



SNAICC  
National Voice for our Children  
(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation)  
Level 7, Melbourne Polytechnic (Collingwood)  
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## **Media Advisory**

3 September 2019

### **Call to eliminate over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care**

A national conference of over 1200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait child development workers in Adelaide is calling for a strategy to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in out-of-home care. The 8<sup>th</sup> SNAICC (pron: snake) National Conference begins this morning at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

“Our children are 11 times more likely to be in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children,” says Adjunct Professor Muriel Bamblett, SNAICC Chair.

“This over-representation will continue unless we focus on the cause and not just the problem. The last Family Matters Report found that the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care will more than triple by 2037 if no new action is taken.

“SNAICC calls for a national comprehensive strategy to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care. A strategy that provides an opportunity to address the underlying causes of child protection intervention.

“It should include responses to poverty, homelessness, family violence, drug and alcohol misuse, employment and training and lack of access to universal and targeted support services for families experiencing vulnerability,” says Ms Bamblett.

#### **Tuesday 3 September Adelaide Convention Centre 10am vision overlay followed by interview opportunities**

- **Adjunct Professor Muriel Bamblett, SNAICC Chair**
- **Natalie Lewis, Family Matters campaign Co-Chair; CEO, QATSICPP**

Other interviews available on request

- Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples
- Dr Moana Eruera, Ministry for Children, New Zealand
- June Oscar, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner
- Richard Weston, Former CEO, The Healing Foundation; co-Chair, Family Matters

- Professor Fiona Arney, Australian Centre for Child Protection, SA
- April Lawrie, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, SA
- Cathy Taylor, Chief Executive, Department for Child Protection, SA
- Isaiah Dawe, CEO & Founder ID Know Yourself

Conference highlights [www.snaicc.org.au/conference/program](http://www.snaicc.org.au/conference/program),  
[www.snaicc.org.au/conference](http://www.snaicc.org.au/conference)

**Mark Jeffery, media manager, 0419 732 583**

The 8<sup>th</sup> SNAICC National Conference is being held on the land of the Kaurna people, *Tarntanya* (red kangaroo place) at the Adelaide Convention Centre, and its theme is *Growing Up with Strong Identity, Culture and Connection*.

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

Founded in 1981, SNAICC was established to engage to promote and accommodate a strong voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families. Over the past 30 years SNAICC's has achieved key milestones in policy developments at state, territory and federal levels to develop 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.

8<sup>TH</sup> SNAICC NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
2-5 September 2019  
Adelaide Convention Centre  
[www.snaicc.org.au/conference](http://www.snaicc.org.au/conference)

GROWING UP WITH  
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