



SNAICC
National Voice for our Children

SNAICC ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

SNAICC - NATIONAL VOICE FOR OUR CHILDREN



SNAICC

National Voice for our Children

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SNAICC – National Voice for our Children acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands and waters now recognised as Australia, and pays its respects to the ancestors and Elders of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their warriors, past and present.

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ABOUT SNAICC

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

We do this by:

- supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations through collaborative workshops, resources and training
- conducting research to inform our positions on policies, and providing advice to government on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
- acting as a collective voice for SNAICC member organisations, calling for change and equality
- fostering partnerships and undertaking joint projects with other NGOs, including non-Indigenous agencies, to improve service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- participating on various committees to advocate on behalf of our children, families and member organisations
- sharing knowledge and garnering support to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children through campaigns and events such as Family Matters, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day and the biennial SNAICC conference.





OUR VISION

An Australian society in which the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families are protected, our communities are empowered to determine their own futures, and our cultural identity is valued.

OUR MISSION

SNAICC 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, to ensure their safety, development and wellbeing.

OUR GOAL

Strong, healthy, self-determining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children connected to family and culture.



“

As I visit our members and services across Australia, I can see the difference we are making towards closing the gap when our children are thriving in their early years.

– SNAICC Chair Muriel Bamblett

”



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

The work of SNAICC in the delivery of high-level policy advice and their role supporting our children to be strong, safe, healthy and connected to culture is impressive and I am proud to be chair of such a dynamic and influential organisation.

At a national level, we are committed to influencing change in policy, programming and practice that impact on our children and have a proven impact in government and sector responses. We know that for fundamental change in outcomes to be achieved however, we must implement holistic, evidence-based solutions based on Aboriginal theoretical frameworks through a coordinated national approach.

Our participation in the Closing the Gap 'Refresh' means we are involved in designing and implementing national policy frameworks that will ensure the best interests of our children and families are at the heart of decision-making.

As a member of the Joint Council for the Coalition of Peaks, a representative body made up of 40 Aboriginal community-controlled peak bodies, we have the opportunity to work with the Federal Government, states, and territories to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in decision-making and set key targets that need to be achieved to improve the safety and wellbeing of our children driven by the overarching commitment to greater investment in the Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

With the election in 2018, SNAICC called 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 homelessness, family violence, drug and alcohol misuse, employment and training, and the lack of access to universal and targeted support services for families experiencing vulnerability.

Family Matters is a national campaign, led by SNAICC and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and sector leaders from across the country, to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care.

Last year in November, *The Family Matters Report 2018* was launched in Sydney and demonstrated there is still much work to be done. Our children are 2.5 times more likely to be developmentally delayed, and 10 times more likely to be in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children. This over-representation will continue unless we focus on the cause and not the problem.

SNAICC is also very active in consulting our members and stakeholders across the country about numerous issues impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. We are consulting with our communities regarding Closing the Gap, permanency policy in child protection, and the impact of the child care reforms.

Our efforts prove we are making a difference, because we know what's best for our communities, our families and our children.

We are seeing changes where governments are committed to including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in driving decision-making, and where some jurisdictions have deferred power to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, communities and families to make the decisions and deliver the services for our children.

As I visit our members and services across Australia, I can see the difference we are making towards closing the gap when our children are thriving in their early years, learning their language, their stories, and connecting to culture and Country wherever they may live.

I want to thank acting CEO Emma Sydenham for steering us through this financial year; for strengthening our organisation with a dedicated team of staff that go above and beyond to keep the voice of our children at the heart of our programs and campaigns.

I also want to thank the Board, funding bodies, philanthropic, and supporters in working tirelessly to achieve better outcomes for our kids.

Muriel Bamblett
Chairperson



SNAICC GOVERNANCE

SNAICC is led by a Board of Directors, elected with the purpose of providing strong cultural and corporate governance to ensure SNAICC's effectiveness, good management and future prosperity.

SNAICC BOARD MEMBERS



Muriel Bamblett
Victorian Aboriginal
Child Care Agency
(VACCA)
Chairperson



Geraldine Atkinson
Lulla's Children and
Family Centre (MACS)
Deputy Chairperson



Rachel Atkinson
Palm Island
Community Company
(PICC)
Secretary



Tim Ireland
NSW Child, Family
and Community Peak
Aboriginal Corporation
(AbSec)
Treasurer



Natalie Lewis
Queensland Aboriginal
and Torres Strait
Islander Child
Protection Peak
(QATSICPP)



Kathleen Pinkerton
Yorganop Association
Incorporated



Sharron Williams
Aboriginal Family
Support Services
(AFSS)



SNAICC COUNCIL



Emma Beckett
Muloobinba
Aboriginal
Corporation



Lisa Coulson
Tasmanian
Aboriginal Centre
(TAC)



Joanne Della Bona
Coolabaroo
Neighbourhood
Centre (MACS)



Dawn Ross
Central Australian
Aboriginal Congress



Walter Shaw
Tangentyere
Council Inc.

The Board is supported through strategic and policy advice from the SNAICC Council, structured to bring cross-sector state and territory experience and knowledge, and foster inter-state information exchange and engagement.



OUR WORK

PRINCIPLES

Commitment to child rights principles and a child-centred approach

Self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Value and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures

Innovation and flexibility

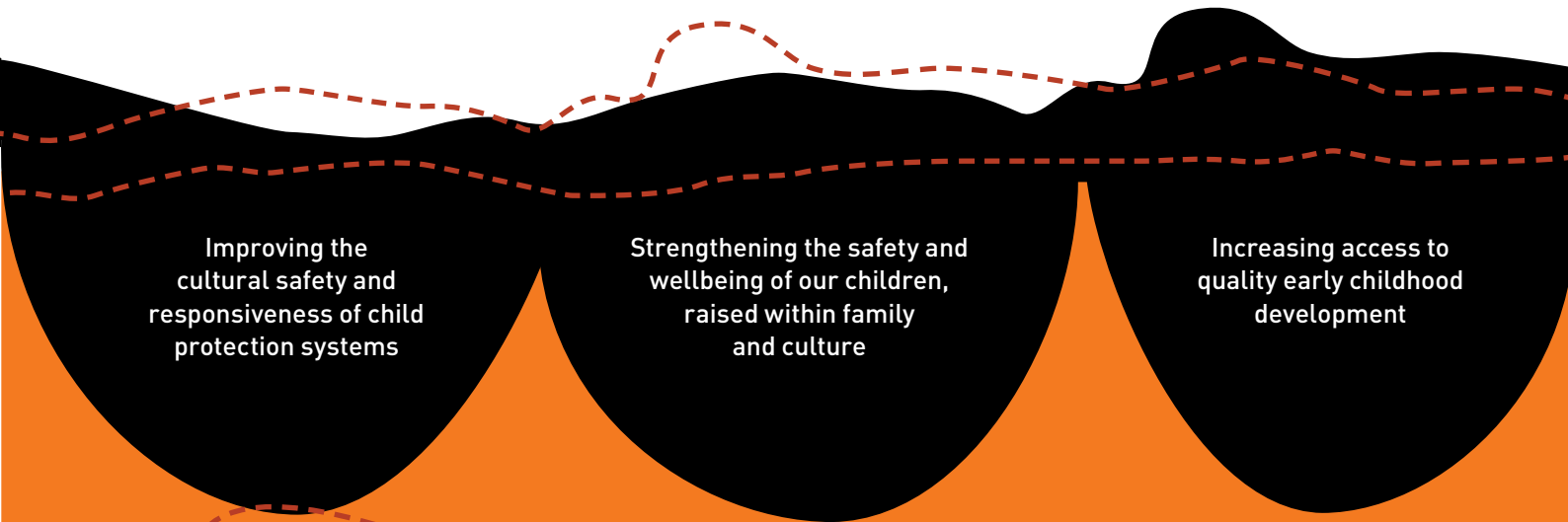
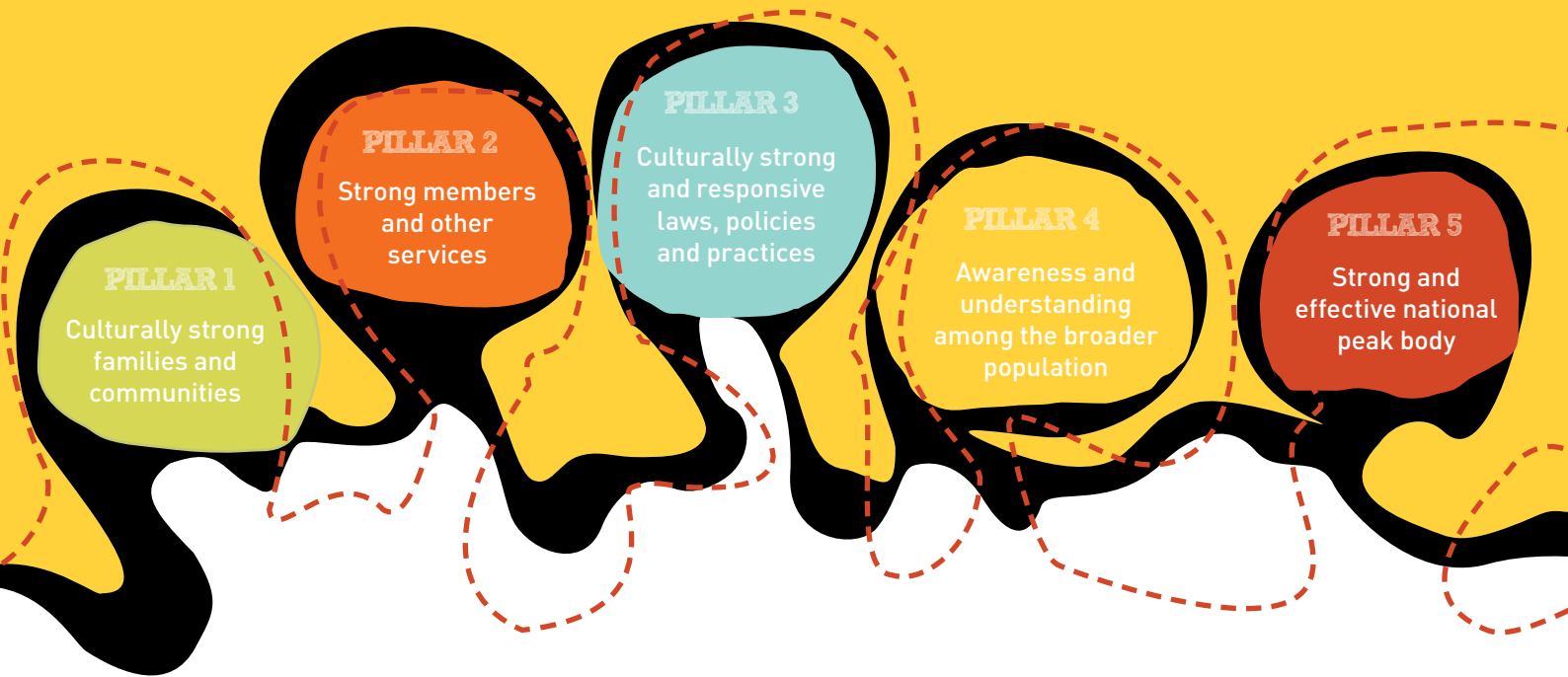
Culturally-informed, evidence-based best practice

Collaboration with relationships of trust and confidence



PILLARS

SNAICC adopts the following five strategic pillars (or sub goals) to prioritise our work to achieve our goal. We believe we can achieve our goal when each of these pillars is achieved.



PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS



CULTURALLY STRONG FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Family is the foundation for the social, cultural and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Healing and supporting our families and communities is essential for our children to grow up happy, healthy and strong.



STRENGTHENING CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Through our sector development projects, SNAICC strengthens communities and promotes an understanding of the importance of culture.

Our programs include cultural competency training through **Working and Walking Together** – for people working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and **A Place for Culture?** – strengthening cultural understanding for non-Indigenous early childhood education and care services.

Funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet – IAS.

HALLS CREEK

Working closely with communities to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children leads to better outcomes. SNAICC has been working with the Halls Creek community since 2015 as part of a five-year project.

Delivered in partnership with Wunan Foundation, a Halls Creek local worker is employed to support children and families to successfully transition into primary school with the support of early years services in the community.

Across 2018-19, SNAICC worked with Wunan to support a community transition action plan spanning activities including home visits, a breakfast program, bus pick ups and supporting engagement of families with playgroups, Kindi-link and other early childhood programs. SNAICC collaborated with the Early Years Project Officer to deliver professional development for local early childhood workers through 'Deadly Futures' workshops. From this, early childhood workers have used the NT Learning Games to create packages for families to take home for their children.

Funded by the Department of Social Services.



COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED CHILD PROTECTION IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Over the last 18 months SNAICC facilitated consultations with Aboriginal communities and representatives of the community-controlled service sector in Central Australia. A local steering committee was convened with a focus on consultations to inform the creation of the Central Australia Aboriginal Community-Controlled Out-of-home Care Strategy (the Strategy).

The outcomes of the extensive consultation highlight the need for a stronger voice for Aboriginal children, families and communities in child protection decision-making with a greater focus on early intervention so that Aboriginal children grow up safe and connected to family, community, culture and Country. It also indicates a need for genuine commitment, the provision of resources, and staged planning and capacity development for child and family services to be transferred to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

In February, SNAICC and the Central Australia Aboriginal Community-Controlled Out-of-home Care Steering Committee brought together leaders from communities and service providers in Alice Springs at a forum to discuss next steps in implementation of the Strategy. The outcomes from the forum demonstrate shared support among participant organisations for the Strategy, with a strong and united call from community-controlled organisations in Central Australia for the Northern Territory Government to respond and detail how it will support and resource the Strategy's implementation.

A total of 34 people from 12 organisations attended the forum, including representatives from: Akeyulerre, Central Australia Aboriginal Congress (CAAC), Central Australia Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU), Children's Ground, Larrakia Nation, Northern Territory Council of Social Services (NTCOSS), Northern Australia Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA), Tangentyere Council, Territory Families, Strong Grandmothers Group from the Central Desert Region, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), and SNAICC.

THE JOURNEY TO BIG SCHOOL

Our **Journey to Big School** program also provides workshops to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families with practical tools and holistic support for their transition to school, with Welcome to School kits sent out to targeted schools in Victoria and NSW.

JTBS funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet – IAS. Welcome to School kits funded by The Helen MacPherson Smith Trust, Foundation of Graduates in Early Childhood Studies, and the Besen Foundation.

FAMILY-LED DECISION MAKING

SNAICC supports the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family-led decision making to ensure families participate in the decisions that are made about the care and protection of their children. In December 2018, a number of organisations participated in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family-led Decision Making Train the Trainer workshop in Queensland. As part of the training, they received the **Family-led Decision Making Facilitator Guide** incorporating planning and facilitation tips and tools, as well as session plans, PowerPoint slides, facilitator notes, handouts and activities for five training modules. Each training module has key learning objectives and messages to assist the sector to develop consistency in how family-led decision making is implemented across the state.

Training resources aim to prepare workers to feel confident and capable in new family-led decision making roles following the start up of Family Participation Programs in late 2018.

All training conducted in 2018 on family-led decision making, as well as the training resources, were funded by Queensland Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and compiled by SNAICC with support of AbSec and QATSICPP.



STRONG MEMBERS AND OTHER SERVICES

SNAICC aims to ensure that children and families across Australia have access to high-quality Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services to meet their needs. SNAICC also aims to strengthen mainstream services to be culturally safe and responsive for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.



VICTORIAN COMMUNITIES LEADING ON CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

SNAICC is working with Victorian communities to support them to develop and implement their own strategies to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children safe and well.

SNAICC worked in partnership with Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), the Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People's Alliance, the Aborigines Advancement League and the Shepparton One Village to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and capacity, mobilising support for child safety and wellbeing.

A high quality suite of tools including **Using Collective Impact to See Strong Communities, Strong Culture and Stronger Children**, along with a video clip, Family Matters Victoria Community Resource 2019 and poster were distributed broadly across Victoria. It was promoted to communities to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child safety and deepen community understanding of child protection intervention and the responsibility to keep children safe and supported.

Funded by Gandel Philanthropy.

FIRST 1000 DAYS AND SERVICE INTEGRATION

As part of the First 1000 Days project, SNAICC, in partnership with the University of Melbourne, the Palm Island and Toronto communities, and government and mainstream services, conducted research to better understand how integrated services are able to meet the needs of families and children. The **Service Integration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Development Final Report** confirmed that service integration has enabled the two partner organisations to meet a broad range of needs for Aboriginal children and families and to provide holistic and coordinated care.

SNAICC and The University of Melbourne.



NEW CHILD CARE PACKAGE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are twice as likely to be developmentally vulnerable early in life, and only half as likely to access Commonwealth-funded early childhood services as their non-Indigenous peers. The New Child Care Package (the Package) introduced in July 2018 is likely exacerbating this inequity.

In 2018-19 SNAICC consulted regularly with a large network of child care providers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in every state and territory to monitor and understand the impact of the Package on our children and families.

In May 2019, we undertook a survey that was completed by:

- 54 early childhood education and care services that collectively support over 1700 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, nationwide.
- 50% of the 31 services that responded to a question about hours of access reported that our children are accessing fewer hours of early education and care because of the Package.
- 45% of services that responded to a question about reasons for reduced hours told us that children are accessing fewer hours because of the introduction of the Activity Test.

We made a submission to the Australian National Audit Office's examination of the design and implementation of the Package and the Australian Institute of Family Studies' evaluation of the Package, detailing all the aspects of the Package that are not working for our families and services, and calling for an Activity Test exemption for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, to provide up to 30 hours per week of child care.



EVALUATING POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SNAICC developed two resources to support the monitoring and evaluation of work being done in the sector – one for internal SNAICC use and one for external use for services. **The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child and Family Services Evaluation Readiness Toolkit** was developed to empower our services to better monitor, evaluate and articulate the positive outcomes they are achieving for our children and families.

Too often, locally designed approaches driven by organisations working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family services sector are under-valued due to a lack of documented evidence.

The evaluation readiness toolkit enables organisations to highlight the value of locally designed and driven approaches and build their own evidence base to prove and improve the effectiveness of their programs.

CHILD PLACEMENT PRINCIPLE TRAINING IN THE ACT

Following the launch of the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle: A guide to support implementation** in 2018, and in response to recommendations from the Our Booris Our Way Steering Committee (Interim Report 2018, ACT), SNAICC trained 30 team leaders and 150 case workers from the ACT Community Services Directorate in understanding and applying all elements of the Child Placement Principle.

Training discussions and activities draw from the Child Placement Principle implementation guide and the wealth of expert knowledge and experience outlined within it. This information was gathered from research of laws, policies and best practice evidence across the country, including consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies and leaders on best practice for addressing all of the Child Placement Principle priority areas.

Child and Youth Protection Services, ACT Government.



CULTURALLY STRONG AND RESPONSIVE LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES

SNAICC aims to ensure that governments develop and implement laws, policies and practices that respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, are culturally safe and are informed by the needs of our children, families and organisations.

SNAICC undertakes research to ensure our input to policy development is based on the best available evidence and data. We consult regularly with our members, sectors and communities, to ensure that the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities are at the centre of our contributions to policy development and reform.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

SNAICC has long been calling for early education and care to be a priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. In February 2019, SNAICC and Early Childhood Australia released a joint position paper and longer discussion paper, **Working Together to Ensure Equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in the Early Years**, highlighting the key issues that prevent our children from accessing early childhood education and care, and providing recommendations for improving outcomes. The paper is endorsed by more than 40 leading child welfare, education and research organisations nationwide.

Amongst other calls, the paper urges the Federal Government to work alongside state and territory governments to commit to permanently fund universal access to high quality education for three and four year olds, including additional funding to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children get access to a minimum three days per week of high-quality preschool. It calls for investment into quality Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled integrated early learning services, with clear targets to increase coverage in areas of high Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, and high levels of disadvantage.

FAMILY MATTERS 2018

Family Matters, led by SNAICC, 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. The Family Matters annual report is a key policy document, tracking how governments across the country are responding to the challenge of ending the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care. The report holds governments in all jurisdictions to account and is influential in making the case for change.

In November 2018, **The Family Matters Report 2018** was launched at the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference in Sydney, and once again revealed that the rate at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are being removed from their families is an escalating national crisis. The report finds that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are 10.1 times more likely to be removed from their families than non-Indigenous children. Fewer than half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait



“

The insight of our peak bodies, who do such incredible work fighting for the realisation of rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, is absolutely essential for a successful Closing the Gap.

– SNAICC Chair Muriel Bamblett

”

Islander children are placed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers, following a steep decline over the last 10 years, leaving them at serious risk of being permanently disconnected from their families, communities and cultures.

The report recommends improving investment in preventative and early intervention services, and involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in decision-making about their own children, focusing on strengthening access to the early years. It calls on the development of a generational Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's strategy to eliminate over-representation in out-of-home care and address the causes of child removals.

Thank you to our Family Matters supporters.

COALITION OF PEAKS ON CLOSING THE GAP

In February 2019, SNAICC attended the Prime Minister's Closing the Gap address and met with politicians and government representatives to discuss priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

SNAICC stressed the need for Closing the Gap targets to eliminate the over-representation of our children in out-of-home care, and to improve developmental outcomes in the early years. SNAICC called for the government to develop strategies to implement these targets with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and highlighted the need for a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's strategy, in line with our Family Matters campaign.

In March 2019, it was announced that SNAICC would play a vital role in progressing the rights of children over the next 10 years through its position on the Coalition of Peaks on Closing the Gap – the outcome of a formal partnership agreement between the Federal Government, states, territories, and the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations, a group of 40 community-controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies. The Coalition of Peaks has the important role of finalising the new Closing the Gap framework and monitoring its implementation over the next 10 years.

THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK: THE FOURTH ACTION PLAN AND A NATIONAL STRATEGY

In January 2019, SNAICC helped launch the Fourth Action Plan under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 in Darwin, which includes a stand-alone priority on improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.

At the launch, SNAICC Director and Chair of the Family Matters campaign Natalie Lewis presented The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle: A guide to support implementation. Improved application of all five elements of the Child Placement Principle is a key priority of the Fourth Action Plan.

The very premise of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 is that redressing over-representation requires an increased focus on prevention and early intervention. However, the proportion of child protection funding spent on family support services focused on prevention and early intervention has remained at 17% over the past three years.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009 – 2020 is working with government representatives to prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children following the end of the National Framework in 2020.

See below for more about the Child Placement Principle.



IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE OF THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILD PLACEMENT PRINCIPLE

In late 2018, SNAICC developed a resource, **The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle: A guide to support implementation**. The guide supports practitioners and policy makers in the children and family sectors from all jurisdictions to develop strategies to improve their implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (Child Placement Principle). Its content is strongly influenced by the expert knowledge and experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies and leaders in the sector who provided their input to its drafting.

Using this guide, SNAICC led workshops in all states and territories to support government practice leaders and policy makers to develop strategies that can improve their implementation of the Child Placement Principle. The workshops generated plans that are now being taken forward

by governments to improve child protection policies and practice to better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and keep them safe and connected to culture.

In addition to supporting state and territory governments with their Principle implementation efforts, SNAICC conducted baseline analyses of the progress of all jurisdictions in implementing the full intent of the Child Placement Principle. The baseline analyses consider the alignment of the five elements of the Child Placement Principle – prevention, partnership, placement, participation, and connection – with five interrelated system elements – legislation, policy, programs, processes and practice in each jurisdiction.

SNAICC will conduct compliance reviews annually to monitor each jurisdiction's progress to better align their work with the full intent of the Child Placement Principle.



AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE BROADER POPULATION

Australians can be proud that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the oldest living civilisation of the world, and we must celebrate the strength of our culture and identity, passed down from family to family from time immemorial.

To move towards reconciliation and healing, we want to share our Dreaming, our stories, our knowledge and the richness of our cultures and the strengths of our families. Our children will lead the way.

FAMILY MATTERS NATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION

The Family Matters National Week of Action is a yearly highlight of the campaign that aims to generate public awareness and political commitment to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care.

In 2019, the Family Matters National Week of Action was held from 20-26 May. This year's theme was *Because of them, we must*. During this year's National Week of Action, a number of Family Matters members produced opinion editorials, sharing their reflections on what they believe is required to address the crisis of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child removals. These pieces were published through the Family Matters website. The piece written by SNAICC Chairperson Muriel Bamblett was published on Croakey, the popular online health blog.

A number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and organisations and mainstream services and organisations participated in the National Week of Action by holding events across the country. The National Week of Action also generated a great deal of interest on social media. Across the week almost 40,000 people viewed Family Matters tweets and the Family Matters Facebook page reached over 2000 users each day.



ADVOCACY THROUGH MEDIA

SNAICC uses a number of platforms to promote our messages, highlight sector issues, and inform our members, stakeholders and the public of the work SNAICC is doing to advance the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

SNAICC shares its messages through traditional and social media, utilising four websites, Facebook and Twitter posts and monthly e-bulletins. SNAICC also produced media releases on a number of issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. These issues included the underpayment of early childhood educators, permanent care reforms in New South Wales, the introduction of the ParentsNext program, the expansion of the cashless welfare card in the Northern Territory and SNAICC's 2019 election priorities.

In 2018-19, engagement with SNAICC's communication platforms steadily increased.

As of June 2019:

- Facebook had 9,574 users; an increase of 14%
- Twitter had 5,540 followed; an increase of 13%
- 11 e-bulletins with 18,394 individual opens; an increase of 16%
- snaicc.org.au and familymatters.org.au had 87,588 users; an increase of 2%

Ongoing support to SNAICC's Communications team provided by CAGES.

9574

FACEBOOK USERS
14% INCREASE



5540

TWITTER FOLLOWERS
13% INCREASE

18394

INDIVIDUAL OPENS FROM
11 E-BULLETINS
16% INCREASE



87588

WEBSITE USERS
2% INCREASE

snaicc.org.au

WEBSITE USERS 2% INCREASE

familymatters.org.au

WEBSITE USERS 2% INCREASE



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY

SNAICC has been coordinating National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day for more than 30 years, and each year it gains more support. Children's Day is celebrated on or around 4 August 2019 and is an important day for all Australians, and particularly special for our communities and our children.

Our 2019 Children's Day ambassador Nanna, from the animated children's series *Little J & Big Cuz*, promoted our theme We Play, We Learn, We Belong, recognising the vital role that learning in the early years plays in the development and futures of our children. We advocate for better access to culturally appropriate early childhood education for our children through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

Volunteers helped us pack 15,000 bags with items such as a weaving bracelet, tattoos, a bandana and a beautiful book *Molly the Pig (Moli det Bigibigi)* written in Kriol and English, generously donated by the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. All 15,000 bags were distributed to places far and wide, and more than 600 communities across the country held events throughout the week to celebrate. We shipped bags far and wide, by boat to Palm Island off the coast of Queensland, to the remote areas of the Kimberley and Newman in WA, Arnhem Land, Katherine and the Northern Territory.

Communities celebrated events in each state and territory, sharing on our website, Facebook and Twitter. SNAICC partnered with Scienceworks in Victoria to host our launch event at their Little Kids' Day In. SNAICC Chair Muriel Bamblett gave a heartwarming welcome to children from communities across the state to enjoy a day of entertainment, face painting, boomerang etching, ochre painting and more.

"Every parent and grandparent – and uncle and auntie and carer – will tell you that the children in their lives are their absolute priority. That's something we all share. Children's Day is a perfect time for us to centre ourselves and celebrate what's really important."

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of Ningali Lawford-Wolf, the voice of Nanna of *Little J & Big Cuz*, who sadly passed in August 2019. Ningali's passion and love of culture inspired Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to celebrate the importance of playing, learning and belonging.

Children's Day was supported by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet – IAS.

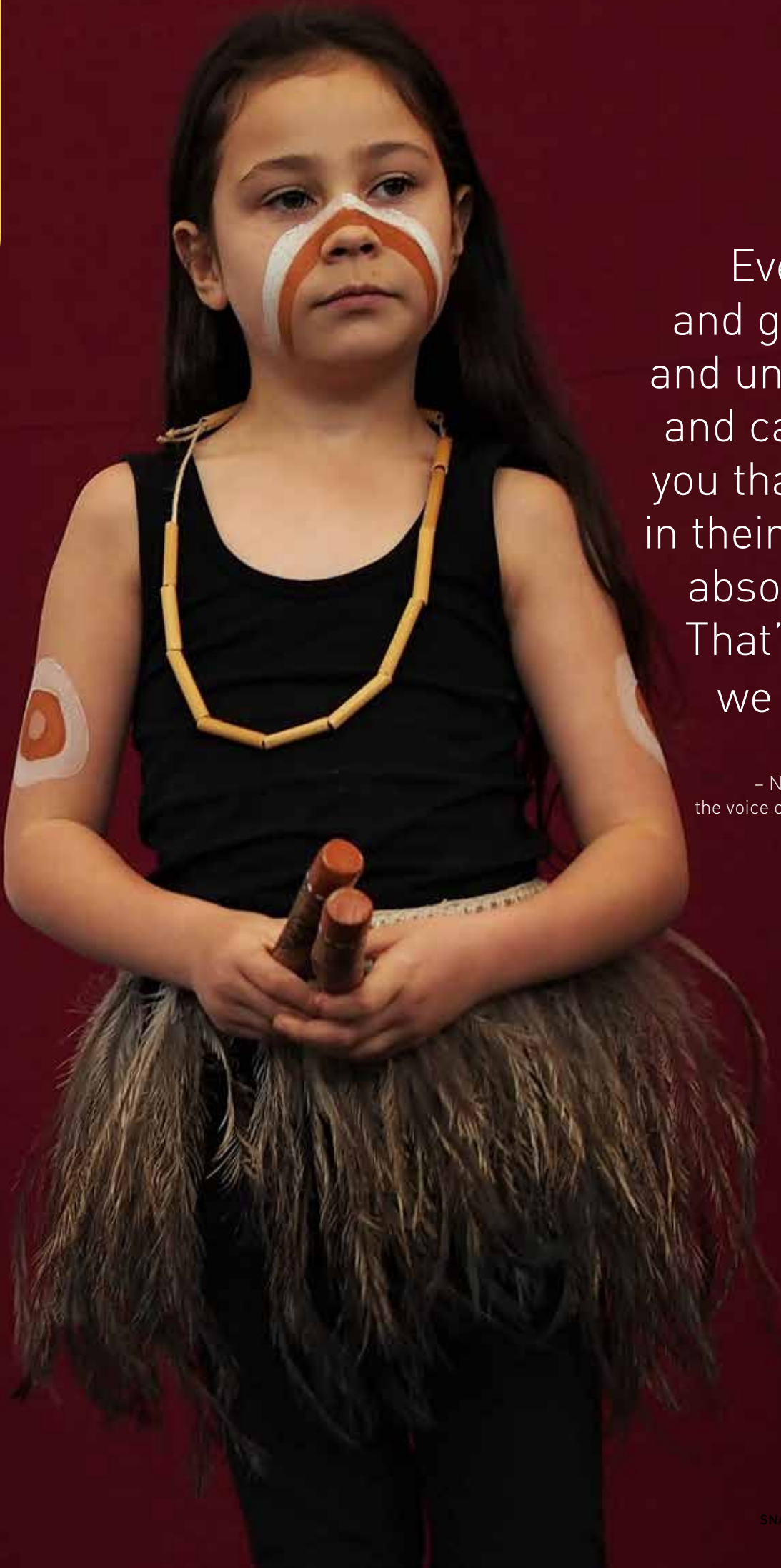


“

Every parent and grandparent – and uncle and auntie and carer – will tell you that the children in their lives are their absolute priority. That’s something we all share...

– Ningali Lawford-Wolf,
the voice of Nanna of *Little J & Big Cuz*

”



STRONG AND EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PEAK BODY FOR CHILDREN

SNAICC is actively working to be a sustainable and independent peak body, with a high quality engaged workforce. We are a culturally safe and responsive organisation that aims to lead sector debate and influence government policy shifts for the betterment of our stakeholders, members, families and children.



STRONG GOVERNANCE

SNAICC's Board and Council is comprised of highly respected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, representing a wealth of experience and expertise from a variety of sectors, states and territories across Australia.

They are SNAICC's major decision-makers and are key to setting SNAICC's strategy and direction. They are accountable to all members, funding bodies, supporters and stakeholders for the organisation's performance and the fulfilment of its responsibilities and obligations.

STRENGTHENING MEMBERSHIP

As a national peak body, we provide a platform for our members to have a stronger voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Our members consist of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations that are working to support and improve outcomes for children and families as well as non-Indigenous organisations.

Our members share a commitment to advancing the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities. SNAICC works closely with our members for their expertise, knowledge and experience in working directly with our children to inform our policies and campaigns, training and resources. From our early years network to our policy working groups, we value expertise from our services and supporters, including knowledge of pressing community needs and community-led strategies that see our children grow up healthy and strong.

In August 2019, SNAICC has

105

members and associates from across Australia, with numbers growing in the lead up to the 8th SNAICC National Conference in September 2019.



HIGH QUALITY WORKFORCE

SNAICC is fortunate to have a team of highly qualified, skilled, knowledgeable and dedicated professionals all working together to promote the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. They are united by their belief in SNAICC's mission and purpose.

SNAICC's team come from diverse backgrounds such as social work, law, international development, state government, the corporate sector, community services, media, marketing and finance.

SNAICC prioritises the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with key positions open only to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff as per the relevant state and Commonwealth laws.

POLICY ANALYSIS AND ADVOCACY

SNAICC takes a leading role in providing evidence-based policy analysis of issues concerning the rights and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children, particularly in the area of early childhood development.

Through consultations, surveys and collaboration, SNAICC's policy team has been working to ensure the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are represented at national, state and territory levels.

SNAICC's advocacy and communications represented our priorities during the national

election, voiced our concern about the ParentsNext program and cashless welfare card, and urged the Federal Government to invest in early intervention and prevention services in response to youth suicide, as well as campaigning for a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's strategy as part of the Family Matters campaign.

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

SNAICC offers a range of relevant training and professional development to ensure our members and partners can access the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children.

SNAICC draws upon a team of experienced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous staff and high quality Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workshop facilitators.

In 2018-19, SNAICC conducted training in the areas of the early years through to transitioning to school, strengthening partnerships and cultural competence within mainstream and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services. We facilitated family-led decision making workshops in Queensland, child placement principle workshops in the ACT and consultations on child protection in Central Australia. Our cultural competency training Working and Walking Together was produced as an online course, to give participants the opportunity to delve into issues of cultural safety in preparation for face-to-face workshops.

ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Throughout the year, SNAICC provided input to international, as well as federal and state and territory processes to influence better rights protection for our children.

SNAICC contributed to The Children's Report, an NGO report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN Committee) about Australia's progress to improve outcomes for children. SNAICC also reported to the UN Committee in Geneva in February 2019, informing the UN that concerted government effort is needed to improve the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

SNAICC submitted to the South Australian Government on their draft bill to establish a commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people, asserting that the commissioner must have the necessary powers to investigate systemic issues impacting our children and make recommendations for reform. SNAICC also presented a submission to the Northern Territory Government on their draft bill to amend their child protection legislation to improve children's rights to be connected to their families and culture, and participate in decisions that affect them.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

SNAICC extends our enormous thanks for the generosity and support of the following organisations and individuals that funded SNAICC's programs in 2018-19.

DONATIONS	Rose Chipperfield	Thinkcreative	Michelle Wood
	Jeanette Swain	Terry Finch	Jennifer Miles
	Tania Honeywell	Gillian Farrell	Sharyn Dimech
	Kate Groves	Caroline Smith	Camendy Cooper
	Rachel Coley	Robert Green	Angelique Odyssea
PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT	CAGES Foundation	Australian Communities Foundation	Gandel Philanthropy
FAMILY MATTERS SUPPORTERS	The Benevolent Society	Key Assets	PeakCare Queensland
	KARI Ltd	Reconciliation Australia	Berry Street
	Griffith University	The Healing Foundation	Save the Children
	Life Without Barriers (Newcastle NSW)	The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples	Commission for Children & Young People
	Department of Family and Community Services (NSW Government)	Australian Communities Foundation	AbSec – NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation
	University of Melbourne	Uniting Care Vic	Woodside Energy Limited
GOVERNMENT FUNDERS	Federal Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	Queensland Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women	Northern Territory Government: Territory Families
	Federal Department of Social Services	Department of Education NSW	Australian Capital Territory
	Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)	Federal Department of Social Services	
OTHER PARTNERS	The University of Melbourne: Melbourne School of Population and Global Health	Charles Darwin University	Adelaide Convention Bureau
		Wendy Brooks & Partners Monash University	Griffith University
NATIONAL CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS	Aboriginal Family Support Services	Adelaide Convention Bureau	Government of South Australia
	AbSec	Koori Mail	Key Assets
	Community Services Directorate (ACT)	Department of Health & Human Services (Vic)	Minister for Child, Safety, Youth & Women (Qld)
	Department of Child Protection (SA)	Department of Social Services (Federal)	Family & Relationship Services Australia
	Department of Communities (WA)	Department of Education and Training (Federal)	Queensland Family & Child Commission
	Department of Family and Community Services (NSW)	Goodstart Early Learning World Vision Australia	QANTAS



SNAICC STAFF

1 JULY 2018
– 30 JUNE 2019

John Burton	Social Policy and Research Manager / Acting CEO
Anthony Meggs	Corporate Services Manager
Poppy Bervanakis	Events and Engagement Coordinator
Joanne Cackett	Communications Officer
Sarah Francis	Communications Officer
Nadeshda Jayakody	Policy and Research Officer
Daniel Kovacevic	Communications Coordinator
Andria Mastroianni	Policy and Research Officer
Brent McCann	Communications Project Officer
Judith McKay-Tempest	Early Years Training Supervisor
Phichyanee Myint	Finance Assistant
Eva Ruggiero	Senior Training Officer
Janelle Young	Senior Policy and Research Officer

STAFF WHO
DEPARTED
DURING THE
YEAR

Emma Brathwaite	Senior Policy and Research Officer
Rhianna Brickle	Sector and Practice Development Officer
Shanel Cubillo	Project Officer
David Ellis	Sector Development Manager
Vladimir Georgiev	Children's Day Project Officer
William Hayward	WA Family Matters Project Coordinator
Katherine Hinton	Corporate Services Manager
Anna Liebzeit	Early Years Training Officer
Maria Murray	Sector and Practice Development Manager
Kim Sedick	Interim CEO
Angela Singh	CEO
Maylene Slater-Burns	Communications and Children's Day Officer
Emma Sydenham	Acting CEO
Dallas Terlich	Policy and Research Officer
Kyle Thomas	Trainee
Eileen Van Iersel	Senior Project Officer
Tanya Wells	Administrative Coordinator
Rohan Thwaites	Policy and Research Officer

INTERNS, STUDENTS
AND VOLUNTEERS

Charles Chu	Esther Linder	Sherilee Kartinyeri
Maire Wade	Brent McCann	Sophie Heath
Staff from Red Cross Australia	Staff from Save the Children Australia	Staff from Bennelong Foundation
Staff from ViiV Healthcare	Staff from GSK Australia	Staff from Centre for Humanitarian Leadership
Staff from CPM Australia	Staff from AIFS	





“

SNAICC has long been calling for early education and care to be a priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

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STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2018-19

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2018-19

INCOME	\$
Grants, sponsorship and donation income	2,396,657
Consultations, training & resource sales	190,158
Interest income	2,104
Other income	56,757
Total income	2,645,676
EXPENDITURE	
People expenses	1,430,378
Printing and design expenses	191,173
Travel expenses	206,556
Professional fees	461,289
National Conference, meeting and event costs	104,655
Office and administration expenses	222,868
Total expenses	2,616,919
Net income/deficit before income tax	28,757
Income tax expense	-
Net income/deficit after income tax	28,757

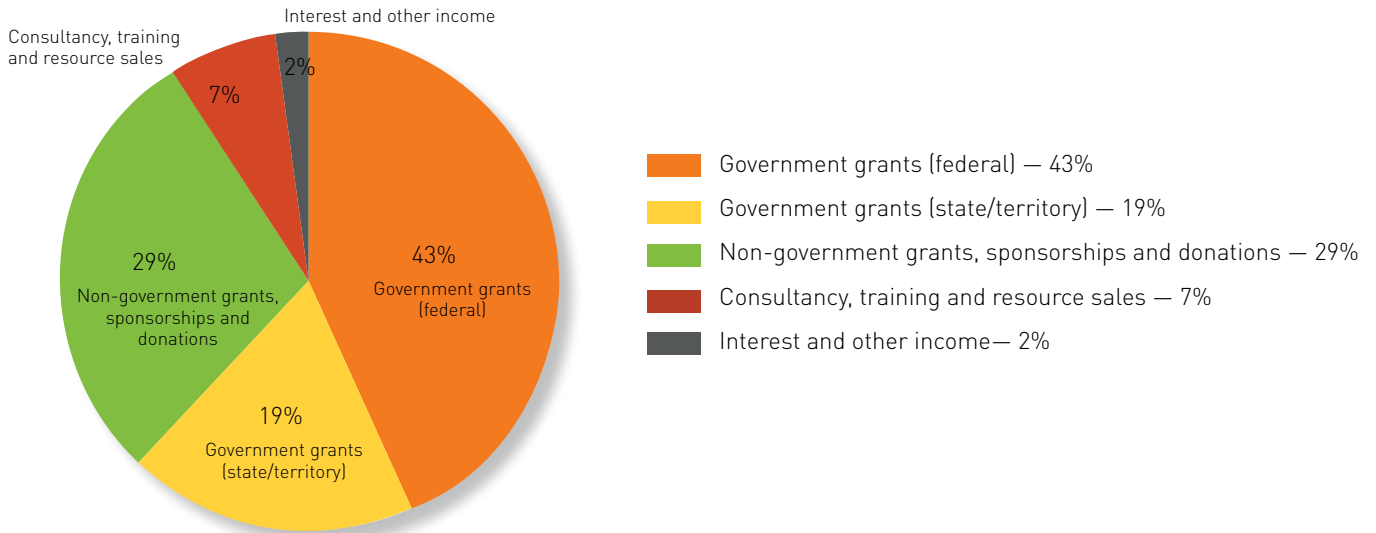
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash & cash equivalents	1,218,203
Trade & other receivables	97,178
Inventories	18,675
Prepayments	156,163
Total current assets	1,490,219
Non-current assets	
Plant and equipment	39,306
Total non-current assets	39,306
Total assets	1,529,525
LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities	
Trade and other payables	174,703
Employee benefits provision	67,985
Deferred income	983,360
Total current liabilities	1,226,048
Non-current liabilities	
Employee benefits provision	21,611
Total non-current liabilities	21,611
Total liabilities	1,247,659
Net assets	281,866
Equity	
Retained earnings	281,866
Total members' equity	281,866



SOURCES OF SNAICC INCOME

2018-19



**Together
we have a
stronger voice**

**Join SNAICC –
National Voice for
our Children**



By becoming a SNAICC member you join the chorus of Australians speaking up for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. The more members we have, the louder our voice can be!

Why be a member?

As a national peak body, we provide a platform for our members to have a stronger voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

By joining the SNAICC community, you have access to best practice through our policy briefs, resources, communications tools and sector development processes.

We value expertise from our services and supporters, including knowledge of pressing community needs and community-led strategies that see our children grow up healthy and strong.

You'll receive:

- Voting rights at our AGM (Aboriginal-controlled orgs only)
- Regular news on policy developments
- Participation in training and policy research
- Promoting your organisation through our events and communications
- Joining our national advocacy to make real policy change
- Networking opportunities online and face-to-face
- Membership certificate and Welcome Pack
- Members-only newsletter
- Annual Report
- Discount tickets to the bi-annual SNAICC National Conference
- Special offers for National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day



Sign up online at
www.snaicc.org.au/about/membership

Call 03 9419 1921 or email us at
membership@snaicc.org.au

Our membership
year runs from
1 July to 30 June and
costs \$200 per year
(includes GST).
New members pay
pro-rata



SNAICC
National Voice for our Children

www.snaicc.org.au

SNAICC - NATIONAL VOICE FOR OUR CHILDREN