

VIBRANT SECTOR, CAPABLE WORKERS, STRONGER KIDS

SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE FUTURE

ABSEC SECTOR CONFERENCE

OPAL COVE RESORT
THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2015

REGISTRATION



ABOUT ABSEC

The Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat (NSW) (AbSec) is a not for profit organisation. The organisation is recognised as the peak NSW Aboriginal organisation to providing child protection and out-of-home care policy advice and supporting our Aboriginal Community Controlled (ACCO) Sector to deliver for Aboriginal children, families and communities.

AbSec is also responsible for building capacity of the Aboriginal disability NGO sector so that people with disability have choice in the type of services and supports they access.

AbSec's focus is around implementing initiatives that we believed as an Aboriginal peak body, are good practice in supporting Aboriginal children, families and communities. AbSec is formed by member ACCOs delivering in the care and protection system in NSW, as well as carers (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) and partner organisations that share our values.

AbSec auspices the Aboriginal Statewide Foster Care Support Service (ASFCCS). This service provides a free telephone advice and advocacy service for the carers of Aboriginal children



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

AbSec is pleased to be hosting a Vibrant Sector, Capable Workers, Stronger Kids – Supporting Aboriginal Children and Young People to have the best possible future conference at Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour from 24-26 November 2015.

The conference will provide participants an opportunity to strengthen their skills and knowledge in supporting Aboriginal children and young people in the out-of-home care and child protection sectors.

The conference will target Aboriginal workers in the out-of-home care and child protection sectors for the first two days and the last day will include those from the sector who work to support Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities.

AbSec are excited about the opportunity to host such a conference which will benefit the supports and services provided in Aboriginal communities.

SPEAKERS

The conference will feature the following speakers

- **Ms Kirsten Gray**
- **Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter**,
Secretary, Department of Family and Community Services NSW
- **Ms Natalie Lewis**,
Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP)



WORKSHOPS

The Workers Conference will be a series of concurrent workshops, therefore to ensure conference participants are informed of the program we have included a summary of each workshop

WORKSHOPS - THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2015

THE VOICES OF ABORIGINAL KIDS IN CARE – PARTICIPATION, RESILIENCE, LEADERSHIP

Strengthening the voices of Aboriginal children and young people in care through telling their stories is essential for the out-of-home care sector to make positive change to policy and practice that will best support our kids. As a sector how do we listen and respond? Also, hear about the AbSec Ambassador Program.

Presenters: Julie Welsh, Michael Higgins, Jessie Longbottom (AbSec)

HEARING KID'S VOICES – USING 'KIDS SAY CARDS' AND CREATING A PARTICIPATION QUILT

The 'Winangay Kids Say Cards' are a trauma informed resource which reflect key principles of trauma informed practice, choice, control, respect, relationship, healing and recovery. The interactive and participatory workshop will showcase the wisdom of kids from Northern NSW and what they say workers do to promote choice, control, respect, relationship, healing and recovery. Nearly 30 kids were involved in developing a panelled quilt, talking about what was important to them and what they wanted government to hear.

The presentation will include a demonstration of how to use the resources and reflect on what they do now and can do in the future to embed children and young people's participation in their practice.

Presenters: Sue Blacklock (Ambassador for Children for the Australian Centre for Child Protection and Chair of Winangay Resources) and team.

I AM MY STORY – THE IMPORTANCE OF LIFE STORY WORK FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT OF HOME CARE

For Aboriginal children and young people in out of home care, Life Story work provides the timeline of their life and personal history, unique to them. It encapsulates their families and community connections, their achievements, photographs, genograms, letters, stories, videos, special items etc. All of which contribute to a rich tapestry of self, identity and cultural connections.

Life Story Work for our Aboriginal children and young people is the narratives we traditionally received from our elders, it is a timeline, it is achievements, it is triggers for unique memories and individual knowings.

Presenters: Dana Clarke (CEO Burrun Dalai) and Roslyn O'Brien (EO Tamworth & Armidale Children's Service)

CULTURAL SUPPORT IN PRACTICE

AbSec recognises the importance of cultural planning for Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care. This session discusses the importance of meaningful cultural plans and cultural support plans.

Participants will have an opportunity to workshop issues they have experience and work together to obtain a positive outcome for Aboriginal children and young people.

Presenter: Michelle Lester, Cultural Practice Support Officer (AbSec)

THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

Supporting and maintaining the cultural identity and cultural connections for children and young people in care is a key challenge facing the out of home care sector.

Life Without Barriers has developed a long-standing commitment to reconciliation and respectful engagement with Aboriginal people and communities. This commitment is articulated in our Reconciliation Action Plan and flows through to the overarching service delivery frameworks including our organisational values and Pillars of Practice Framework.

Consistent with this commitment, a strong leadership role is played by Aboriginal staff and Aboriginal Cultural Support Planners in-particular within Life Without Barriers to ensure cultural support and identity is at the forefront of Aboriginal children in our care case plans and lives.

The presentation will:

- Provide an overview of the re-design process we have pursued to review and enhance our work with Aboriginal children and young people.
- Demonstrate the practical tools and processes we have implemented to embed cultural support and practice as part of our operational procedure.
- Hear from one of Life Without Barriers' Aboriginal carer as he shares his experiences caring for Aboriginal children and encouraging cultural identity and strong connection to country.

Presenter: Les Ahoy (State Lead NSW/ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Initiatives, Life Without Barriers)



CONNECTING BACK TO CULTURE: CULTURAL CAMPS FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT-OF-HOME-CARE

Aboriginal Culture Camps run by Burrun Dalai Aboriginal Organisation is a contemporary field based learning camp influenced by traditional cultural practices. All Supervisors and Guest presenters are Aboriginal; and teaching is culturally sensitive and localised to conform to local cultural practices and is Aboriginal site specific. Elders are invited to attend and perform the Welcome and Smoking Ceremony.

The issue of Aboriginality and Identity is one of the most critical issues facing NGO's OOH Case Workers whilst dealing with Children/Young People in care.

Influenced by the following statement from Tony English (Archaeologist) a Culture Camp was proposed to re-connect Our Kids back to Their Culture.

Presenter: *Hilton Naden Casework Manager Burrun Dalai OOH & FSS)*

ABORIGINAL FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING (AFGC)

Aboriginal Family Group Conferencing (AFGC) is a form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) currently being piloted in NSW. It offers a culturally appropriate model for Aboriginal communities to better support Aboriginal children and young people using a whole-of-family approach.

AFGC brings together the relevant people with personal or professional connections to Aboriginal children and young people at risk, to address care and protection issues.

This workshop will provide participants with practical information about the referral process, facilitating a conference and the work undertaking to engage with families/extended families to make decisions in the best interest of Aboriginal children and young people.

Facilitator: *Barry Lenihan and Michael Higgins (AbSec)*

PRACTICE STANDARDS SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL KIDS

QATSICPP plays a vital role in providing community agencies a collective voice in Queensland to Governments in relation to the safety, health and overall wellbeing of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

QATSICPP will provide an outline of some of the positive work they are doing in Queensland and the benefits of this engagement.

Presenter: *Natalie Lewis (Chief Executive Office, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak)*

WORKING IN CULTURALLY STRONG TRAUMA INFORMED WAYS

This workshop will explore some of the key research, models and principles of trauma informed care and how a cultural perspective of social emotional wellbeing can help kids and families to access services and support recovery. It will also provide a "hands on" opportunity to preview the resources and discuss trauma and trauma informed practice.

Presenters: *Sue Blacklock (Ambassador for Children for the Australian Centre for Child Protection and Chair of Winangay Resources) and team.*



CONFERENCE INFORMATION



EVENING FUNCTIONS

A Worker Conference dinner will be held on Wednesday 25th November 2015 from 6:30pm, and will include a 3-course banquet dinner and complimentary drinks in the Grand Ballroom of Opal Cove Resort

Those from the sector interested in attending the dinner are more than welcome to join.

There will also be a Cocktail Function on Thursday 26th November 2015 in the Horizons Bar and Restaurant following the close of the conference. Be sure to book and join us from 5pm.

CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATION

Participants can contact Opal Cove Resort and reference the 'AbSec Conference' to obtain a cheaper rate to book accommodation. Participants are welcome to find other accommodation options in Coffs Harbour.



ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday 25th November 2015 guests will be entertained by **Andy Saunders**. Andy with his *impressive* and an extraordinary ability to use humour to provoke thought and break down barriers and stereotypes, Andy Saunders takes satire to new heights. Andy has performed successful sell out gigs at the Adelaide fringe festival in 2015 with the Aboriginal Comedy All Stars. Don't miss his performance at our conference dinner on Wednesday; be sure to book your place.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- All conference sessions on registered days
- Morning and afternoon refreshments and lunch on registered days
- Conference Dilly Bag

PLEASE FORWARD THIS REGISTRATION FORM BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2015

Scan and email completed registration form: jessie.longbottom@absec.org.au

Express post: PO Box 604 Marrickville NSW 1475

Enquiries to: Jessie Longbottom on 02 9559 5299 or email [Jessie.longbottom@absec.org.au](mailto:jessie.longbottom@absec.org.au)

PAYMENT OF FEES

Payments by EFT:

BSB 062-006
ACCT# 104 278 41
REFERENCE Conference + delegate last name

Cheque: Please make cheques payable to AbSec (back of cheque quote – Conference + delegate name)

Tax Receipts and Invoices:

Confirmation of your registration will be emailed to you once payment is received.

If you require a tax invoice before payment please email jessie.longbottom@absec.org.au specifying all details required.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM REGISTRATION - SECTOR WORKSHOPS

*** PLEASE INDICATE PREFERENCE FOR WORKSHOPS USING NUMBERS**

Thursday 26th November 2015

SESSION 1: VOICE OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

NUMBER PREFERENCE BELOW (1-3)

- The Voices of Aboriginal Kids in Care – Participation, Resilience, Leadership
- Hearing Kid's Voices – Using 'Kids Say' Cards' and Creating a Participation Quilt
- I am My Story – The Importance of Life Story Work for Aboriginal Children & Young People in Out of Home Care.

SESSION 2: CULTURAL SUPPORT IN PRACTICE

NUMBER PREFERENCE BELOW (1-3)

- Cultural Support in Practice
- The Importance of Cultural Identity
- Connecting Back to Culture: Cultural Camps for Aboriginal Children and Young People in Out-of-Home-Care

SESSION 3: INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

NUMBER PREFERENCE BELOW (1-3)

- Aboriginal Family Group Conferencing (AFGC)
- Practice Standard Supporting Aboriginal Kids
- Working in Culturally Strong Trauma Informed Ways

PLEASE NOTE:

If **booking** at Opal Cove Resort please reference the AbSec Conference to access the conference booking rate.

ABSEC SECTOR CONFERENCE - THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2015

REGISTRATION FORM

TITLE (tick box)

Mr Ms Miss Mrs

FULL NAME

SURNAME

POSITION

ORGANISATION

ADDRESS

PHONE

MOBILE

EMAIL

EMERGENCY CONTACT

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

OTHER

CONSENT

I consent to my photograph being taken and used by AbSec Yes No

REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTRATION CATEGORY

EARLY BIRD

(Registrations received before 2 October 2015)

STANDARD

(Registrations received after 2 October 2015)

Sector Conference

\$220

\$320

Dinner - Wednesday 25th November 2015

\$180

\$180

Cocktail Function – Thursday 26 November 2015

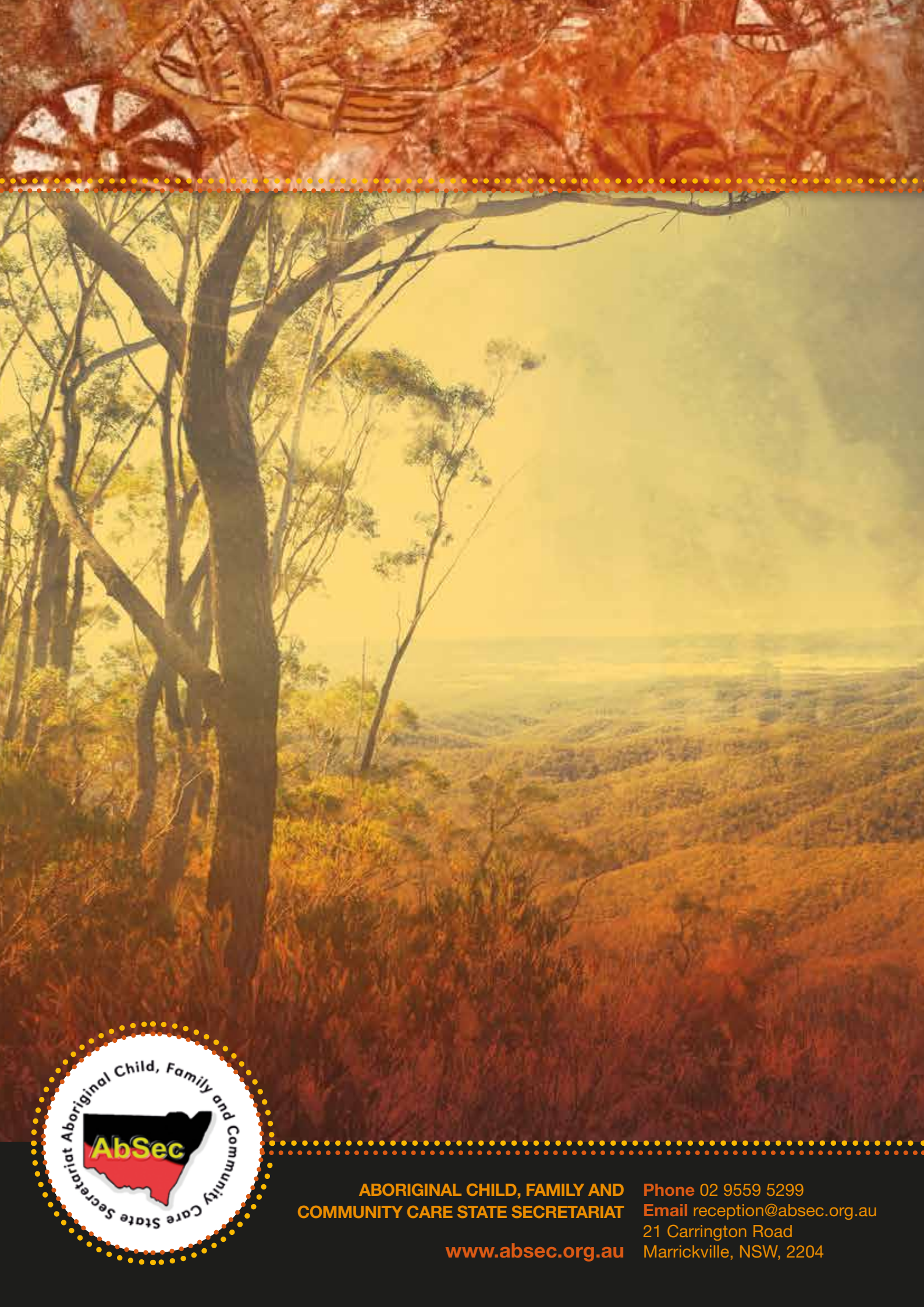
\$90

\$90

Total Amount Due:

\$





**ABORIGINAL CHILD, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY CARE STATE SECRETARIAT**

www.absec.org.au

Phone 02 9559 5299
Email reception@absec.org.au
21 Carrington Road
Marrickville, NSW, 2204