, with up to 100 kids between the ages of prep and 16.

Each day we have inside and outside activities. My role can be challenging at times, but it has its rewards. There is a lot of preparing before the afternoon program starts, but I enjoy working with the children. I also spend time assisting the long-day care program within the centre.

During the holidays we can have even more than 100 kids due to other children coming to Cherbourg for holidays from other places. As part of the program we take the kids on trips– to the theme parks, ten pin bowling, swimming and movies.

We encourage each child to interact with each other in the group. We also have rules that we set down before we start each program and trip, which includes no swearing, no fighting, no stealing, and we teach the children to respect each other, including disciplining them. We also encourage some of the youth to come along and help with their younger brothers and sisters. With all the trips we

**Cherbourg is 250 km north-west of Brisbane, and 6 km from our nearest township, Murgon. Cherbourg has approximately 2500 people, and is nestled among the gum trees and other native forests. The community was established back in 1904 as Barambah Aboriginal Reserve, but is now under local government known as the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council.**

**The main clan is Wakka Wakka, with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clans and peoples making Cherbourg their home, all being forcibly removed and taken from their biological parents from their homelands across the states, or inter-state, and placed in Cherbourg, making some of our Elders members of the Stolen Generations.**

supply morning and afternoon teas and lunches. Before each trip I call the staff members together for a briefing and then have a debriefing afterwards to discuss any problem or concerns they have with any of the children.

We also encourage and teach every child to respect our staff and talk to me or other staff things they may be experiencing.

We find there is a lot of boredom within our community, but since the start of the program it has kept the children occupied. It also builds their self-esteem

and confidence, by participating in activities such as volley ball, football, soccer, cricket, basketball, skipping and hockey. The added bonus is that it will improve children's physical and social wellbeing.

Throughout the year here we have events such as NAIDOC, where we open our doors to the community and have different activities for the children.

The local Elders are our special guests, and bring their life experience to share with community and surrounding districts schools and other centres. During these events we also have cultural events such as corroboree, painting, making artefacts such as boomerangs and enjoying traditional foods.

Our staff are all community people. The kids know us all, we live the same life. We are good teachers because we have that connection. I think our child care centre makes a big difference, giving the kids hugs and cuddles and making them feel they belong somewhere.

We try to make parents feel part of this place too, let them know this is their place too, it's here for them. Hopefully in the future our program can get our own building, it's one of our goals.

I have had a lot of support in my career from my parents, siblings, CEO (Ray Burrows) and work colleagues. I have grown both personally and professionally and encourage other young people to take on child care as a career.

Contact: [gundoodaycare@bigpond.com](mailto:gundoodaycare@bigpond.com)

# Child Rearing Stories project makes its mark

**This phase of the Child Rearing Stories project is coming to an end, with the recent resignation of the Project Officer, Jane Harrison.**

Over the almost three years of the project, a number of activities have been undertaken, including eight Children's Self Publishing workshops in Melbourne (with participants from Tasmania, Victoria, NSW and Queensland); South Australia, Perth, Alice Springs (x3), Darwin and Ballina.

We have trained hundreds of people in this exciting methodology, and hopefully, that has spurred on many early childhood workers to help children to create their own stories, rich in their own culture and full of their self-expression.

The CSP workshop also shared another methodology, that of the *Tree of Culture*, with participants. The *Tree of Culture* is a narrative technique, adapted from the *Tree of Life* (Dulwich Centre, 2006), and is designed to create a visual document, in this case documenting the participant's history, strengths, and cultural gifts. Find out how you can use the *Tree of Culture* with your community/staff on the SNAICC website.

Other Child Rearing Stories activities include a series of interviews, a themed event at Koori Toastmasters in Redfern, conference presentations and articles, a children's art and stories competition at the SNAICC conference and the development of a series of resources. These include a series of self published books: *I am strong in my culture*; *In my family I am proud to be Nunga*; *Culture Keeps Us Strong* (created by Aboriginal children from the Marree school); and SNAICC's *Guide to Running an Aboriginal Children's Self Publishing Workshop* How to Kit.

A new book and digital story, *Seven Deadly Sistas* — created out of the Ballina workshop with a group of young Aboriginal women, and highlighting their strengths, and hopes and dreams — will be published later this year.

The Project Officer, Jane Harrison, has benefitted from the hard work of a number of students and volunteers on placement. Students Joel Hawting and Allara Ashton undertook research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child rearing practices, and developed a document, *Growing Up Our Way Practices Matrix*. With information

## A few words about Jane Harrison...

When I arrived at SNAICC as a student in April 2010, I was incredibly fortunate to find myself assisting with the Child Rearing Stories project under Jane's supervision.

I say fortunate because, at the time, I couldn't have imagined having such a wonderful person guide and teach me throughout my student placement, and beyond. Jane has shared her invaluable wisdom, experience and knowledge with all of us at SNAICC. She will be remembered as a kind, compassionate and remarkable person who has provided unlimited support and assistance. Jane will be dearly missed at SNAICC.

— Allara Ashton

on Aboriginal child rearing practices and values provided in an easy access format, this document contains quotes, listed in thematic order, from the key literature supplemented by our original research.

Soon to be made available online, the matrix will be of interest to those who are seeking rich data about Aboriginal child rearing practices. It is also intended to be a 'living document' that is added to, as practices come to our attention.

The next stage, arising from the Matrix, was the development (with student Anthony Bedyka and project officer Nina Kelabora) of a set of child rearing practices tip sheets for those working with, and supporting, our children. Titled *Growing Up Our Way* tip sheets, these resources will highlight some of the positive ways in which our families and communities raise strong, proud and resilient children.

The resource contains diverse examples of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child rearing practices from a variety of different communities and also feature some art and words by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children on how they view growing up strong in their culture.

Along with the above resources, the CRS team is finalising a literature review on child rearing. It provides a summary of the literature research that has been conducted and will serve as a secondary resource to *Growing Up Our Way* tip sheets and the *Growing Up Our Way Practices Matrix*.

## And a message from Jane

I am leaving SNAICC in July after working here for three years, first as Child Rearing Stories project Officer and over the last nine months as acting Manager, Resource and Training.

The latter role has entailed managing a range of SRS staff and projects, reporting, developing relationships with partners and potential partners and tweaking some of the ways the staff work with one another at SNAICC.

I am proud to have recruited some fabulous new staff over the past 9 months and have built up a training 'dream team', consisting of Rebekah (Bek) Francis as the SNAICC training co-ordinator, and using a team of deadly Aboriginal consultants who help us to facilitate (with partner FRSA) our cultural awareness training based on Working and Walking Together.

Our other training consultants are Jaki French and Alison W, who specialise in Autism awareness. Training delivery is a growing area of the SRS, so please contact Bek to discuss your needs.

There are many awesome projects at SNAICC that I have been involved in, but in particular I am proud to have instigated a new direction for the 2011 Children's Day campaign which, for the first time, features artwork by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children for their peers.

I have both valued the opportunity to contribute back to my community, and to help mould some of the projects, resources and training we deliver. I will miss and wish to thank my dedicated colleagues, including the many students who have worked with me, I will also miss the opportunity to interact with all of the 'friends of SNAICC' and to learn from you and the great work you are doing 'on the ground'.

Warmest regards, Jane

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our child and family services  
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# Celebrate with us on 4 August 2011



Growing stronger  
every day

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day 4 August 2011

Let's play, feast, yarn, laugh and sing; in celebration of culture. Our children thrive in families and communities where they are safe, are loved and have hope for the future.

ARTWORK BY  
Jazmin Clark, grade five  
Challa Gardens Primary School, S.A.  
"From small to big my mum holds  
my hand to help me along. My  
dad makes me feel safe."



Secretariat of National  
Aboriginal and Islander  
Child Care  
www.snaicc.asn.au

## ***From small to big: growing stronger every day.***

*"The theme is about our children starting life with every opportunity to be the best they can be.*

*"If our children are going to grow up to be stronger every day, then the first steps need to be the steps that make them strong, that lay the foundations for the future.*

*"It's about ensuring that our children have the best start, in terms of good health and housing and access to appropriate cultural education before they get to school.*

*"Our children need to be able to go home to safe and secure places. And they need to be connected to their families and their culture. That will shape their future in the long term."*

Sharron Williams  
SNAICC Deputy Chairperson  
(Child Welfare)

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