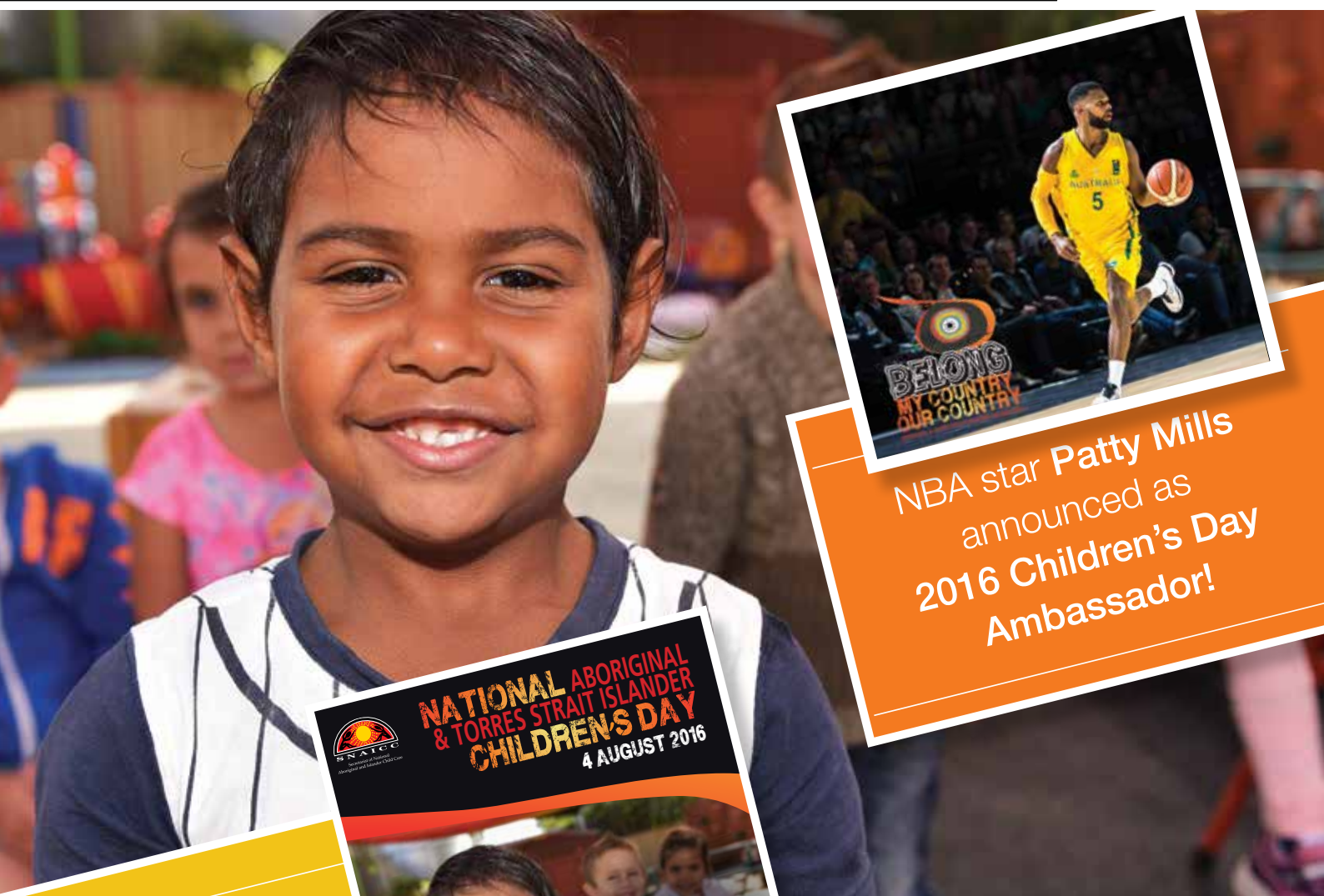


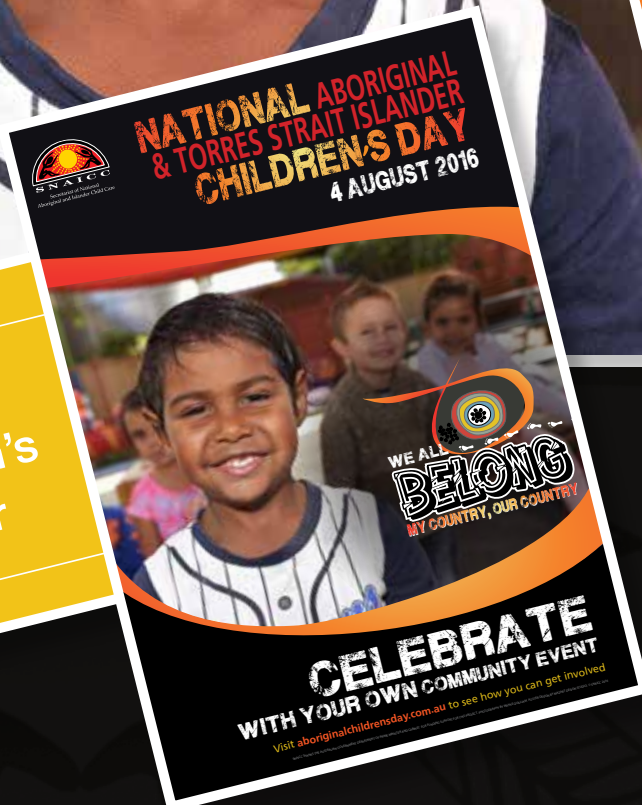


SNAICC NEWSLETTER

THE SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHILD CARE (SNAICC)



NBA star Patty Mills
announced as
2016 Children's Day
Ambassador!



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POLICY UPDATE

TRAINING

NEWS

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CONTACT DETAILS

SNAICC OFFICE

Suite 8, First Floor, 252-260 St Georges Road
North Fitzroy VIC 3068

P: 03 9489 8099

F: 03 9489 8044

E: info@snaicc.org.au

W: www.snaicc.org.au

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 1445, Fitzroy North VIC 3068

MEMBERSHIP

E: membership@snaicc.org.au

TRAINING

E: training@snaicc.org.au

DONATE

www.snaicc.org.au/support-us/

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CEO UPDATE

GERRY MOORE

It's a true privilege to be able to address you all for the first time since I joined SNAICC as CEO in March this year. Since coming on board I have been travelling across the country, trying to meet up with as many of you as possible – over the coming months I look forward to meeting more of you, our valuable members, when I am a visitor on your land.

A little about myself: my people are the Yuin mob from the southern coastal region of New South Wales, and I grew up in a place called Wreck Bay in the ACT. I've been working in the holistic Aboriginal Affairs sector for over thirty years, across health, housing, education, youth, and Land Council.

Alongside my role at SNAICC, I'm also currently a Board Member of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

Before this I've held positions as the Managing Director of Shoalhaven Community Development trading as Habitat Personnel, as well as CEO of the Aboriginal Legal Services NSW/ACT; ATSIC National Commissioner; and CEO of the South East Aboriginal Legal Service.

I come into this role with a lot of background in representing our mob, and developing policies for the benefit of our mob, at the national level, having co-chaired National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS); National Legal Assistance Forum (NLAFF); and also National Legal Policy Officers Network.

Having influence at these levels is essential in improving the conditions and living standards of our people, and making sure we provide a powerful voice for our future generations.

I have considerable experience chairing large organisations, but my journey at SNAICC is about what I can learn from all of you to take us forward, as much as it is about what I can offer as our spokesperson.

I'm building my knowledge base of SNAICC's focus areas, in early years learning and out-of-home care, and that's why it's really important that I can catch up with all of you for a yarn, so that you can tell me what's happening in your work and in your communities. From you I can gain knowledge and understanding of these complex challenges we're facing, and what needs to be done to make sure we get these issues sorted.

I'm also excited to see Children's Day coming together this year with such an inspirational theme and superstar ambassador on board.



Recently, a lot of our energy has gone into making sure that reforms to the early years sector don't exclude our families and leave our kids worse off. We'll continue to lobby government heavily in this area.

We first learnt details of the Coalition's *Jobs for Families Child Care Package Bill 2015* last year, and were immediately concerned by news the BBF program would be dismantled, and parents would have to meet an activity test, which could lead to kids spending half as much time in early years education as they do right now.

As a part of our submission to the Senate Inquiry intended to challenge this legislation, SNAICC worked with Deloitte Access Economics on an extensive research paper, which saw dozens of services across the country share their time so we could look at how these proposed changes to the system would impact our families. The telling results confirmed our initial expectations.

In April, the Senate Committee handed down its report with the dissenting reports by the three Labor and Green Senators recommending significant amendments, consistent with our recommendations. Disappointingly, however, despite the evidence, the Coalition majority in the Senate Committee inquiry recommended that the Senate pass the Bill unchanged.

If the package goes ahead as it is, it will leave a lot of children behind, and once again our kids will be highest amongst them.

A group of committed SNAICC representatives, including many of you, met with over 50 politicians and advisors in Canberra in February to talk about the package, and how these things look for us, in our centres and communities, in real life, not on paper.

As the federal election approaches we'll talk to all parties, and continue to advocate for some key changes to this package, and make it as clear as possible that no child should miss out on an education, regardless of whom we are.

See [page 24](#) for information on the Redfern Statement and [page 8](#) for SNAICC's full Election Priorities.

In February we also hosted over 100 participants, both our mob and non-Indigenous supporters, at Old Parliament House for a Family Matters strategic forum, to get together and discuss the ongoing, extraordinary rates of child removal into out-of-home care.

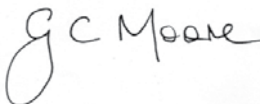
A great deal of energy has followed this forum, with members of the Family Matters Champions Group putting a lot of work into this campaign to make sure we capitalise on this momentum and ensure that we create an out-of-home care system that adequately supports our children and families. See [page 10](#) for more information on Family Matters.

I'm also excited to see Children's Day coming together this year with such an inspirational theme and superstar ambassador (to find out more turn to [page 20](#)). I know it's a big event on the calendar for a lot of our members, and I hope you're getting as excited about Children's Day in 2016 as I am.

It's fantastic to have Patty on board, as a truly inspirational role model for our deadly little ones. A proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander man, we look forward to sharing his story with kids across the country to help celebrate the special role that culture and connection plays in all our lives.

Internally, SNAICC is going through some big changes as an organisation, which will see a lot of revisions implemented in the next few months. This organisational change process is something we have to undertake, as the government shifts the way in which we need to be registered as a peak body. At the end of the day this is an opportunity to look at what we've done well in the past, what we can do better in the future, and make sure we're representing you all as best as we can.

We'll keep you updated on these changes as they come. I look forward to discussing them all when I meet up with more of you in the coming months.


Gerry Moore



POLICY

PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FAMILY-LED DECISION MAKING (ATSIFLDM) TRIALS

SNAICC has started exciting new work in 2016 with the Queensland Government Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to support the design and delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family-Led Decision Making (ATSIFLDM) trials. The trials are an important step towards ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities in Queensland can genuinely participate in decisions made for the care and protection of their own children.

The trials are designed to empower and support families to make informed choices to ensure the care and protection of their children.

At each trial site, a family-led decision making process will bring together extended family, kin and community members to make decisions about how to ensure the best care and safety of children. The process is being led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations who have strengths to effectively engage with family and community members, create cultural safety, and facilitate participation in decision-making.

The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) is also partnering with SNAICC to ensure that learnings from their work implementing Aboriginal Family-Led Decision Making in Victoria are shared to support the development of the Queensland trials.

The trials commenced in April 2016 and will take place over 12 months. They are testing the success of a Family Led Decision Making process at three different phases of child protection: early intervention; investigation and assessment; and for children subject to child protection orders.

The first trial in Ipswich is being conducted in partnership with Kummara Inc. Family Support Service, which delivers family support services to families with high needs.

The second trial in Mt Isa is partnering with the Aboriginal and Islanders Development and Recreational Women's Association and District Inc. (AIDRWA). The third trial is being conducted in two locations – Cairns and the Torres Strait Islands – in partnership with Wuchopperen Health Service and Port Kennedy Association, respectively.

In early 2016 SNAICC undertook consultations at all trial sites to inform design of the model and develop guidelines for each trial. During this time, SNAICC also provided training for the convenors, community stakeholders, and Departmental staff responsible for implementing the trials. SNAICC will be meeting with everyone at the trial sites every three months to support them to address practice challenges and develop strong collaborative working relationships between the community controlled organisations and the Department. A critical role for the trial is the convenor, who works closely with the family and everyone else to prepare them for the family-led decision making meeting.

SNAICC has started convening a monthly circle of practice for convenors to share their experience and learning with each other.

The trials will be independently evaluated and the results will be used to inform future departmental practice and contribute to addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland's child protection system. SNAICC hopes that this trial will contribute to grow practice in Queensland that improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by involving their families and communities in the process to keep them safe and well.



SNAICC'S CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE PROCESS

As a part of SNAICC's incorporation under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act (Cth) 2006 (CATSI Act), as required by the Australian Government, SNAICC is currently developing a new constitution and amending the SNAICC governance structure.

This change process has provided an ideal opportunity to review and refresh our purpose and to modify our governance structures to ensure SNAICC is best equipped to have the greatest impact for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children into the future.

A Working Group of the National Executive was delegated in September 2015 to work on the new governance structures and the change process. This was approved by the SNAICC National Executive, who has also been consulted with closely throughout this process.

Central to the development of the proposed changes has been continued strong cultural governance as well as effective corporate governance. Cultural governance is core to the new governance structures, with an all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council and Board, and appropriate forms of consultation with and accountability to SNAICC membership.

KEY CHANGES PROPOSED

1. Change of organisational name to:
SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children
(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation)
2. Expansion of membership to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisations that work for childhood development, safety or well-being. Non-Indigenous organisations can also become Associates of SNAICC.
3. Restructure of SNAICC governance to comprise:
 - (a) A 17 person – all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – SNAICC Council, elected by members, which meets twice per year to inform and drive SNAICC strategy and policy development.
 - (b) A 9 person – all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – Board of Directors, which meets quarterly, to oversee and ensure the effective governance of SNAICC.
4. Two year review: SNAICC will conduct a review of the new governance structures in two years to determine any amendments required to ensure optimal governance for an effective SNAICC.

EARLY YEARS REFORM

A major reform of the early childhood sector is underway, called the **Jobs for Families Child Care Package**. If it proceeds, this reform will significantly change how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children access early childhood education and care services – in particular, it will adversely impact our most vulnerable children.

Across Australia, our communities have come together to create special learning places for our young ones. These places are all different – just as our communities are each unique, we see a need and we work together to create a response that is right for our community. SNAICC is deeply concerned that this package will undermine this unique community-based approach to nurturing and supporting the development of our children.

SNAICC has been working hard to develop high-quality evidence, and to engage with the leading Federal Department (formerly the Department of Social Services, and now the Department of Education and Training) and Minister Simon Birmingham (and before that Minister Scott Morrison), and, more broadly, with all parliamentarians who will vote on this reform package.

In early 2016, SNAICC completed a comprehensive submission to the Senate Inquiry on the **Jobs for Families Child Care Package**, which was underpinned by research SNAICC commissioned (pro bono) by Deloitte Access Economics (DAE) based on 35 surveys with a diversity of SNAICC member services across jurisdictions covering 2,225 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children.

To launch this research, SNAICC and partners – including Early Childhood Australia, the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS), UNICEF, World Vision and the National Association of Mobile Services (NAMS) – hosted a Parliamentary Breakfast on 24 February in Canberra. In attendance were key national media, Members of Parliament and their advisers, leading NGOs, and key SNAICC members from across the country.

In its submission, SNAICC voiced deep concern that the **Jobs for Families Child Care Package** will not meet its intention to make Australia's child care system "simpler, more flexible, more accessible, more affordable and targeted to those who need it most" – nor would it progress national Closing the Gap policy priorities.

Following the breakfast 55 meetings with MPs, advisers and bureaucrats were held over two days by SNAICC and our members, gaining significant support and positive feedback.

The two major components in the Package that the DAE research has indicated will adversely impact Indigenous children experiencing vulnerability are:

1. The Budget Based Funding (BBF) Program, the specific program designed for areas where a user-pays model is not viable, will be abolished. This means all services will be required to access the mainstream subsidy instead. The BBF program supports over 19,000 children, with 80% of funded services being Indigenous focused.
2. Access to subsidised services under the mainstream system will be halved for children whose families earn less than around \$65,000 per annum (this includes an estimated 78% of Indigenous children participating in the BBF program) and who don't meet the *activity test*. Subsidised access will also be significantly reduced for families in part-time employment.

It has been found that these two major components may significantly reduce access to early years services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, increase costs of child care, and threaten the viability of regional, remote and small Indigenous services. Specifically, it may result in:

- 40% of families currently accessing BBF services (including 46% of families in the lowest income bracket) would receive less subsidised hours of child care than they do currently, with an average reduction of 13 hours per week.
- 54% of families currently accessing BBF services will be subject to higher out-of-pocket costs, with an average increase of \$4.42 per hour for those negatively impacted.
- The average change in hourly fees is most extreme for families earning less than \$65,000 per year due to the impact of the activity test. The average change in out-of-pocket costs for these families who are negatively impacted is \$5.06 per hour.
- 67% of BBF services will receive reduced government revenue, decreasing by an average 9.1%. This particularly affects our small, regional and remote services, with remote services averaging 34% reduction in funding.





Currently the competitive, short-term nature of the Community Child Care Fund, which is still under development, does not provide a basis for the support required, however, we remain hopeful that it will shift to support longer term service subsidies. The above issues help us to identify what the Child Care Safety Net within the package needs to cover and we have been encouraged to see some expansion of the parameters of the Additional Child Care Subsidy program to better respond to family needs.

To avoid anticipated unintended consequences of the package, SNAICC has proposed three major amendments:

1. A \$100 million per annum Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific program to enable ongoing three-year top-up subsidies to services where child need is demonstrated.
2. A minimum of two full days of subsidised care for all children, regardless of their parents' circumstances.
3. A guarantee that playgroups, mobiles and other services supported within the BBF program continue to be funded following the cessation of the BBF program, whether through the Child Care Safety Net or another program.

SNAICC has recommended a suite of other major recommendations to ensure adequate protection to support early childhood participation of our most vulnerable children, which cover the parameters and application of the Additional Child Care Subsidy and Community Child Care Fund.

SINCE THIS LAUNCH:

- A number of MPs wrote letters of support for the amendments to the Minister and spoke on the issue in Parliament;
- Deputy Chair Geraldine Atkinson participated in a roundtable at Parliament House with the Minister on changes needed in the Package;
- SNAICC worked with the peak body, the Australian Child Care Alliance, and others on developing a common position from the sector for the Minister to consider and cost;
- SNAICC facilitated a visit by Minister Birmingham to Kura Yerlo Children's Centre in SA to better understand the realities of the services and why the Jobs for Families Child Care Package would have unintended consequences;
- SNAICC was one of three non-governmental organisations to present at the Senate Inquiry public hearing on the Package.

While 50% of the Senate Inquiry Committee supported significant amendments to the package, including the major amendments proposed by SNAICC, the Coalition (majority) report ignored significant evidence presented by experts and leaders in the field, recommending that the Senate pass the Bill unchanged.

The Greens and Labor dissenting reports indicate, however, major concerns with the package and its failure to get the balance right in its dual objectives, workforce participation and early childhood development.

In the recent Federal Budget, the package was deferred until July 2018. While SNAICC welcomes the extra time to consider this Bill and work towards a better package, unfortunately the delay has been attributed "...to Family Tax Benefit reforms (payment reductions to families) required to fund the child care package not being passed". This is a reform which is unfair, unnecessary and which will only see struggling families worse off.

SNAICC is now also increasing focus on interim relief for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child and Family Centres, which have not received state funding following the end of the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development. This will be critical to top up their funding to ensure their survival.

As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, we see the child at the centre of family and community: when every part of that child's world is strong, that child is strong. Our services flow out of our culture, providing holistic supports to families and children – we know that this approach works for our children, since the Australian Early Development Census started, the number of our children who are developmentally vulnerable has decreased. Evidence shows that supporting access to quality early childhood education and care is the best support we can provide to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

There is an election currently underway which may see a very different Government considering the Bill later this year. Labor has confirmed its position to a 15% increase in funding of Budget Based Funding (BBF) services and the Child Care Benefit from 1 January 2017, as well as significant investment in capital expenditure for BBF services and workforce development.

SNAICC will continue to work with members and other partners on a model that will support all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and which will value and recognise our community-controlled services for their unique role in improving the life opportunities for our children.

A snapshot of SNAICC's recent election marketing campaign



ELECTION PRIORITIES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

Progressing Early Childhood outcomes

Access to quality early learning services for children experiencing vulnerability is a critical predictor of a child's successful transition to school, and lifelong education and employment outcomes. Yet, while twice as likely to experience developmental vulnerability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are half as likely to access early learning as non-Indigenous kids

- THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE!

Early childhood education and care reforms currently underway must redress this issue as a priority to ensure affordable access for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.


IN RELATION TO THE JOBS FOR FAMILIES CHILD CARE PACKAGE BILL, WE CALL FOR ALL PARTIES TO:

1. Commit to an adequately resourced federal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood education and care program to support our most vulnerable children.
2. Commit to at least two full days (20 hours) subsidised access to early childhood education and care for all children, regardless of their parents' circumstances.

MORE BROADLY, TO:

3. Make a long-term commitment to subsidise full-time access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (0-6 years) so that all families, and particularly the most vulnerable, can afford 5 days of early childhood education.
4. Provide adequate investment for the launch of the Australian model of the First 1000 Days, an Indigenous-led, holistic initiative which seeks to provide a coordinated, comprehensive intervention to address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families from (pre-) conception to two years of age.





Ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child safety, well-being and cultural identity

When the ground-breaking *Bringing Them Home* report into the Stolen Generations was released in 1997, nearly 20 years ago, mainstream Australia was shocked to learn that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children represented one in every five children living in out-of-home care.

Now, in 2016, they are one in every three, with the rate continuing to steadily grow.

This shocking reality is attributed to the widely recognised failure of our early intervention and child protection systems to embrace evidence-based holistic strategies, attuned to the needs of our families.

WE CALL FOR ALL PARTIES TO:

5. Make a commitment to reduce over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care.
6. Commit to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to develop a national strategy and target to reduce this over-representation.
7. Commit to increasing the priority of supporting families to care for children under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, consistent with the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020.
8. Commit to maintain the current Family Tax Benefit payments

THIS IS A NATIONAL CRISIS THAT NEEDS ALL OF OUR URGENT ATTENTION

Commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice and participation

Numerous reports and inquiries in Australia consistently confirm a lack of robust community governance and meaningful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation as major contributors to past failures of Government policy. International and Australian evidence also shows us that genuine participation and ownership are central for positive outcomes for Indigenous children and families. This is because the best outcomes are achieved when people have control over their own lives and are empowered to respond to and address the problems facing their own communities.

Indigenous-led services overcome the many barriers of service access and offer unique culturally-centred services that respond to the needs of their communities. If Australia is serious about achieving equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the government must invest in Indigenous leadership and governance.

WE CALL ON ALL PARTIES TO:

9. Commit to grow the capacity and service delivery role for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations as a whole-of-government policy priority.
10. Fund representative, independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice and policy development, including the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, SNAICC and other peak bodies across child and family support, health, education, women and disability sectors.





FAMILY MATTERS: KIDS SAFE IN CULTURE, NOT IN CARE

Family Matters is Australia's national campaign to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture. *Family Matters* aims to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care within a generation.

Family Matters is led by SNAICC and supported by a Strategic Alliance of over 50 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous organisations.

On 10 February SNAICC hosted a *Family Matters: kids safe in culture, not in care* strategic forum at Old Parliament House, Canberra. The forum attracted 106 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous leaders from 73 organisations across Australia.

The aims of the February forum were to engage organisations in the *Family Matters* campaign and build a groundswell for change at the local, state and territory and national levels. One of the aims of the forum was to attract sponsorship for the campaign, which SNAICC has costed at \$300,000 per annum over the next three years.

SNAICC would like to recognise the contributions of our significant *Family Matters* partners. The Healing Foundation continues to be a significant contributor to the campaign, while Save the Children has contributed financially in addition to pledging in-kind support from across the organisation. The Benevolent Society, Berry St, Anglicare, Uniting Care, Life Without Barriers and PeakCare Queensland, are all large mainstream agencies supporting the campaign. The campaign has also attracted financial support from KARI and AbSec in NSW.

As a result of this historic Canberra forum, the pre-existing *Family Matters* central steering committee has been expanded to a larger Champions Group. The Champions Group, which includes numerous highly respected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, met for the first time on 13 April. Outcomes of the meeting were:

- Agreement to develop a *Family Matters* Statement of Intent for campaign members and Members of Parliament to sign.
- Agreement to lobby federal parliamentarians in the lead up to the federal election and seek support from all parties and independents for the development of a (resourced) national plan and indicators for the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and organisations.

- Commitment to rapidly finalise the *Family Matters* Policy Framework and a *Family Matters* "report card", an evaluation tool to hold governments to account. PwC Indigenous Consulting is coordinating work on the framework and report card.
- Commitment to rapidly developing high-level messaging for the campaign, targeting a range of stakeholders.
- Commitment from mainstream organisations to focus on behavioural change and building on good practice within their own organisations.

Family Matters is also being supported by the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) and the Victorian Commission for Children and Young People and, significantly, on May 11 the Queensland government announced its intentions to develop a new action plan for vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Two of the five immediate commitments made by the Queensland government were:

- to facilitate and develop a state-wide action plan through the Queensland *Family Matters* Working Group, and
- to host an annual *Family Matters* gathering in Queensland, to bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous leaders together to drive change.

A *Family Matters* National Day of Action will also be launched in early 2017. The National Day of Action will be one component of a broader community engagement strategy.

Community empowerment and human rights lie at the core of the National Day of Action. The Day of Action will emphasise the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities to meaningfully participate in decisions affecting them, and the rights of children to be brought up safe and strong, in family and culture. It will provide a vehicle for community leaders and communities to drive local change.

The National Day of Action will become *Family Matters'* annual awareness raising event, to harness public engagement and political commitment to the key advocacy asks of the campaign.

If you'd like to learn more about *Family Matters*, please contact Fleur Smith, SNAICC Policy Officer: fleur.smith@snaicc.org.au

A NEW PLAN FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE TO LEAD CHANGE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Australian governments at federal, state and territory levels have renewed their resolve to reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children needing child protection services. A commitment to improve outcomes for our children adopted under the Third Three-Year Action Plan for the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children will be overseen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.

There was extensive debate as the plan was developed about whether to include a specific action for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, or whether to incorporate a commitment to focus on our children across the plan. Following consultations around the country, led by Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda, and National Children's Commissioner, Megan Mitchell, it was decided that the whole plan needed to focus on addressing the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

SNAICC Chairperson Sharron Williams commented that,

"It was an important decision to include a focus on our kids for every action under the plan, because the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care is appalling and not enough is being done to heal and strengthen our families and communities. However, there is also a danger that issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children will continue to be paid lip service, rather than genuinely addressed through the plan – so the plan needs to be accountable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders."

SNAICC has worked over the last eight years to support the implementation of the National Framework in collaboration with governments, approximately 200 non-government organisations and researchers who are members of the National NGO Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing. We have been concerned over that time by the lack of traction on key reforms needed to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The new focus in the Third Action Plan could deliver critical supports for our kids and their families, provided it is properly accountable, supported and resourced.

A major initiative under the plan to create that accountability is the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group "to provide expertise on the implementation of strategies and actions." The new Working Group is chaired by Gerry Moore, as CEO of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC). It brings together many of Australia's most experienced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and families sector voices, including community-controlled peak bodies, leading academics and champions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's rights.

The working group will meet regularly throughout the three-year life of the plan taking responsibility to ensure that implementation action remains focused on improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. It will review and inform the strategies of other separate working groups established to progress each priority area of the plan, and will require of those groups to report against measures of success for meeting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

As a component of the Third Action Plan, states and territories have also committed to "continuing to fully implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP)", and to the specific action:

"All parties agree to ensure the five domains of the ATSICPP (prevention, partnership, placement, participation and connection) are applied to the implementation of strategies and actions identified in the Third Action Plan."

The adoption of this broader definition of the ATSICPP reflects research that has aligned the definition of the ATSICPP with its original intent, to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children remain connected to family, community, culture, land and spirituality (Tilbury, 2013).

A major priority for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group is to provide advice and oversight to ensure that all actions in the plan are working to support and maintain cultural identity and safe connections for children. Working group member Natalie Lewis, CEO of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP), commented that,

"Applying the ATSICPP is about far more than an out-of-home care placement decision. The Principle requires equitable access to quality services that can support our families to stay together – it is as much a guide to addressing the under-representation of our families in preventive services as it is to addressing their over-representation in child protection services. The Principle also requires support for children to maintain and re-establish cultural connections in out-of-home care, efforts for reunification, and ensuring that our families, communities and organisations are involved in decision making, service design and service delivery at every step of the way."

Other important commitments to self-determination and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are reflected in the plan, including an agenda for *"collaboration with, and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations."* The first strategy in the plan aims to enhance early intervention supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families experiencing multiple issues in the first 1000 days from their child's conception. Working group member, Professor Kerry Arabena of the University of Melbourne, has long championed the need to support our families in the first 1000 days and commented:

"The commitment to trial a model of support in the first 1000 days appears a promising step, but it is a drop in the ocean compared to the investment needed to get this support to our families across the country. Sector leaders and academics have worked tirelessly to develop a quality Australian Model of the First 1000 Days that is poised to change outcomes for our children – it will be critical that the Australian Government honours that work and supports it."

The new Working Group held its first meeting in May 2016, and has developed an extensive statement of advice to inform implementation of the plan, as well as a framework to be used for applying each element of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle to work under the plan.



SNAICC 2015 CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

Many of you may recall the few amazing days we gathered in September last year for the 6th SNAICC conference. Well the action did not stop there! SNAICC has been working hard with partners to progress the key resolutions made in the communiqué developed at the close of the conference.

COMMUNIQUÉ RESOLUTION	PROGRESS
For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander control over how our children are supported	<p>SNAICC is working to progress the Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children and its key actions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group to guide and inform implementation of the plan; and (b) application of the five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (Principle) across the Third Action Plan. <p>SNAICC has developed a framework for application of these five elements, with Aboriginal decision-making and voice central to all elements, and the focus of two.</p> <p>Aboriginal decision-making is also a central feature of the <i>Family Matters: kids safe in culture, not in care</i> campaign and more specifically its roadmap on priority changes needed to reduce over-representation of our children in child protection and improved child safety and well-being. SNAICC with key partners, including strategic alliance members, will be advocating for implementation of this road map across all jurisdictions.</p> <p>SNAICC is leading the Aboriginal family-led decision-making trials in Queensland to set up mechanisms for stronger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice in different phases of child protection decision-making (see page 4).</p>
For these services to be delivered through a holistic, integrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led early years approach	<p>SNAICC has been working hard to secure seed funding for a research process on what is essential for effective integrated services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. This funding has just been approved by Lowitja Institute and will support a research development process by SNAICC, in partnership with Professor Kerry Arabena, at the University of Melbourne over the next 12 months to develop the research methodology and partnerships, and to secure funding.</p> <p>SNAICC has been participating in the critical friends group established by the Department of Education to inform the set up of the \$20 million program, launched in July 2016.</p> <p>SNAICC has conducted significant work to raise awareness of the importance and impact of holistic integrated early childhood services in the development and finalisation of the Jobs for Families Child Care Package.</p>
Where children are removed, the focus should be to reunite them with their families and communities	<p>SNAICC has developed a policy brief, including input from across the sector, on permanency planning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care. This focuses on strong early intervention supports to strengthen families and well-resourced community controlled reunification programs to support reunification where possible.</p> <p>SNAICC has developed a framework for application of the five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, which includes a strong element of reunification.</p> <p>Reunification is included as a key component in the <i>Family Matters: kids safe in culture, not in care</i> campaign road map of changes needed to end over-representation of our children in out-of-home care.</p>

SNAICC was disappointed not to receive any response to its letters sent with the communiqué to the relevant Australian Government Ministers and Prime Minister. SNAICC has continued to engage with Ministers that we have been able to secure meetings with, Ministers Birmingham and Scullion, and with Labor and Greens spokespersons, to progress the Communiqué. SNAICC has also built a number of resolutions into our work plan. We include some highlights below.

Please get in touch with us if you would like to work more closely with us on any action!

COMMUNIQUÉ RESOLUTION	PROGRESS
For a focus to address family violence as the major contributor to the removal of children from their families, by responding to its causes.	SNAICC is developing a joint position paper with Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, as well as the NATSILS and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation, on preventing and responding to family violence. This is also a central feature in the <i>Family Matters: kids safe in culture, not in care</i> campaign road map.
For a COAG target for early intervention investment to address the under representation of our children in the early childhood education and care system and their over representation in the child protection system.	A COAG target is a central piece of the <i>Family Matters: kids safe in culture, not in care</i> strategy developed from the conference into early 2016, confirmed by over 100 participants at a national Forum in Canberra on 10 February 2016. SNAICC has been meeting with Federal and state/territory Department CEOs and Ministers, with key partners, to engage with them on an appetite for a COAG target and resourced plan. SNAICC has also included this within our election priorities.
We urge the Australian Government to quarantine a proportion of the Child Care Assistance Package for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.	See page 6 for highlights of SNAICC work to ensure the Jobs for Families Child Care Package includes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander program within its Child Care Safety Net. This is also included in SNAICC's election priorities.
We commit to a national day of action in 2016 to raise awareness of child removals.	SNAICC, with key partners, has raised over \$220,000 and significant in-kind support for the <i>Family Matters: kids safe in culture, not in care</i> campaign for this next year which will enable us to launch the national day of action. A strategy is being developed at the moment for this day – watch this space!



For Our Children

Ngallak Koorlangka

Community Voices:
Sharing Knowledge and Practice

TRAINING

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

A PLACE FOR CULTURE

Following a trial in Healesville, VIC in November 2015, SNAICC has been further developing and modifying the *A Place for Culture* package, working with well-respected early years consultants to ensure we produce a strong early years package.

With a focus on strengthening cultural competence in the early years sector, the program is being designed to meet these needs and support SNAICC's position on cultural competency within early childhood education and care services.

A second trial site has been identified and will take place this June with the full package being rolled out in several communities in the second half of 2016 and into 2017.

THE JOURNEY TO BIG SCHOOL

SNAICC's *Journey to Big School* workshops are designed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in their journey from early childhood education into formal schooling.

These workshops create a space for Elders, families, community members, community workers, early years educators and school staff to come together and discuss holistic transition processes as a community, to support children and families as they undertake the transition journey into big school.

SNAICC are also looking to engage three new sites for term three.

Two new sites have been identified for workshops prior to June this year in Bendigo (VIC) and Kununurra (WA), with SNAICC looking to engage a further three sites before the end of the year.

Follow-up visits are also planned for Brewarrina and Lightning Ridge (NSW) and Cherbourg (QLD) communities.

DEADLY FUTURES

Deadly Futures training program is designed to improve early childhood development outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The program is backed with more than 30 years of research and evidence-based training, both internationally and locally, and is known as the Australian Abecedarian Approach (3a).

3a is an education and teaching approach that is a frequent two-way intentional learning interaction for both the adult and the child. This approach is supported within a policy context as a framework for best practice and evaluation within the organisation aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards.

This approach includes:

- Strength-based informing social determinants
- Validating their parenting and cultural parenting regarding child rearing. Introducing parents to:
 - What they can expect as their child develops from birth to five years; and
 - Language and cognitive skills development resources and activities for children from birth to five years
- Supporting parents, as required, to use relevant cognitive development resources with their children
- Encouraging parent-child interactive learning
- Community owned and led
- Training up community as leaders
- Respectful of community and cultural learning
- Validating worldview and culture.

SNAICC is rolling out the delivery of 3a to communities nationally following the recent successful pilot in Bendigo, VIC. Positive feedback included 'good structured learning', 'encouraging learning interactions in preparation for school', 'effective ways of how to engage, connect and re-enforce a child's own learning and language development'.

Planned workshops in early June are at Halls Creek and Kununurra in WA, with future delivery across the other states throughout 2016. By advocating 'community as teachers', SNAICC is taking into consideration the historical impacts within the delivery of the 3a approach, for example, parents' understanding and literacy.

TRAINING IN 2016

SNAICC workshops are available nationally.

If you are interested in hosting a workshop for your organisation, please call the SNAICC Training team to see how we can meet your training needs.

E: training@snaicc.org.au | T: 03 9489 8099



PROBLEMATIC SEXUALISED BEHAVIOURS

SNAICC has recently updated the resources available on the Supporting Carers website to include information on Problematic Sexualised Behaviours.

Knowing how to identify and respond appropriately to a child's sexual behaviours will help parents, guardians and carers to support children develop in a healthy way sexually. This resource is vital if we are to help protect them, and other children, from harm or abuse.

It is normal and natural for children to express their sexuality through their behaviour. This kind of behaviour is not just about sex, but includes any talk, touch, questions, conversations and interests which relate to sexuality and relationships. However, if you witness a child displaying sexualised behaviour that may increase their own vulnerability to abuse, or causes harm to another child or adult, you have a responsibility to provide them with information, support and protection. Children who have been abused, neglected, experienced family violence or other significant negative disruptions to their development or socialisation may be at increased risk of exposure to, or of developing unsafe or harmful sexual behaviours.

The two terms commonly used to describe this type of behaviour are **problem sexualised behaviour (PSB)** and **sexually abusive behaviour (SAB)**.

- **Problem sexualised behaviour** is defined as the range of sexual behaviours outside developmental norms which may be self-directed or directed towards others, which are likely to have an impact on the child's functioning or the functioning of others, but which are not coercive.
- **Sexually abusive behaviour** is defined as any sexual activity or sexual behaviour of one child that is abusive or coercive towards another child.

Whilst these behaviours are a cause for concern, it is important to understand that children and adolescents who sexually abuse are different from adults who sexually offend, and that treatment outcomes for young people with these behaviours are generally very positive.

If you would like to know more about problematic sexualised behaviours please head to our Supporting Carers website for more information. Here you may find a list of helpful tips and comprehensive resources that may assist you and your community in learning how to identify and respond to a child's sexualised behaviour.

STRONGER SAFER TOGETHER

Following two trials in Alice Springs and Townsville in late 2015, the first two-day Intensive and Targeted Family Support workshop, *Stronger Safer Together*, was delivered in Sydney this April.

The workshop was an ideal space for robust conversations and knowledge sharing, particularly concerning acknowledging the many complexities associated with supporting and empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

From these discussions, participants were able to reflect and make use of the tools provided in the workshop, whilst also being able to share their current work practices.

The SNAICC resource *Stronger Safer Together*, which draws on community input and best practice examples, is included in the workshop.

There are more workshops to come in 2016. If you are interested in hosting please contact the Training Team at SNAICC.

PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE

SNAICC has been working intensively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men on preventing Family Violence through leading the National Indigenous consultation for the Fathering and Family Violence Project with Melbourne University. This project has so far already interviewed 16 men's services across Australia with many more scheduled.

SNAICC has also recently presented on the national family violence context, training and impacts on children at the **Victorian Aboriginal Men's Gathering** where 200 men were brought together by Dardi Munwurro and Melbourne Storm to look at preventing family violence.

With a mixture of many Elders, young people and men from across Victoria and beyond, this was a great day to be involved with men committed to taking responsibility for violence in the community. We would like to acknowledge and give our thanks to Alan Thorpe from Dardi Munwurro and his team for facilitating such a strong healing gathering.

FAMILY VIOLENCE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Through Young Black Eyes (TYBE) continues to be our most highly sought after family violence training program and has been offered at several sites this year including Swansea (NSW), Mackay (QLD), Halls Creek (WA) and Bendigo (VIC).

This area continues to have increasing importance as the national profile and understanding of family violence builds – this has been shown through many of the family, children's and family violence services participating in SNAICC training expressing interest in developing their own family violence programs.

Based on our sector need and consultation, SNAICC is developing four new family violence prevention workshops in 2016 through funding support from 5 Point Foundation and the Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Trust.

An ANROWS research application is also in progress, which, if successful, will further enhance our current capability and specifically focus on working with Indigenous men who use violence.

RECOGNISING AND RESPONDING TO TRAUMA

The *Recognising and Responding to Trauma* workshop is continually evolving to ensure it's up to date with current knowledge and relevance when working closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Recently, after consultation with the SNAICC team and practitioners working within the sector, further adjustments have been made to suit individual community needs.

With recent workshops delivered in Townsville, Alice Springs and Canberra, SNAICC is receiving regular enquires, so we're looking forward to delivering throughout Australia for the remainder of the year.

12TH QUEENSLAND INDIGENOUS FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION FORUM – MACKAY

Earlier this year, Training Team members Emily, Clarisse and David co-facilitated a TYBE workshop and two presentations at the annual Mackay Forum – this is the second time SNAICC has participated.

The forum attracts over 120 workers from Mackay and across QLD, the Torres Strait Islands and interstate, and tackles the complex issues associated with addressing domestic and family violence and demonstrated a range of quality approaches and program frameworks.

The TYBE program delivered was originally planned for 17 participants but demand was overwhelming and the workshop ended up with 26 attendees! Participants developed five excellent draft workshops that were no doubt enhanced by the training and their participation at the Forum.

SNAICC also presented its workshop on *Shaping Family Violence Training for the Future* to two large groups, based on the SNAICC *Safe For Our Kids* research and with a focus on exploring integrated and holistic family violence models. The workshop included working with several smaller groups to investigate new SNAICC training approaches for working with children, women, men and the whole community on family violence issues.

The second workshop became far more innovative and creative due to the Entertainment Centre losing all electrical power and lighting – with our presentation conducted largely in the dark. Our intrepid team worked brilliantly together with the participants to come up with great input on training design and best practice approaches to inform future training in this area.

Our thanks and congratulations to the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research for inviting us and for their support and commitment to family violence prevention.

INTRODUCING OUR LATEST TRAINER: CLARISSE

I am excited to be one of the newest members of the SNAICC Training Team, having been appointed the latest Training and Resources Officer at SNAICC.

A little bit about me...

I am a proud Yorta Yorta and Kamilaroi woman from Melbourne. I come to SNAICC from a background working in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations in Victoria, in areas such as youth leadership and community development. Before joining SNAICC, I held the role as the Training and Learning Development Officer at the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) where I was responsible for delivering training workshops to workers in the child and family welfare sector and broader Aboriginal community in Victoria, on topics such as cultural awareness, child and adolescent development, case management, and community development.



CULTURAL COMPETENCY UPDATE

The start to the year has been a good one, with lots of discussion around cultural safety and how SNAICC's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff work together. There are also ongoing discussions around our internal decision making processes, ensuring the cultural and academic voices are equally heard and valued throughout our organisational structure.

A critical element that has ensured we are going from strength to strength with these discussions, and as an organisation, is the commitment of all staff to ensure we have a culturally safe and inclusive working environment.

A focus has also been to ensure we are showing proper respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners and giving back wherever possible and utilising every opportunity to promote their services and strength in culture.

As an important part of SNAICC's commitment to cultural safety, during February we held our second successful cultural safety day, which saw staff engaging in culturally inclusive and appropriate activities that gave us insight into each other and our strengths.

The workshop was facilitated by the incredible Jana Stewart and Robyne Latham from Blak Light and the day they prepared was strategic, thought provoking and culturally safe. Jana and Robyn also left us with some practical skills for approaching hard conversations.

The challenge for SNAICC moving forward from this day will be to remain conscious of cultural safety being a priority for all staff at all times, to remember to be generous with one another, and to keep communication channels open.



A Place For Culture Training at the Robyn Jane Centre for Early Years in Healesville

TRACKS TO HEALING

So far this year successful workshops have been held in Bendigo, Benalla and Morwell – with an upcoming workshop in Mildura.

The Tracks to Healing workshop is designed to support carers and demonstrate practical tools for Kinship Carers when dealing with challenging behaviours. The program is run in collaboration with the ACT Group.

The SNAICC Carers website is also proving an effective resource to provide carers with a range of resources, ideas and information on issues affecting them: www.supportingcarers.snaicc.org.au

My time at SNAICC so far...

During my 3 months within this role, I have had the opportunity to co-facilitate many SNAICC training workshops in numerous locations across the nation. These workshops provide platforms for local communities and organisations to highlight the strengths of their work, strengthen their capacity to deliver effective services, and identify areas for future growth. I feel very humble to be have been able to participate in these spaces and engage with local champions who work tirelessly everyday to achieve the best outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

So far, I have had the opportunity to participate in the delivery of SNAICC workshops across the broad range of our training programs, including:

- *Recognising and Responding to Trauma*
- *Through Young Black Eyes* (family violence, train-the-trainer)

- *Tracks to Healing* (kinship carer support)
- *The Journey To Big School* (early years transition)
- *Stronger, Safer, Together* (intensive and targeted family support)
- *Deadly Futures* (supporting child development)

I am really looking forward to engaging with more workers and members from different communities. I am also excited to hear from local members about the ways that SNAICC can support the delivery, capacity and continued leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous agencies.

I am very passionate about working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community affairs and am appreciative for the personal and professional growth that these opportunities are offering. I am excited to be a part of the journey to witnessing the growth and continued success of local communities in achieving more positive outcomes in the future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY

4 AUGUST 2016

NBA star Patty Mills
Announced as 2016
Children's Day Ambassador!



WE ALL
BELONG
MY COUNTRY, OUR COUNTRY



"We encourage communities and organisations across Australia to celebrate this day and continue to build understanding of your local mob and work towards respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families."

SNAICC Chairperson, Sharron Williams.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day (Children's Day) is Australia's largest national day to celebrate our children. Preparations for our biggest and best Children's Day are now in full swing!

WHY IS CHILDREN'S DAY IMPORTANT?

Children's Day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

It provides a chance to celebrate the significant role that culture and family play in the lives of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child. All children deserve to feel special and important. This day acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children do not enjoy the same opportunities as other Australian children.

The first National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day was held in 1988, set against the backdrop of protests by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

people, who were fighting for their rights. With so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in orphanages and institutions during this time, many children did not have a connection to their families or communities or know their own birthday. So, in these places, one day – 4 August – was set aside each year to celebrate a communal birthday; this day gave many children something positive to celebrate and feel connected to.

Although this day's history is rooted in the sad reality of child removals, Children's Day has become a day to celebrate and acknowledge just how important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are.

SINCE '88, CHILDREN'S DAY HAS GROWN EVERY YEAR, BECOMING A MAJOR EVENT IN THE LIVES OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

CELEBRATE IN 2016!

Each year we focus on: celebrating the special role that culture and connection plays in our lives; recognising the positive work being done with our children and families across the sector; and raising awareness about critical issues impacting our children.

The theme for Children's Day in 2016 is ***My Country, Our Country – We All Belong***, and is about celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture – recognising that all our children have a special belonging to this country and strengthening their pride in their cultural identity.

My Country, Our Country – We All Belong can be shared by many and we encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to share this message with their peers: this is my country, and it's your country too!

2015's celebration was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who joined in to celebrate at one of over 225 local events across the country. Some great ideas to get involved this year include:

- **Host a morning tea, BBQ or lunch**
- **Invite an Elder or a community representative to talk about Children's Day**
- **Run an arts and craft session**
- **Organise a concert**
- **Hold a sporting day**
- **Hold a flag raising ceremony**

CHILDREN'S DAY BAGS

To help support and celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day 2016, SNAICC has produced a fantastic celebration bag for kids. This year's bag contains a trucker cap, tattoos, native seeds, and activity book and pencils. **THE BAGS ARE ONLY \$6 EACH, AND INCLUDE POSTAGE.** The celebration bags can be purchased at the SNAICC shop: <http://www.snaicc.org.au/product/childrens-day-bag/>

CHECK OUT THE CHILDREN'S DAY WEBSITE

Visit the Children's Day website at www.aboriginalchildrensday.com.au for all the information and resources you need. SNAICC has produced various resources to help you celebrate, including promotional posters, flyers, web banners and letter templates.

HOLD AN EVENT!

Organise your local Children's Day event, register on the website and let everyone know how you'll be celebrating our kids on 4 August.

Stay tuned for more Children's Day updates in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, or require more information and support, please contact our Children's Day Co-ordinator, Michelle Lausen, at michelle.lausen@snaicc.org.au.

NEWS

BASKETBALL STAR PATTY MILLS ANNOUNCED AS NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY 2016 AMBASSADOR

SNAICC is thrilled to announce NBA and Olympic basketballer Patty Mills as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day (Children's Day) 2016 ambassador.

Patty, one of Australia's top basketballers, was part of the San Antonio Spurs 2014 NBA Championship-winning team, and has also represented Australia at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

Patty was also the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander man to win an NBA Championship and only the second Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person to play in the NBA.

Born in Canberra to a father from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait and a mother from Ceduna in South Australia, Patty has maintained strong connections with his communities.

"Even when I'm away from Australia I feel very connected to my family, my community and my culture through many different aspects, especially traditional songs and dances."
– Patty Mills

To learn more about Patty, follow him on social media, or head to www.formypeople.com.au, the website for the upcoming documentary that follows Patty's journey into the NBA.

"Kids need culture to be able to stay connected to their heritage and to have a strong sense of identity. Having these connections will make them proud of who they are in any, and every, environment." – Patty Mills





“When we close the gap we make ourselves more whole, more complete – more Australian.”

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

AIHW LAUNCHES REPORT SHOWCASING VIEWS OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

In March 2016, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released the results of a 2015 national survey pilot on the views of children and young people in out-of-home care. The pilot survey is a component of the National Standards for Out-of-Home Care, which is an initiative aimed at improving the consistency and quality of care experienced by children in Australian child protection systems, under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020.

Key findings from the survey were overwhelmingly positive. However, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids currently 9.5 times as likely to be placed in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous kids, the research for Indigenous children paints a different picture.

Jurisdictions collected survey data from of 2,083 children aged 8-17 (34% identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander) under the care of the Minister, Guardian or Chief Executive as part of their case management processes between 1 February 2015 and 30 June 2015.

Key findings include:

- 91% of children reported feeling both safe and settled in their current placement
- 86% of children reported that they had at least some knowledge of their family background and culture
- 67% of children reported that they usually get to have a say in what happens to them, and people usually listen to what they say
- 70% of children reported satisfaction with one or more types of contact (that is, visiting, talking or writing) with non-co-resident family
- 97% of children reported that they had a significant adult; that is, an adult who cares about what happens to them now and in the future
- 58% of those aged 15-17 reported that they were getting as much help as they needed to make decisions about their future. A further 30% reported that they were getting some help but wanted more.

While this report shows many positive outcomes, leading care providers spoke with the ABC on 23 March about why they are treating the findings with caution.

CEO of Barnardos, Deirdre Cheers comments:

“The [children] that participated are likely to have been placed in families who were supportive of their participation...that's not to say that these aren't great results, but they are probably indicative results of children who are more likely to be in settled placements.”

Victoria's Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Andrew Jackomos, remains critical of a system which is failing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids: “We have hardly any Aboriginal people who are working in child protection and I think this is a real indictment upon Government's failure to grow, to nurture the Aboriginal workforce, as well as our children, in culturally rich places.”

CEO of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, Professor Muriel Bamblett, agrees: “I think the significant issue for us is the limited number of Aboriginal carers putting up their hand to look after Aboriginal children. So in Victoria almost 60% of Aboriginal children are placed with non-Aboriginal carers. So having children having an experience of living in the Aboriginal community and being a part of the Aboriginal community is a big issue.”

Comprehensive online data can be viewed via the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website.

NEW FRAMEWORK PROMOTES COMMUNITY CONTROL AS PATHWAY TO INCREASED CHILD AND FAMILY WELLBEING

In January 2016 the Northern Territory Council of Social Services Inc. (NTCOSS) published a new framework that will have a significant impact in nurturing the growth of the community-controlled sector.

NTCOSS led the development of the *Vision for a Coordinated Service System to Promote Child and Family Wellbeing* following over 18 months of consultation across the Northern Territory with focus groups, forums, and additional meetings with key stakeholders.

Presented in a practical and accessible format, the framework promotes the vision that *all Northern Territory children grow up in families and communities where they can be safe, healthy and have opportunities to have a strong cultural identity and reach their full potential.*

"We hope this will generate discussion and lead to a change in the way we respond to our children and their families. We also hope it will bring about positive change, a better future and a stronger society." Wendy Morton, NTCOSS Executive Director

View the *Vision for a Coordinated Service System to Promote Child and Family Wellbeing* online via the NTCOSS website.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ISSUES CONSPICUOUS BY ABSENCE IN FEDERAL BUDGET

The 2016 Federal Budget was handed down in May with little surprising news for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector, with no new funding secured for long-standing priorities.

The *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package Bill, which the social services sector - including SNAICC - believe has not yet got the balance right, was deferred until July 2018. While SNAICC welcomes the extra time to consider this Bill and work towards a better package, unfortunately the delay has been attributed '...to Family Tax Benefit reforms (payment reductions to families) required to fund the child care package not being passed.' This is a reform which is unfair, unnecessary and which will only see struggling families worse off. Interim relief will also be critical for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early years services who are struggling to survive.

SNAICC CEO Gerry Moore urged the government to "...seriously examine the needs of Australia's most disadvantaged families when considering the content and purpose of both of these Bills in the near future to ensure:

- Current Family Tax Benefits payments are maintained;
- At least two full days (20 hours) subsidised access to early childhood education and care for all children, regardless of their parent's circumstances; and
- An adequately resourced federal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood education and care program to support access for the nations most vulnerable children".

Marked in this budget by its absence, the widely criticised Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) garnered no extra funding. Again, SNAICC called on the government to:

- reinstate the \$534.4 million over five years funding cuts made to the Indigenous affairs budget in recent years

- invest in genuine engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including in the development and application of policy. Adequate funding of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples and other national peaks, including SNAICC and the NATSILS are critical to voice, and
- commit further resources to grow the capacity and service delivery role for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in the early childhood, child and family support sectors.

In some positive news, SNAICC welcomed the \$5.1 million commitment in the Third Action Plan under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* to deliver two trials aimed at increasing the wellbeing and future economic and social outcomes of children and young people.

These trials include the **Building Capacity in Australian Parents** trial (\$1.2 million) to build parenting skills in the first 1,000 days of a child's life and the **Towards Independent Adulthood** trial (\$3.9 million) to support young people as they move from out-of-home care into adulthood. SNAICC is concerned that the outstanding Australia's First 1000 days initiative which, an Indigenous-led, holistic initiative that seeks to provide a coordinated, comprehensive intervention to address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from (pre)conception to two years of age and their families was not supported within this commitment.

Overall, however, SNAICC was disappointed at the overall lack of focus on the Indigenous sector by the federal government with Mr Moore calling for "... a renewed whole-of-government effort towards meeting Australia's agreed Close The Gap targets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples".

CHANGE THE STORY: A SHARED FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRIMARY PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

Our Watch, VicHealth and ANROWS have partnered to create *Change the Story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia*.

A world first, the National Framework to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children brings together the international research, and nationwide experience, on what works to prevent violence.

By establishing a shared understanding of the evidence and principles of effective prevention, and presenting a way forward for a coordinated national approach, the main aim of the framework is an Australia free of violence against women and their children and where women are not only safe but respected, valued and treated as equals in private and public life.

Work is already being undertaken across a range of sectors – by governments, nongovernment organisations, researchers and practitioners – to change the attitudes, behaviours and environments that perpetuate this violence. But much of this work happens on a small-scale or in isolation from other projects. Violence cannot be prevented project by project – coordination and collaboration is fundamental to success.

As such, this framework is based on a shared endeavour between government, whole communities, organisations and institutions – including over 400 stakeholders. It utilises a collaborative approach and vision to promote a broad based movement for deep and lasting social transformation.

Reflecting on the experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children, the framework identifies:

“Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait women needs to be considered in the context of broader colonial violence and specifically the intergenerational impacts of dispossession, the forced removal of children, the interruption of cultural practices that mitigate against interpersonal violence, and the ongoing and cumulative economic exclusion and disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. These impacts include intergenerational trauma, lateral violence and internalised colonialism.”

A supplementary dedicated resource will be developed to guide the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children, to be released as a companion document to this framework to pave the way for an increase in dedicated funding to support change.

Using an evidence-based approach, the Framework lays out a pathway to a measurable reduction in prevalence through six interrelated elements working together to create change:

1. An explanatory model of violence
2. Key actions to prevent violence
3. Approach settings and techniques for prevention
4. Prevention infrastructure
5. Stakeholder roles and responsibilities
6. Stages of action and expected outcomes

Full details of the Framework are available at the Our Watch website.

REPORT SIGNALS AUSTRALIA CONTINUES TO FALL SHORT IN EFFORTS TO CLOSE THE GAP

The 2016 *Closing the Gap* report has revealed that limited progress has been made across a majority of seven target areas in improving health, social and educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Tabled in Parliament by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on 10 February, the report shows that, of the seven areas of disadvantage, progress has been made in only two areas: rates of child mortality, and high school attainment.

According to the Prime Minister's report we are not on track to meet targets in the areas of life expectancy, employment, reading and writing, and school attendance.

“It is time for Governments to ‘do things with Aboriginal people, not do things to them’.” Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

The seventh target area, early education, is a new aim, as the previous target set for 2013 was unmet. The first opportunity to review the progress in this area will be later in 2016.

In his address to Parliament the Prime Minister spoke of the need to come together, and work together, to close these gaps in opportunity and advantage.

“It is...important we listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when they tell us what is working and what needs to change. It's our role as government to provide an environment that enables Indigenous leaders to develop local solutions.” Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

ON TRACK:	NOT ON TRACK:	NEW TARGET:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade (by 2018). • Halve the gap for Indigenous Australians aged 20-24 in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates (by 2020). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance within five years (by 2018). • Halve the gap for Indigenous children in reading, writing and numeracy achievements within a decade (by 2018). • Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade (by 2018). • Close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation (by 2031). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95 per cent of all Indigenous four-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education (by 2025).



"Social justice is what faces you in the morning. It is awakening in a house with adequate water supply, cooking facilities and sanitation. It is the ability to nourish your children and send them to school where their education not only equips them for employment but reinforces their knowledge and understanding of their cultural inheritance. It is the prospect of genuine employment and good health: a life of choices and opportunity, free from discrimination."

Mick Dodson, Annual Report of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, 1993.

THE REDFERN STATEMENT

On Thursday the 9th of June, Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, stood together for a landmark event in Redfern, calling for urgent government action on a more just approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

In the last 25 years we have seen eight Federal election cycles come and go, with seven Prime Ministers, seven Ministers for Indigenous Affairs, countless policies, policy changes, funding promises and funding cuts – all for the most marginalised people in Australia.

As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak representative organisations we expressed deep concern:

- that in 2016 First Peoples continue to experience unacceptable disadvantage;
- that the challenges confronting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be isolated to the margins of the national debate;
- that Federal Government policies continue to be made for and to, rather than with, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and
- that the transformative opportunities for Government action are yet to be grasped.

The next Federal Government will take on the same responsibility to right this nation's past injustices as the last eight Federal Governments have had. The next Government of Australia will take power with our First Peoples facing the same struggles as they were in 1992. But this next Federal Government also has an unprecedented nation-building opportunity to meaningfully address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage. They have the mandate to act. We therefore call on the next Federal Government to:

- Commit to resource Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led-solutions, by:
 - Restoring, over the forward estimates, the \$534 million cut from the Indigenous Affairs portfolio in the 2014 Budget to invest in priority areas outlined in this statement; and
 - Reforming the *Indigenous Advancement Strategy* and other Federal funding programs with greater emphasis on service/need mapping (through better engagement) and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations as preferred providers.
- Commit to better engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through their representative national peaks, by:
 - Funding the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (Congress) and all relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations and forums; and
 - Convening regular high level ministerial and departmental meetings and forums with the Congress and the relevant peak organisations and forums.
- Recommit to Closing the Gap in this generation, by and in partnership with COAG and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:
 - Setting targets and developing evidence-based, prevention and early intervention oriented national strategies which will drive activity and outcomes addressing:
 - family violence (with a focus on women and children);
 - incarceration and access to justice;
 - child safety and wellbeing, and the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care; and

"If we are to succeed in our goal to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children grow up happy, healthy and at home with their families and culture, it will require joint and concerted efforts to support, intervene early, and prevent future harm for our children and their families."

Gerry Moore, SNAICC CEO



- increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access to disability services;
 - Secure national funding agreements between the Commonwealth and States and Territories (like the former National Partnership Agreements), which emphasise accountability to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and drive the implementation of national strategies.
- Commit to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders to establish a Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs in the future, that:
 - Is managed and run by senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public servants;
 - Brings together the policy and service delivery components of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs and ensures a central department of expertise.
 - Strengthens the engagement for governments and the broader public service with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the management of their own services.
- Commit to addressing the unfinished business of reconciliation, by:
 - Addressing and implementing the recommendations of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, which includes an agreement making framework (treaty) and constitutional reform in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

On this day we called for all Australians to stand with us to let this statement call for Government action be heard and acted upon by our nation's leaders.

The health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples cannot be considered at the margins.

It is time that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are heard and respected, and that the following plans for action in relation to meaningful engagement, health, justice, preventing violence, early childhood and disability, are acted upon as a matter of national priority and urgency.

The event was attended by leading Australian media, resulting in major news articles across the nation, enormous uptake on social media – with #RedfernStatement ‘trending’ on Twitter for the majority of the day – and a swelling of support from the Australian public in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights and policy reform.

The Redfern Statement elicited a formal response from Senator Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, confirming the commitment of the Turnbull Coalition “...to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and their representative organisations to improve outcomes for first Australians”.

FULL STATEMENT AVAILABLE ON SNAICC’S WEBSITE



SNAICC UPDATE

[BOARD MEMBER PROFILE](#) | [MEMBER ORGANISATION PROFILE](#) | [STAFF + STUDENTS](#) | [DONATE](#)

SNAICC BOARD MEMBER: SUE-ANNE HUNTER



DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON
(CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE)

VACCA – VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL
CHILD CARE AGENCY

Sue-Anne Hunter is a Wurundjeri woman, strong in her culture and an active member of her community.

Sue-Anne is committed to self-determination, advocating for the rights of Aboriginal children, young people and families, and strengthening culture, which has been reflected in her career choices, work history, and strong community involvement.

Sue-Anne has worked at VACCA for 14 years, undertaking senior roles within a number of programs, from policy and project work to service delivery, and is currently the state-wide manager of healing services and partnerships.

VACCA healing services are the central point for the development of an integrated, culturally appropriate and trauma informed approach to working with Aboriginal children and families. This approach looks at Australian

history and how it has impacted on Aboriginal people. Theories of trauma, neurobiology, attachment, and resilience building combine to assist in understanding and responding to Aboriginal children's trauma. This approach makes sense of children's presentations based on the impacts of history on Aboriginal people and the continuing traumatic effects on families today.

In Sue-Anne's role at SNAICC she is often called upon to provide leadership, and participate in high-level meetings that seek to change and influence the sector as it applies to Aboriginal families and work towards improved outcomes for Aboriginal children and families. Sue-Anne is also regularly featured in the media as an expert in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family welfare.



SNAICC MEMBER PROFILE: WUNAN FOUNDATION. WA

Wunan Foundation – *building a foundation for the future*

“We set up Wunan Foundation to succeed and counter the widespread perception that Indigenous organisations only ever last for a short while before they eventually fail.”

Ian Trust – Founding Chairperson, Wunan Foundation

Wunan is an Aboriginal development organisation in the East Kimberley region of WA.

The East Kimberley has growing social and economic opportunities, but the challenges and barriers faced by Aboriginal people in sharing the benefits are daunting – particularly for children and young people.

To drive long-term socio-economic change for Aboriginal people, Wunan provides real opportunities, invests in people's abilities, and encourages and rewards aspiration and self-responsibility.

Wunan is focused on using education and employment to strengthen the capabilities of Aboriginal people and their families to unlock these choices and opportunities. Wunan relies on five strategic priorities to realise its goals for a brighter future for Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley: education, employment, accommodation and housing, living change, and foundations.

The environment in which Wunan operates is complex and challenging, but also dynamic, innovative and rich in potential for positive social change.



Daralyn Bedford is the Early Years Engagement and Support Worker for Wunan and SNAICC. Daralyn, a local Kija Aboriginal woman and mother of six, has lived in Halls Creek for most of her life. Daralyn is active in the community and works to assist local parents to access the Lilwuns Playgroup and KindiLink, held at the Child and Parent Centre.

Daralyn is passionate about early years and promoting the importance of a good education. She is an advocate for her people and traditional ways and bridging the gap between traditional education and mainstream education so that early childhood and school are culturally safe and inclusive.

Daralyn starts her work day at 6:30am by going out into the community and town camps to pick children and families up to access the breakfast program run at the Child and Parent Centre. As the day continues she supports parents and children at Lilwuns Playgroup, assists with the local mobile playgroup, conducts home visits, and sits on various community and agency meetings.

SNAICC recognises the importance of Daralyn's role and the ongoing support she provides to the community in the early years space. SNAICC Cultural Engagement Manager Kate Booth, a Gunditjmara and Gunai/Kurnai woman, visits Daralyn and the community four times a year and is always amazed at how the community go from strength to strength with minimal resources and funding.

Kate describes Daralyn's role as invaluable to the community and is in awe of the achievements Daralyn has made during her time in the role. SNAICC recognises the project would not have had the success it has without Daralyn's lead and dedication.



NEW STAFF AND STUDENTS

Alongside CEO **Gerry Moore**, SNAICC has welcomed a number of new team members in recent times.

The SNAICC Training Team has welcomed **Clarisse Slater**, a Yorta Yorta and Kamilaroi woman from Melbourne, as a Training and Resource Officer, and **Jessie Giles** as the team's Senior Training Administrator.

Other appointments see **Maylene Slater-Burns**, a Kamilaroi and Djungan woman, join the SNAICC team as Communications Assistant, and **Susan Kay** take up the position of Organisational Services Coordinator, while **Michelle Lausen** has reprised the role of Children's Day Coordinator, a position she held in 2015.

Outside of the SNAICC head office, **Daralyn Bedford**, a Kija woman from Halls Creek, is an Early Years Engagement and Support Worker, working for Wunan and SNAICC on a joint project.

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Each year SNAICC provides experience to a number of students via practical placements. We thank our students and recognise the valuable contribution they make.

Adreinne Bombelles is pursuing her Masters in Social Work from the University of Michigan, with a focus on social policy and program evaluation. She is supporting SNAICC policy creation and advocacy efforts.

Nikita Boon is completing a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne, majoring in sociology, with a minor in social theory. Nikita is undertaking an internship with the SNAICC Communications Team, with her initial focus on 2016 Children's Day celebrations.

Julio Estorninho has volunteered time to support the SNAICC Training Team. Julio has qualifications in Children's Services and Community Development and has worked with Clifton Child Care Co-operative for the last nine years. He will be working with Kate Booth on our new early years training package, *A Place for Culture*.

Jesse Hooper is undertaking a Masters of Social Work at Monash University, and will be working with the SNAICC Policy Team during his placement.

Anna Lockwood is a Master of Social Work student from the University of Melbourne. During her placement Anna will be working with the Training Team, assisting with reviewing current programs, as well as participating in the development of new workshop toolkits.

Michelle Moroney is completing a Bachelor's Degree in Comparative Cultures and Politics at Michigan State University. While with SNAICC Michelle's primary focus will be working on the Family Matters campaign with the SNAICC Policy Team.

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LAUNCH OF THE NEW SNAICC RESOURCE GUIDE AND TRAINING PACKAGE

STRONGER, SAFER, TOGETHER – INTENSIVE & TARGETED FAMILY SUPPORT

Stronger, Safer, Together is a reflective practice resource and toolkit for services that provide intensive and targeted support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The resource is designed to support quality practice, learning and reflective practice for workers who provide intensive and targeted family support services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with multiple and complex needs.

The two-day SNAICC training package provides an opportunity for workers to explore the package and focus on practice issues, extend their skills and exchange experience and understanding of working with complex client issues.

This resource was strongly informed by the expert knowledge and experience of a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations from across Australia, that offer these support programs. These agencies include:

- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Targeted Family Support Service, NT
- Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Family Intervention Service, QLD (TAIHS)
- Clarence Valley Intensive Family Based Service, NSW
- Bungree Aboriginal Intensive Family Based Service, NSW
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, VIC

The agencies that shared their expertise operate in very different contexts, from urban to remote locations, and with families from diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural groups and traditions. They each emphasised the

need for local adaptations of ways of working, to recognise diversity of cultures and environments. However, they also identified common elements that define the essence of effective practice when providing intensive family support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. These elements are addressed in this resource and training package within the following seven practice areas:

1. Working differently with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
2. Building trusting relationships and partnerships with families
3. Identifying the needs of children and their families
4. Providing an appropriate mix of practical, therapeutic, educational and advocacy supports
5. Including families in case planning and decision making
6. Working effectively with statutory child protection agencies, and
7. Ensuring worker safety, self care, boundaries and supervision.

The agencies that contributed to inform this guide were clear in their direction that this resource would not be useful to their sector if it provided a narrowly instructive guide on how to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. Such a resource would be neither culturally appropriate, nor adequately respectful of the place based knowledge and expertise of practitioners.



STRONGER, SAFER, TOGETHER TRAINING PACKAGE

Based on this resource, SNAICC now provides a two-day Intensive and Targeted Family Support workshop designed to acknowledge and build on existing strengths that are currently being utilised in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The workshop has the capacity to be flexible in its delivery, to ensure the content is tailored to the specific needs of the community. Throughout the workshop, there is always a strong emphasis on the importance of keeping kids connected to family and culture.

SNAICC has now delivered two pilot workshops in Alice Springs and Townsville that were hosted by CONGRESS and TAIHS. A further workshop was also provided through AbSec in NSW for a range of urban-based services. These Intensive Family Support services and locations were chosen to acknowledge the contributions of the organisations and to test and ensure that the training can be pitched at various experience levels and is suitable for different locations and settings.

The feedback received was positive, with many participants acknowledging how culturally appropriate and relevant it is

to their practice. It is clear, that the training highlights the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and services, whilst also acknowledging the complexities and challenges when working within this space.

The training also recognises and explores the importance of supervision, debriefing and self-care for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous workers, to allow the participants to leave feeling empowered and confident to continue providing support for their community.

Inquiries regarding the resource package and the training should be directed to training@snaicc.org.au.



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY 4 AUGUST 2016



CELEBRATE WITH YOUR OWN COMMUNITY EVERY YEAR

Visit aboriginalchildrensday.com.au to see how you can get involved

SNAICC THANKS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET FOR FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT. PHOTOGRAPHY BY WAYNE QUILLIAM. POSTER DESIGN BY MAZART DESIGN STUDIO

NBA star **Patty Mills**
Announced as 2016
Children's Day Ambassador!



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***My Country, Our Country
– We All Belong***
Celebrate with your own community

4 AUGUST 2016

SUPPORT SNAICC

Three Indigenous Australian women are shown from the chest up, facing forward. They are wearing traditional headbands and beaded necklaces. The woman on the left is holding a small object in her hand. The woman in the middle is holding a small object in her hand. The woman on the right is holding a small object in her hand.

SUPPORT US TO SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN

BY MAKING A DONATION, YOU HELP SNAICC CONTINUE ITS IMPORTANT WORK IN SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES, SERVICES, AND COMMUNITIES.

DONATE NOW! www.snaicc.org.au/support-us/

Every donation helps SNAICC provide greater assistance to our members, allowing more people to attend the SNAICC Conference; more people to receive Children's Day bags; more people to undertake vital training workshops; and increases SNAICC's ability to undertake more research and produce even more policy work.

YOUR TAX—DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS WILL SUPPORT EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PROFESSIONALS AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

YOUR SUPPORT BUILDS STRONGER, EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES, AND BETTER FUTURES FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

