



SNAICC  
National Voice for our Children  
(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation)  
Suite 8, First Floor,  
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5 September 2017

## **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EXPERTS TO LEAD DISCUSSIONS AT SNAICC NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Canberra, Australia:** SNAICC – National Voice for our Children will hold its 7th National Conference in the National Convention Centre, Canberra, from 12-14 September 2017. The conference is the largest on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family matters in the southern hemisphere, striking at the heart of critical issues. It will attract local, national and international keynote speakers and over 1000 attendees.

“Our conference will focus on the 20-year anniversary of the seminal *Bringing Them Home* report, which exposed the violations of the Stolen Generations’ fundamental human rights,” says Sharron Williams, SNAICC – National Voice for our Children Chairperson.

“Unfortunately many of its recommendations remain unimplemented and rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child removal continue to soar. We want kids to be safe and cared for within family and culture. Our conference objectives are to honour and learn from experience, to strategize collectively, and to inspire action.”

Speakers include:

- Adjunct Professor Muriel Bamblett AM, CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency
- Dr Sarah Kastelic, National Indian Child Welfare Association, Oregon, USA
- Helen Milroy, Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse
- Professor Mick Dodson, National Centre for Indigenous Studies, ANU
- Dr Jackie Huggins, Historian, Author, Co-chair of the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples
- Andrew Jackomos, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Victoria
- Natalie Lewis, CEO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak QLD
- Megan Mitchell, National Children’s Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission, NSW
- Jim Morrison, West Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation Co-Chair
- June Oscar, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner
- Richard Weston, CEO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

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“The Conference will include over 70 fascinating concurrent sessions, yarning circles, panels and workshops, as well as displays, cultural performances and social events,” says Ms Williams. “It will be a powerful, rich and interactive learning experience not to be missed.”

**ENDS/**

For more information and interviews please visit [www.snaicc.org.au/conference/](http://www.snaicc.org.au/conference/) or contact:

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***About SNAICC – National Voice for our Children:***

SNAICC – National Voice for our Children is the national non-governmental peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. We work for the fulfilment of the rights of our children, in particular to ensure their safety, development and well-being.

Founded in 1981, SNAICC was established to engage in activities that promote and accommodate a strong voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.

Over the past 30 years SNAICC’s efforts has resulted in many key milestones and achievements both in policy developments at state, territory and federal levels and in developing innovative and useful resources for the sector.

SNAICC is governed by an influential Board of Directors made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled children and family services.

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