



**SNAICC**  
National Voice for our Children



# **SNAICC ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**

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-government 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.





# CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

In these unprecedented times, I am extremely proud of what SNAICC has achieved in the past 12 months.

The SNAICC Board and Council have continued to lead the organisation through some momentous national initiatives. The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown many challenges our way, but with such a capable and dedicated team, we continued to deliver on our strategic priorities that support our children, families and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. While at times we couldn't come together in person, we reached out to our communities online to contribute to a national strategy for our children in early childhood, the next 10-year National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children, as well as initiatives to uphold the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*.

This report demonstrates that SNAICC continues to punch above its weight in driving sector reforms to keep our children safe, happy and connected to culture. Our relationship with the Commonwealth and state and territory governments has given us the leverage to transform change in policies that impact our children and families.

SNAICC has worked to deliver on two of the commitments to the Closing the Gap agreement reflected through our work in championing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests in the next 10-year plan for protecting Australia's children and in the development of the first ever *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy*.

We continue to be at the table with governments to ensure they uphold their commitments to strengthen community-controlled organisations in delivering culturally safe programs in the early years and child and family services.

Our Family Matters report is a stark reminder that there is much work to be done in reducing the over-representation of our children in out-of-home care, but we are in a strong position to influence change, and the Closing the Gap agreement gives us leverage to do this. It is important to acknowledge previous Family Matters co-chairs Natalie Lewis (Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission); and Sue-Anne Hunter (Commissioner at Yoo-rrook Justice Commission); and thank current co-chairs Catherine Liddle and Paul Gray for their leadership of the work of Family Matters.

Once again, SNAICC led National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on 4 August during a period of lockdowns in many parts of the country. We connected with our members and provided resources and activities online, while also delivering cultural resources to communities across Australia.

With a strong SNAICC governance and new strategy on the horizon, our partnership with philanthropists and partners is healthy. As Chairperson of SNAICC, I want to thank our Chief Executive Officer Catherine Liddle for elevating the profile of our work as a national peak body. I also want to thank staff for their dedication to and support of SNAICC, adapting to ever changing environments. We look forward to 2022 to ensure our progress makes a real difference for our children and families.



**Muriel Bamblett**  
Chairperson



Muriel Bamblett



*We look forward to 2022 to ensure our progress makes a real difference for our children and families.*



## CEO'S MESSAGE

Werte, what an incredible and significant year it has been. The work of our members and sector in responding to COVID whilst continuing to serve their children and communities has been nothing short of exceptional. It has also been a time of momentous change in the policy landscape with the new *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* coming into place with high-level commitments to fundamentally reform the systems and services impacting our children and families. Our SNAICC team and community have been working hard to ensure these commitments translate to genuine action and reform.

Throughout 2020 and into 2021, we spent a lot of time in virtual rooms listening to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services tell us about the immense challenges they were facing. We were, and continue to be, inspired by the generosity in sharing stories and time with us and with the commitment, dedication and passion services showed in keeping their staff, children and families happy, healthy and safe. All of this whilst also adjusting to changing restrictions and policies.

Without your voices we would not be able to hold governments accountable and influence the policy reform that will see our children thrive connected to family, culture, community, and kin.

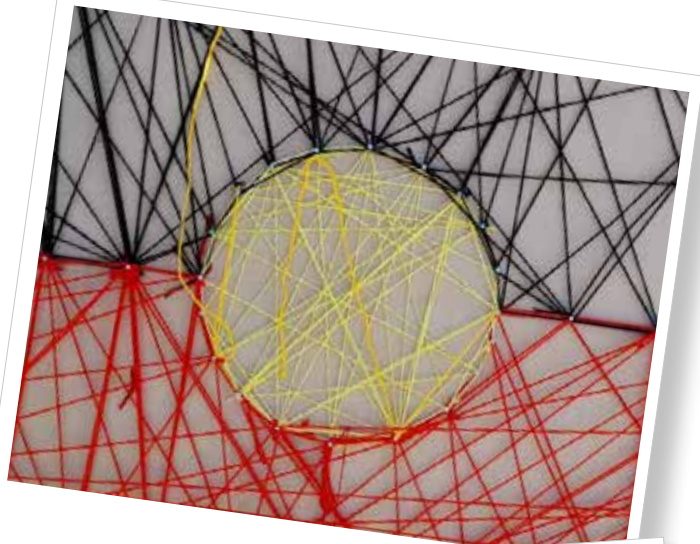
SNAICC has been instrumental in the development of three major national policy initiatives that help us achieve this, including the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*; partnering with the National Indigenous Australian's Agency to develop the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy*; as well as ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and priorities are driving the next 10-year National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.

SNAICC continued to amplify the voices of our children, our members, and our communities through our strong campaigns. In 2020, the Family Matters Report was launched online to an overwhelming 300 participants. Following this was a successful National Week of Action through a series of online events. In 2021, we also developed cultural resources and delivered 15,000 resource bags to our communities across Australia to celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on 4 August, sharing our theme: Proud in culture, strong in spirit.

I often reflect with the SNAICC team that while we are small, our capacity is high because it is driven by the amazing commitment and strength of the communities, families and organisations that stand alongside us. I am thankful every day to be part of such a remarkable team and to have the guidance of our Board and Council members and partners, as we grow and strengthen our impact for our children. These are exciting times ahead!



**Catherine Liddle**  
CEO



Catherine Liddle



# 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*



**Kathleen Pinkerton**  
Yorganop Association  
Incorporated  
*Deputy Chairperson*



**Miranda Edwards**  
Victorian Aboriginal  
Education Association  
(VAEAI)  
*Secretary*



**Candice Butler**  
Queensland Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait  
Islander Child  
Protection Peak  
(QATSICPP)  
*Treasurer*



**Sharron Williams**  
Aboriginal Family  
Support Services  
(AFSS)



**Rachel Atkinson**  
Palm Island  
Community Company  
(PICC)



**John Leha**  
NSW Child, Family  
and Community Peak  
Aboriginal Corporation  
(AbSec)



## SNAICC COUNCIL



**Emma Beckett**  
Muloobinba  
Aboriginal  
Corporation



**Joanne Della Bona**  
Coolabaroo  
Neighbourhood  
Centre (MACS)



**Walter Shaw**  
Tangentyere  
Council Inc.

The SNAICC Council includes all SNAICC Board members and additional representatives from SNAICC member organisations in each state and territory.

The SNAICC Council provides strategic and policy advice and is structured to bring cross-sector state and territory experience and knowledge and foster inter-state information exchange and engagement.

## SNAICC BOARD AND COUNCIL MEMBERS RESIGNATIONS

### **Geraldine Atkinson**

Lulla's Children and Family Centre  
(MACS)

### **Lisa Coulson**

Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation

### **Tim Ireland**

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

### **Olga Havnen**

Danila Dilba Health Service

### **Natalie Lewis**

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

### **Carolyn Renehan**

Central Australian  
Aboriginal Congress



# 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

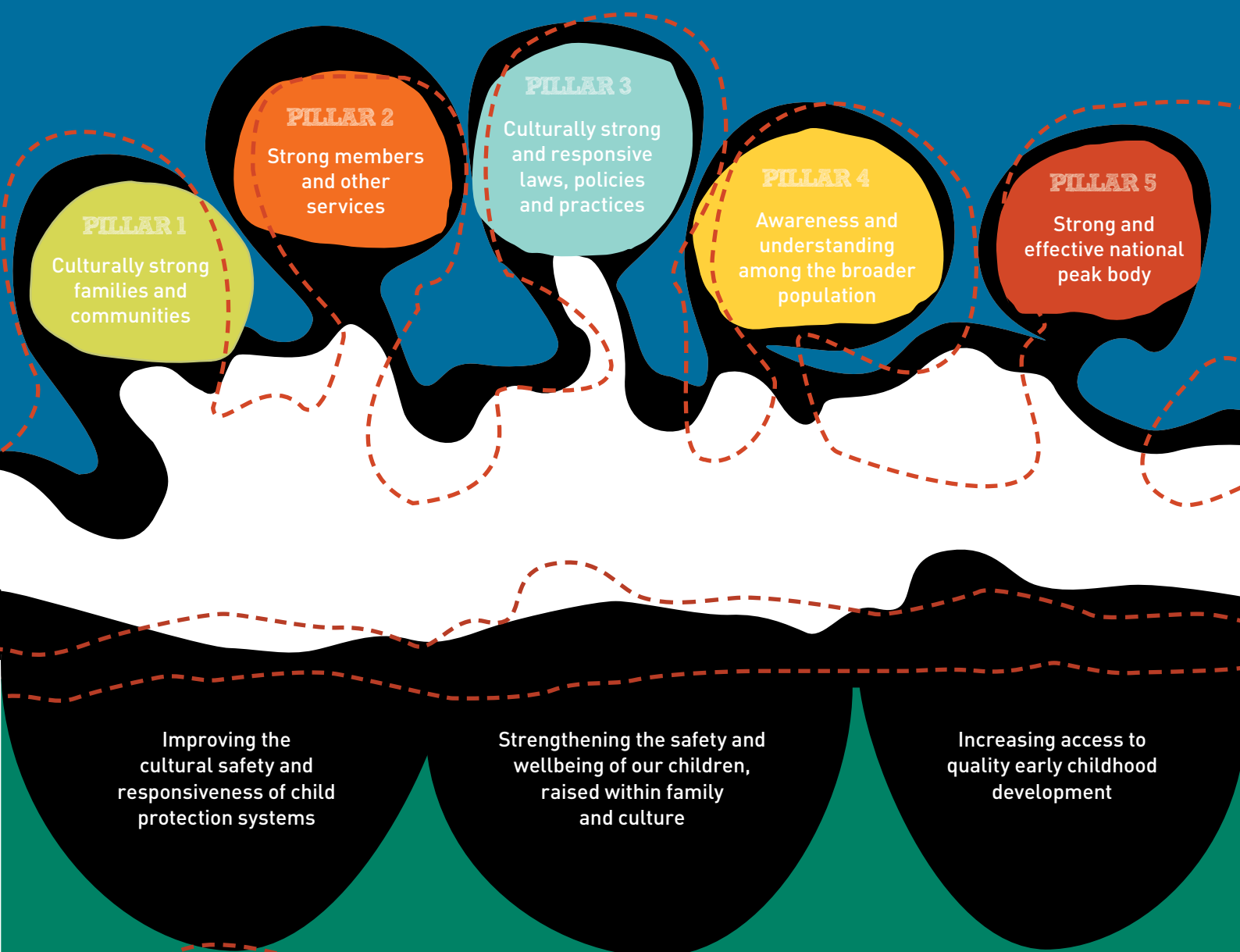
Collaboration with relationships of trust and confidence





# 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

- Improving the cultural safety and responsiveness of child protection systems
- Strengthening the safety and wellbeing of our children, raised within family and culture
- Increasing access to quality early childhood development



## 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

SNAICC aims to increase the participation and developmental outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in early childhood education and care services (ECEC) by providing cultural competence training to a range of non-Indigenous ECEC services (that includes long day care, preschool and playgroups) in areas with high Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander populations.

## A PLACE FOR CULTURE

A Place for Culture is SNAICC's training program to strengthen understanding of culture for people working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The cultural competence package is designed to equip participants with the basic capabilities to interact in spaces comprised of people of different cultures, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, SNAICC developed a new online platform and training module, 'Foundations of Cultural Competence', to improve the participant experience. The decision to move to a new platform was based on participant feedback and provides improved user experience, functionality, reporting, and set-up time. Resources, as well as review and feedback processes were updated.

The online platform was piloted with North Fitzroy Childcare Co-Op in Melbourne and the new platform has received positive feedback. We are grateful for the input from participants at North Fitzroy Childcare Co-op to improve the useability and functionality of this platform.

A Place for Culture was delivered in several sites across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

*Funded by Department of Social Services,  
Australian Government*



## KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE: CULTURAL SAFETY AND THE NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR CHILD SAFE ORGANISATIONS

SNAICC worked in partnership with the National Office for Child Safety and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) to develop the Keeping Our Kids Safe resources. The resources are designed to support organisations engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and communities to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (the National Principles) in a culturally safe way.

The National Principles are principles agreed upon by all Australian Governments that give organisations across Australia a consistent approach to promoting a culture of child safety and wellbeing.

Keeping Our Kids Safe provides practical advice for all levels of an organisation, highlighting considerations that will create culturally safe spaces, free from racism and discrimination. The resources consist of:

- an animated video, *Keeping Our Kids Safe: Understanding Cultural Safety in Child Safe Organisations*, that gives viewers an introduction to the National Principles through a cultural lens
- a guide, *Keeping Our Kids Safe: Cultural Safety and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*, that gives practical advice on how to implement the National Principles in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities.

The resources were developed after SNAICC consulted with over 100 individuals and representatives from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, communities, and young people, as well as non-Indigenous organisations servicing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in early 2020.

*Funded by the National Office for Child Safety, Australian Government*

## THE JOURNEY TO BIG SCHOOL

SNAICC works to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with 'school readiness', an effective transition to formal schooling through a program focused on the development of local networks, relationships, leadership and transition support plans. Working closely with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, communities and families, we adopt action plans to support our educators, children and families.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and its subsequent restrictions and challenges, the series of workshops and training planned for several locations was put on hold. However, progress is underway for the full transfer of workshops and modules to an online format with plans to deliver the program to sites across Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

*Funded by Department of Social Services, Australian Government*

## HALLS CREEK PARTNERSHIP

Since 2015, SNAICC has been working with the Halls Creek community in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia, as part of a five-year project.

Delivered in partnership with the Wunan Foundation, SNAICC supports children and families to successfully transition into primary school with the support of early years services in the community.

While there was limited face-to-face training and contact support due to COVID-19 restrictions, a series of training and support activities was provided in May 2021. SNAICC continues to provide support externally as needed, including in the recruitment of and support for local staff on the ground in Halls Creek.

Project planning is underway for a more focused list of activities and supports identified by the local community for 2022.

*Funded by the Department of Social Services, Australian Government*



## STRONG MEMBERS AND OTHER SERVICES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations provide essential support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Through its members and stakeholders, SNAICC aims to strengthen Aboriginal-led services.

SNAICC also aims to strengthen non-Indigenous services to be culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families



## GENUINE PARTNERSHIPS

Genuine partnerships can strengthen cultural capability for non-Indigenous providers, while building the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to provide services to their families and communities. Under the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*, there is a focus on transferring resources from mainstream services to community-controlled services, and partnerships are a key way to support this.

In 2020, SNAICC conducted a survey with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous services to assess progress towards achieving genuine partnership goals. Organisations identified what is most important for a successful partnership. This informed two new resources to support partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous organisations engaging in child and family services. *Creating Change through Partnerships* and *Applying for Funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child and Family Services* offer organisations clear guidance on how to build a strong partnership.

In 2020–21 SNAICC provided facilitation and support for two partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous organisations in Queensland and South Australia. SNAICC's partnership facilitation program assisted these organisations to identify partnership strengths and challenges and plan for building on their partnership work together. In June 2021, SNAICC worked with the Australian Institute of Family Studies to host a webinar profiling our partnership resources and highlighting one of the partnerships we worked with in Queensland between Kurbingui Youth and Family Development and Mercy Community. Approximately 1,200 people attended the webinar, with 99% of participants indicating they would use the information presented in the webinar, and 94% rating the webinar as good or excellent.

SNAICC is also evaluating the online Partnerships Audit Tool. The tool provides a framework for achieving genuine partnership goals and assists organisations to reflect on their partnership. A series of webinars and presentations about the tools and resources are being delivered to key stakeholders in the child and family sector.

*Funded by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)*



## THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are at greater risk from COVID-19 than non-Indigenous people, extending well beyond the health threat posed by the virus itself. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have higher levels of vulnerability to the social and economic impacts due to pre-existing levels of disadvantage. The flow-on effects are significant to our children and families.

In response to the pandemic in 2020, SNAICC consulted extensively with members to keep abreast of the impact the pandemic was having on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and services. SNAICC produced two video resources aimed at parents, carers and practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families. Trauma-informed cultural practice and advice informed the development of *Our Kids* and *COVID-19 and Four Tips to Coping with the COVID-19 pandemic*, launched for National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on 4 August 2020.

SNAICC also consulted extensively with its members and services to respond to their needs in a rapidly changing policy environment. In October and November 2020, SNAICC conducted an online survey with child and family sector organisations to gain further insight into the short and long-term effects of COVID-19.

The survey responses, documented in our *COVID-19 Ongoing Impacts Survey Report*, confirm that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families. It was evident that the disruption and stress caused by COVID-19 affected the mental health of children and parents who were already experiencing high vulnerability. Additional stress resulted from economic hardship, health issues, isolation, increased demands of home schooling, and a lack of respite for parents and carers of children with disabilities, behavioural issues and developmental delays. Protective factors, including cultural and community networks that support wellbeing for children and families, were heavily disrupted while social distancing measures have been in place.

There were also specific findings related to ECEC services: the pandemic has exposed and exacerbated weakness within the ECEC system, and the survey results support earlier findings that it needs reform in a way that can sustainably address the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Throughout 2020–21, SNAICC also provided regular verbal and written briefings to National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and other federal government departments on the impact of COVID-19 on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, and the services supporting them. These briefings were informed by fortnightly online meetings with SNAICC service provider networks and the *COVID-19 Ongoing Impacts Survey Report*.

Many Aboriginal community-controlled organisations have found innovative ways to adapt their service delivery models to support children and families in their community, despite having limited additional supports and resources provided to them.

*Funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Australian Government*



## CHAMPIONING ABORIGINAL-LED INITIATIVES IN THE EARLY YEARS

The COVID-19 pandemic created a rapidly changing policy environment for Aboriginal-led early years services, and SNAICC continued its call for access to early education and care to be made a priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

In August 2020, SNAICC submitted Federal Budget proposals for early childhood education and care, calling for a minimum entitlement of 30 hours per week of 95% subsidised care per week for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, as well as the funding of a sector development initiative to support the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood services to deliver quality care and development supports. In May 2021, SNAICC welcomed the Australian Government's Budget announcement that increased investment in early childhood education and care. Further early childhood investments were announced in August 2021 as part of the Commonwealth Implementation Plan for the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*. These reforms included expanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled early childhood services through the Community Child Care Fund and expansion of the Connected Beginnings program with a focus on delivery through community-controlled organisations. SNAICC's CEO Catherine Liddle amplified our call for greater investment in Aboriginal-led early years services by featuring in national and regional media.

*See also A strong voice across the media on page 20*

We provided input to the parliamentary inquiry into education in remote and complex environments via a formal submission and participation in roundtable conversations. Many of the inquiry recommendations published are consistent with SNAICC's calls.

*Early childhood policy and advocacy work funded by Ross Trust*

## POLICY AND ADVOCACY SUPPORT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Over the past year, SNAICC has engaged with Northern Territory Government agencies, the Northern Territory Aboriginal sector and community stakeholders on a wide range of policy issues that affect the development and wellbeing of our children and their families.

In April 2021, SNAICC representatives (including newly appointed CEO, Catherine Liddle) travelled to Darwin and Alice Springs to engage with key stakeholders and leaders in the Northern Territory, building connections and identifying priorities for ongoing work to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children. Catherine held introductory meetings with Territory Families (in both cities), the Department of Education, the Office of the Children's Commissioner and a wide range of Aboriginal organisations, including those delivering the *Aboriginal Carers Growing Up Aboriginal Children* kinship care program. SNAICC also facilitated Knowledge Circles to inform the next 10-year National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. We heard from Aboriginal service providers, Elders and community leaders from across the Top End and Central Australia about keeping our children happy, safe and connected to culture, kin and community.

In developing the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy*, SNAICC partnered with Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress), an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation based in Alice Springs, to conduct face-to-face consultations with Aboriginal children and families. This helped SNAICC to better understand the key priorities from a community perspective to ensure that Aboriginal children are born and remain healthy, nurtured by strong families and enabled to thrive in their early years. SNAICC is also profiling two examples of best practice from Congress's early intervention and prevention initiatives.

*Funded by the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (Northern Territory Government)*





## SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL EARLY YEARS SERVICES IN NSW

SNAICC has commenced an initiative to establish intermediary support services that will represent, build and grow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled early years services across the country. The intermediary services will act as 'emerging peaks' for the early years sectors providing representation, leadership, and much needed professional services in areas such as workforce development, service integration, and program and policy development. The initiative is supported through a partnership with Social Ventures Australia, which provides establishment and implementation support to SNAICC.

SNAICC aims to establish the pilot in at least three states in the next three years and has commenced with the NSW Intermediary. This was co-designed by Aboriginal community-controlled early years services in New South Wales and is guided by an advisory group of Aboriginal community-controlled service leaders.

An office has been established in North Wollongong with a team of four strong Aboriginal staff members who will play a critical role in feeding the concerns and challenges of the New South Wales Aboriginal-led early years sector to government agencies.

The Intermediary will also support services with compliance, guidelines and other key support areas and priorities. The first of these is the need for SunSmart policies and resources and the team has helped supply sunscreen and hats to all services. The New South Wales Intermediary has also played a critical role supporting services during New South Wales COVID-19 lockdowns, including facilitating conversations with government agencies to address immediate service needs, and working with some centres to support the vaccine rollout for their staff, families, and communities.

The NSW Intermediary has hosted its first webinar about Stage 2 updates to the approved learning framework *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*. Stakeholder discussions have begun with the VET sector on how to best support training and development for the sector with TAFE and ECTARC, and evaluation activities have pivoted to accommodate the New South Wales restrictions and are moving forward.

*Funded by the Ian Potter Foundation, the Paul Ramsay Foundation, GNS Ceramics, and the Lowitja Institute. Pro bono support from King and Wood Mallesons.*

## ACT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILD PLACEMENT PRINCIPLE TRAINING AND SUPPORT

SNAICC was engaged by the ACT Government to develop and deliver a training and support program for commencing Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) staff from the end of 2020, following on from a program delivered to all of their frontline staff in 2019.

Training on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) aims to support the ACT team leaders and case workers to:

- deepen understanding of the scope of the Child Placement Principle
- increase capacity to effectively implement its five elements across the functions of the Children, Youth and Families Division.

In 2021, SNAICC delivered two training workshops to CYPS staff in March and October. We are looking forward to continue working with the ACT Government in delivering training over the next few years.

*Funded by the ACT Government*



## CULTURALLY STRONG AND RESPONSIVE LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES

SNAICC works in partnership with governments to develop and implement laws, policies and practices that uphold the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their cultures, informed by the needs of their children, families and organisations.

Policy research is based on the best available evidence and data. SNAICC regularly consults with its members, communities and representatives in the sector to ensure that the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities are at the centre of policy development and reform.



## FAMILY MATTERS 2020

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 report is a key policy document, that each year tracks 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 eight jurisdictions to account and is influential in making the case for change.

In November 2020, *The Family Matters Report 2020* was officially launched online, with nearly 300 participants joining us to hear from federal politicians (The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP; The Hon Michelle Landry, The Hon Linda Burney MP; and Senator Lidia Thorpe); two young people sharing their lived experience of the out-of-home care system (Isaiah Dawe and Vanessa-Turnbull Roberts), and MC John Paul Janke.

The report findings highlighted the continuing growth in the rate at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are being removed from their families. The report found that **20,077** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were living away from their parents and that they were **9.7 times more likely** to be removed from their families than non-Indigenous children. The population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care is projected to double by 2029 if governments do not intervene to interrupt the current growth.

The report found that the steep, decade-long decline in the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being placed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers was continuing. It also found that 81% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care or other supported care were on long-term or permanent care orders, leaving them at serious risk of being permanently disconnected from their families, communities and cultures.

A significant proportion of government investment is channelled into child protection services (84%) compared to services that provide support to families to safely care for their children (16%). SNAICC and the Family Matters leadership group advocated for the urgent need for greater investment in prevention and early intervention services that support our children and families. The report emphasised that involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in decision-making about their own children, and funding Aboriginal-led services, are also key



to preventing the removal of children from their families.

The launch of *The Family Matters Report 2020* was immediately followed by a series of online events to raise awareness of the issues. Family Matters Chair Sue-Anne Hunter was joined by the Aboriginal Children's Commissioners of Victoria, South Australia and Queensland to discuss how to make child protection more accountable to Aboriginal children and their families.

[www.familymatters.org.au](http://www.familymatters.org.au)

*Thank you to our supporters for funding the Family Matters campaign:*

*AbSec – NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation; ANTAR; Australian Childhood Foundation; Australian Communities Foundation; Australian Red Cross NSW; BHP; Centacare (Brisbane); Essential Media; Every Child campaign, Benevolent Society; Gandel Philanthropy; Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research University of Technology Sydney; Kari; Key Assets; Life Without Barriers; Moorditch Gurlongga Association and Coolabaroo Neighbourhood House; Noongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council; Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP); Reconciliation Australia; The Benevolent Society and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA).*

*Thank you also to the members of the Family Matters National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group.*

*See also Family Matters National Week of Action on page 22*

## NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN

Throughout 2021, SNAICC has been working with governments and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group to develop the next National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (2021-2031). This framework will prioritise addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in child protection systems and set out the collective commitments of governments and other stakeholders to ensure families have what they need for children to grow up safe and supported in Australia.

SNAICC has focused its efforts on ensuring the Framework is informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' advice, voices and lived experiences, and aligns with the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*. In early 2021, SNAICC facilitated 12 jurisdictional knowledge circles across Australia with approximately 70 participants, conducted an online survey which had 421 valid responses, accepted written submissions, and reviewed previous consultations, reports and studies. This process ensured that the framework includes the recurring issues and needs raised, and opportunities identified, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and experts.

The draft framework is currently under negotiation and expected to be launched in late 2021. A dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander five-year implementation plan is expected to be developed and launched in 2022. SNAICC has also produced a consultation report, which is available on our website.

During this process, SNAICC continued to provide secretariat support to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group, which is chaired by Adjunct Professor Muriel Bamblett and made up of leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts in child and family services. This includes representatives from peaks, service providers, academics, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commissioners.

*Funded by the Department of Social Services, Australian Government*

## ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED EARLY INTERVENTION INITIATIVES

Throughout the year, SNAICC has worked in close partnership with nine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations to produce 11 profiles on good practice examples of positive intervention and family strengthening work. The profiles identify and highlight those elements of success and enabling factors that lead to successful early intervention and prevention outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Supporting a family before or early into a crisis increases the likelihood of improving the outcomes for the child and decreases the likelihood of their removal into child protection systems.



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

Throughout 2020, SNAICC reviewed the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) across Australia. The reviews were a follow on from the 2018 baseline analysis and 2019 reviews that mapped progress and gaps of each state and territory in the implementation of the ATSICPP.

The reviews are informed by SNAICC's evidence-based resources which provide a guide for implementation and best practice standards for legislation, policy and program development. In undertaking the review, SNAICC used both quantitative and qualitative analysis to measure and review state and territory compliances against the five elements of the ATSICPP – prevention, partnership, placement, participation and connection – across five interrelated systems elements – legislation, policy, programs, processes and practice.

The reviews were developed with input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations and State and Territory Governments. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group for the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children* guided the development of the reviews.

While the reviews identify a range of promising initiatives to improve compliance with the ATSICPP, overall they identify that implementation remains poor and limited across the country. This is reflected in the data, including an annually reducing rate of placement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers. Promising initiatives identified included the delegation of statutory authority to Aboriginal organisations in Victoria and Queensland, and a range of new investments in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship care services.

SNAICC published the final reviews in March 2021.

*Funded by the Department of Social Services, Australian Government. Pro bono support provided by King and Wood Mallesons*

These profiles support the drive to promote improved compliance with the prevention element from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, encourage early investment in families' wellbeing, and increase the evidence base of what is known to work effectively through community-controlled services. This piece of work is also intended to increase children and families' knowledge of and engagement with culturally safe and appropriate support services and encourage cross-learning between community-controlled organisations.

The completed profiles will be published in late 2021 and featured on the SNAICC website.

*Funded by the Department of Social Services, Australian Government*

## NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EARLY CHILDHOOD STRATEGY

SNAICC continues to partner with the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) as part of the development of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy (The Strategy).

In February 2021, SNAICC and NIAA released the Framework to inform the development of a *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy* with video messages from CEO Catherine Liddle and the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians.

Immediately following the release of the Framework, SNAICC began project planning and consultation for the development of the Strategy.

Consultation on the Strategy aimed to generate feedback on the Framework and to gather recommendations for specific actions and measures of success. To capture the input of many stakeholders from urban, regional and remote areas across Australia, SNAICC developed two targeted surveys (one for families, and one for people involved in the early years sector through, for example, employment or volunteering) to be completed either online or face-to-face. Consultations with children and families were facilitated by Aboriginal early years organisations. The surveys prompted respondents to consider enabling factors that would help achieve the goals of the Framework, as well as barriers. The family survey also asked respondents to reflect on their





own experiences of caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, particularly the quality, adequacy, and cultural safety of the services they accessed and/or needed.

SNAICC received over 530 survey responses in total (including responses from every state and territory) and also received nine written submissions. Key themes that emerged from this process included: the continued existence of significant barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families accessing ECEC services, including cost and a lack of cultural responsiveness in mainstream services; the (consequent) need to ensure that mainstream health, education, childcare and other services are culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, for example through supporting community to lead the design of services and systems for children; and the importance of developing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early years workforce.

Drafting and development of the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy* is in the final stages. The formal release and launch of the Strategy is expected in late 2021.

*Funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Australian Government*

## NATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CLOSING THE GAP

Working in partnership with all governments and as a national member of the Coalition of Peaks, SNAICC is involved in ensuring the full implementation of the commitments in the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

The new National Agreement is a commitment from all governments to fundamentally change the way they work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations. Australian governments and the Coalition of Peaks have committed to four priority reforms: shared decision-making; strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled service sectors; government and institutions undertake systemic and structural transformation; and shared and improved access to locally-relevant data and Information.

A number of specific targets have been identified that make significant commitments to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children including to:

- By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in four-year-old early childhood education to 95% (Closing the Gap socioeconomic target 3).
- By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) to 55% (Closing the Gap socioeconomic target 4).
- By 2031, reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 45% (Closing the Gap socioeconomic target 12).

There are also a range of other socio-economic targets that are key to providing children with the opportunity to thrive, including in areas such as eliminating family violence, reducing incarceration, and improving housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Recently, \$120 million of new Australian Government investments was announced to improve access to quality early childhood education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. An additional \$81.8 million will expand the Connected Beginnings program in 27 new sites across the country: a program that aims to support the integration of early childhood education, health, development and family support programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The Australian Government also announced a \$30 million expansion of the Community Child Care Fund Restricted Program to fund up to 20 additional child care services in remote communities, with the majority managed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

As a key initiative under the National Agreement, SNAICC is working with the Australian Government, state and territory governments, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sectors to develop a plan to build the role of the community-controlled sectors providing early childhood education and care, child protection and family support services. The Sector Strengthening Plan is expected to be completed in late 2021.

*SNAICC is a representative on the Joint Council on Closing the Gap, and a member of the Coalition of Peaks. All members of the Coalition of Peaks are united under the Partnership Agreement with Australian governments to work together and share decision-making on the design, implementation and monitoring of the Closing the Gap strategies and policies.*



## AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE BROADER POPULATION

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

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



## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH THE SECTOR

As well as a strong Board and Council of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, SNAICC has had two inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders at the helm over the past 12 months. In 2020, SNAICC was led by Richard Weston of the Torres Strait. Catherine Liddle – a strong Arrernte/Luritja woman of the Central Desert, Northern Territory – joined SNAICC in early 2021, and has strengthened partnerships and raised the profile of SNAICC as a national peak body.

Building connections with our members and the wider community is essential for SNAICC to have a stronger voice to influence decision-making in policy and practice that impacts upon our children and families. SNAICC has been hosting a series of Members' Yarns throughout the year as part of our SNAICC Conversations series, designed to keep our members and supporters informed of our work, and ways we are supporting services working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

In 2020, Richard Weston presented at online events for NAPCAN and Families Australia that provided an Aboriginal perspective and healing-informed lens on the social and emotional health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Since Catherine Liddle began at SNAICC in February 2021, she has been an active spokesperson for the sector speaking at a number of conferences and online events across the country. Earlier in the year, Catherine spoke at the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Conference; visited Cockatoo Island, Sydney for the Jawun Stories of Female Leadership Convention; spoke about the Federal Budget at a panel hosted by ANU called Tackling Child and Family Poverty and spoke about the importance of partnerships at the Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) webinar hosted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. These engagements further enhance the voice of our members, and bring attention to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.



## A STRONG VOICE ACROSS THE MEDIA

Throughout 2020 and 2021, SNAICC continued to highlight issues that impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, consulting and communicating our work with our members and stakeholders, as well as the wider public. Our messages are shared through traditional media and social media posts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn, as well as monthly newsletters.

In 2020, SNAICC Chair Muriel Bamblett and CEO Richard Weston strongly advocated for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as spreading the message around the new targets and priority reforms outlined in the new *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*. Richard Weston featured on RN Life Matters to talk about the parliamentary inquiry into remote education, and the needs for our services in rural and remote communities. SNAICC was also active on a state level in lobbying the WA Government on the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill.

In late 2020, SNAICC and Family Matters Chair Sue-Anne Hunter launched *The Family Matters Report 2020* speaking to national and regional media including the ABC, NITV/SBS, 3KND and Triple R. In May 2021, Family Matters hosted its National Week of Action online events, and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released its report on out-of-home care numbers, also attracting media attention. Catherine featured on NITV's The Point and was quoted in The Australian with Dr Fiona Stanley. Family Matters Co-Chair Paul Gray also featured in national news through *The Guardian* and *The Conversation* to promote key messages around the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care.

In May 2021, CEO Catherine Liddle drew media attention following the announcement of the new Federal Budget, with a particular focus on deficiencies in childcare funding and its impact on Aboriginal-led early years services, and more broadly on access to early education for Aboriginal children and families. Catherine was the only Aboriginal leader from the Coalition of Peaks to appear on the ABC's prominent Federal Budget night coverage, highlighting the key issues to a broad national audience. Catherine also spoke on ABC's The Drum and ABC Radio RN Breakfast, as well as regional radio. Catherine has been a spokesperson representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, amplifying their voices in national and regional media.

*Support for SNAICC leadership and communications is provided by CAGES Foundation*

## IN 2020-21, ENGAGEMENT WITH SNAICC'S COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS STEADILY INCREASED.

SNAICC AS OF 30 JUNE 2021

 **15,653**  
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS **35.4% INCREASE**

 **7,715**  
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

 **1,188**  
INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT **LAUNCHED IN JULY 2020**

**23,797**  
10 NEWS BULLETIN OPENS **COMPARED TO 21,870 INDIVIDUAL OPENS IN 2019-20**

 **83,690**  
snaicc.org.au USERS **11% INCREASE FROM 2019-20**

FAMILY MATTERS AS OF 30 JUNE 2021

 **5,100**  
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS **25% INCREASE**

 **3,206**  
TWITTER FOLLOWERS **INCLUDING 280 NEW FOLLOWERS IN MAY 2021 AHEAD OF THE NATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION**

 **30,759**  
familymatters.org.au USERS **28% INCREASE FROM 2019-20**



## FAMILY MATTERS NATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION

In May 2021, the Family Matters National Week of Action took place online as many people and organisations were not able to get together in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The theme of the week was Our Mobs Matter, and SNAICC held a series of online events featuring prominent key speakers from the Family Matters Leadership Group, government and child and family sector.

### WORKING WITH OUR MOB: HOW TO PUT FAMILY MATTERS PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE

Facilitated by Karl Williamson, Family Matters National Leadership Group member and social worker, this event provided an invaluable way for all child and family services providers and practitioners working with Aboriginal people to develop empowering, respectful practice.

Speakers included: Michael Currie, Queensland Family Matters Co-Chair and Principal Advisor, Indigenous Development with the Benevolent Society, and Sue-Anne Hunter, Family Matters Co-Chair.

### WAYS TO CONNECT CHILDREN BACK TO THEIR FAMILY, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

This conversation was led by Family Matters Co-Chair Sue-Anne Hunter, aimed at practitioners to build skills and learning through Aboriginal-led engagement, awareness, and ideas for skill development

Speakers included: Jo-Anne Kelly, Project Manager Community Initiatives with Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation; Jacyntha Krakouer, Family Matters National Leadership Group and University of Melbourne; and Jennifer Parsons, QATSCIPP Sector Development Officer.



## ENSURING OUR BABIES GET THE SAFEST START

Led by Family Matters Co-Chair Sue-Anne Hunter, this event discussed how birth is a key point of removal from their families for too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies, and what we can do to stop this entry point from happening.

Speakers included: Professor Megan Davis, Emma Buxton-Namisnyk and Dr Althea Gibson (all UNSW); Associate Professor Catherine Chamberlain (La Trobe University, Healing the Past); Birri O'Dea (Molly Wardaguga Research Centre, Charles Darwin University); Alison Elliott, The Bouverie Centre; and Debra Bennet (Executive Lead Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Engagement and Cultural Advisor, Relationships Australia Queensland).

## NATIONAL COMMISSIONER CALL TO ACTION

SNAICC CEO Catherine Liddle and Family Matters Co-Chair Dr Paul Gray led a discussion with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commissioners and deputy commissioners.

Speakers included: April Lawrie, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (South Australia); Justin Mohamed, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (Victoria); Natalie Lewis, Commissioner for the Queensland Family and Child Commission; Richard Weston, Deputy Children's Guardian for Aboriginal Children and Young People (New South Wales), and Nicole Hucks, Assistant Children's Commissioner, Office of the Children's Commissioner (Northern Territory).

The campaign continues to call for dedicated, independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commissioners in each state and territory and at the national level to ensure accountability of all governments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities. In late 2020, SNAICC released a comprehensive Options Paper on possible models to inform the establishment of a national commissioner.





#OurMobsMatter

PILLAR 4

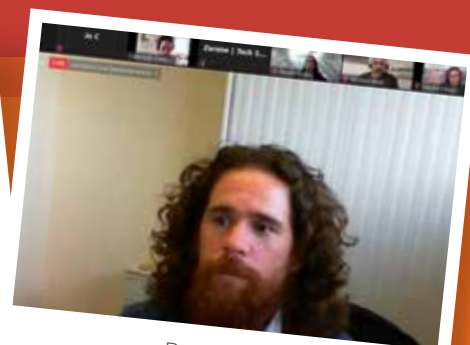
9-15 MAY



# Family Matters National Week of Action: Our Mobs Matter



Family Matters 2021



Paul Gray-Commissioner  
Family Matters 2021



Sue-Anne-Hunter  
Family Matters 2021

## NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY 2021

SNAICC has been coordinating National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day for more than 30 years, and each year more and more Australians embrace the day to support our children.

The date 4 August was historically used to communally celebrate the birthdays of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were taken from their families at a young age, without knowing their birthday – the Stolen Generations.

Despite the impact of COVID-19 and restrictions in face-to-face events, SNAICC persisted in promoting the Children's Day campaign throughout early 2021. Many Australians celebrated across the country in their own way, embracing cultural traditions such as storytelling by Elders, bush tucker, craft making, face painting, traditional dancing and more.

Hundreds of celebrations took place in early years services, schools, communities and at home. Supported by an online campaign, SNAICC pre-delivered 15,000 Children's Day bags across Australia – to remote communities as well as cities and regions across all states and territories.

This year, we provided fabric reusable backpacks with a beautiful design of Taungurung Bubup (a baby in a coolamon) by artist Annette Sax of Yarn Strong Sista. The bags included a book donated by the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) *Can You Dance*, written by Sally Morgan and illustrated by Kathy Arbon. Other items in the bag included an activity sheet and crayons, golden wattleseed for planting, a wooden hand on a spike for children to paint and put in the garden and a Children's Day 2021 sticker.

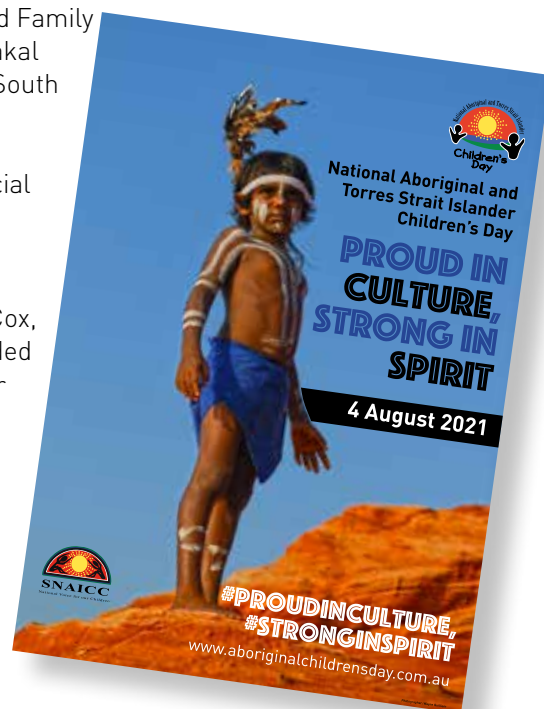


## PROUD IN CULTURE, STRONG IN SPIRIT

Children from across Australia embraced our theme, sending in drawings of 'What spirit means to me'. These drawings are showcased on our Children's Day website gallery, together with photos of children celebrating being proud in culture and strong in spirit that were sent in by many of our member organisations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities have provided love and care for their children, growing them up strong and safe in their cultural traditions, for thousands of generations. For our children, safety, wellbeing and development are closely linked to the strengths of their connections with family, community, culture, language, and Country.

Our community service announcement featured Nikinpa Child and Family Centre on Awabakal Country in New South Wales, filmed by Wayne Quilliam. The TV commercial was narrated by SNAICC Sector Development Manager Adele Cox, and music provided by OKA with their song 'Standing strong in my Kulcha'.



**Partners:** Indigenous Literacy Foundation, Nikinpa Aboriginal Child and Family Centre, Yarn Strong Sista, OKA Music, Coalition of Peaks, Reconciliation Australia and Harvest Seeds Native Plants.

**Media partners:** NITV, SBS, ABC, Network 10, Koori Mail, 3KND 'Kool n Deadly' and Triple R for helping to promote this national campaign, as well as First Nations Radio, BBM, NIRS, TSIMA, Bendigo Phoenix, ABC Radio Brisbane, BIMA, and VALS.

*Children's Day is supported by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), Australian Government*







woven Aboriginal flag  
Children's Day 2021



AbCare Children's Day 2021



Winanga-Li Child & Family Centre  
Children's Day 2021



Cooktown kids with bags  
Children's Day 2021



Reconciliation garden hands  
Children's Day 2021



1,300+

EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

3,500+

POSTERS DELIVERED

15,000

BAGS SOLD OUT IN 2 WEEKS

#PROUDINCULTURE and  
#STRONGINSPIRIT  
MULTIPLE SHARES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

51,472



IMPRESSIONS ON TWITTER ON 4 AUGUST

7,167



FACEBOOK REACH 4 AUGUST

1,600

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



90,318



aboriginalchildrensday.org.au  
PAGE VIEWS ON 4 AUGUST





## STRONG AND EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PEAK BODY FOR CHILDREN

SNAICC strives to be a sustainable and independent national peak body representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

We are a culturally safe and responsive organisation that works in partnership with national, state, territory and local governments, organisations and communities.

We aim to lead sector debate and influence government policy reforms to improve outcomes for our children, families, members and supporters.



## 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 and associate supporters that are working hard to strengthen capacity and improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

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 happy and healthy, strong in culture.

Travel restrictions due to the pandemic has meant SNAICC staff haven't been able to connect with members as often as usual face-to-face. Instead, the team pivoted to providing networking opportunities through policy online consultations and Members' Yarns, as part of our SNAICC Conversations series.

As at 30 June 2021, SNAICC has Australia wide

**63** + **108**  
MEMBERS ASSOCIATES



## HIGH QUALITY WORKFORCE

SNAICC consists of small 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.

Despite the challenges of working remotely due to the pandemic, SNAICC's mission and purpose unites the team to continue to advance the rights of our children. With such a high capacity team, SNAICC is able to deliver on strategic priorities, supporting our sector and influencing policy reform at high government levels, and keeping connected to our communities on the ground.

The team is dedicated to putting our children at the centre of all decision-making. Our team brings a wealth of knowledge from working in the Aboriginal community-led sector from across the country. SNAICC's workforce have experience working in social justice, media, politics, law, international development, marketing and finance across the community, corporate and government sectors. We strive to respond to the important mandate that SNAICC has held since its inception in 1981.

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 LEADERSHIP

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 early childhood wellbeing and development.

Through consultations, research, evaluation, and collaboration, SNAICC's policy team has been working to ensure the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families, communities, and organisations are represented at national, state and territory levels. SNAICC's contributions to developing key strategies and policy frameworks, policy projects, submissions, and advocacy to influence policy reform are detailed throughout this report.

## SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

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

SNAICC draws upon a team of experienced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and consultants to deliver high quality face-to-face and online training. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we adapted our cultural competence training to an online program. Prior to this, we visited regional areas across Australia to deliver workshops for early years educators, to support our children in getting ready to start school. These visits prioritised areas with a high population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

SNAICC extends our gratitude for the generosity and support of the following organisations and individuals that funded and supported SNAICC's work in 2020–21.

## SNAICC AND FAMILY MATTERS SUPPORTERS

Emily Traer, Traer E A & Lin	Karen Struthers
Gloria Bondfield, Life Without Barriers (Woonona)	Karli Walas, Loumabelle Pty Ltd
Rachel Riley	Kim Wright
Allan C Daw	Krisy Suzanne O'Toole
Arlene T Dang	Laura Johnston
Chloe MacDonald	Lindon McKenna, OWA Social Club
Christine Lindahl	Malcolm Lambert
Craig Anthony Limkin	Marnie Kikken
Dr Bruce Kevin Proctor	Martin Murley
Dr Rachel Jean Mudge	Michael Smitheram
Edward Crow	Michelle Evans, A M Lovekin and M M Evans
Elissa Anne Hullah	Michelle Wood
Ella Hunter	Patrick James Hislop
Fiona Mensah	Ross Carter
Georgia Kate Towler	Sarah Jayne Ventress
Gillian Farrell	Suzanne Rienks
Greg Pagendam-Turner, Haecceity Pty Ltd Networx	Tanya Boswood
Ian Joseph	Yarrow Andrew
Jan Alison William	
Jennifer McConachy	
Joanne Taylor	

## PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORTERS

ACF C Blackstock	John Wardle Architects
Australian Communities Foundation	Paul Ramsay Foundation
Besen Family Foundation	The Antipodean Family Foundation
Cages Foundation	The Ian Potter Foundation
GNS Ceramics Pty Ltd	The Samuel Nissen Charitable Foundation

## PARTNERS

Charles Darwin University	Monash University
Griffith University	Social Ventures Australia
King & Wood Mallesons	The University of Melbourne
Lowitja Institute	Wendy Brooks & Partners





## FAMILY MATTERS MAJOR SPONSORS

AbSec – NSW Child, Family and  
Community Peak Aboriginal  
Corporation  
ANTaR  
Australian Childhood Foundation  
Australian Communities  
Foundation  
Australian Red Cross NSW  
BHP  
Centacare (Brisbane)  
CentaCare Family and Relationship  
Services  
Coolabaroo  
Essential Media  
Every Child campaign, Benevolent  
Society  
Gandel Philanthropy  
Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous  
Education and Research University  
of Technology Sydney

Kari  
Key Assets  
Life Without Barriers  
Life Without Barriers  
(Newcastle NSW)  
Moorditch Gurlongga Association  
and Coolabaroo Neighbourhood  
House  
Noongar Family Safety and  
Wellbeing Council  
Queensland Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander Child Protection  
Peak (QATSICPP)  
Reconciliation Australia  
The Benevolent Society  
Victorian Aboriginal Childcare  
Agency (VACCA)

## GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

ACT Government  
Australian Institute of Family  
Studies (AIFS)  
Department of Prime Minister and  
Cabinet, Australian Government  
Department of Social Services,  
Australian Government

Government of South Australia  
National Indigenous Australians  
Agency (NIAA)  
Northern Territory Government:  
Territory Families  
National Office for Child Safety,  
Australian Government



Thankyou.



# STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2020-21

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2020-21

INCOME	\$
Government grants	1,984,330
Government incentives	375,100
Donations and sponsorships	554,890
Consultations, training and resource sales	131,537
Interest income	1,161
Other income	58,246
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,105,264</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Employee expenses	1,784,701
Office and administration expenses	162,298
Printing and design expenses	177,017
Consulting and professional fees	427,347
Travel expenses	25,537
Other expenses	17,880
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>2,594,780</b>
<b>Net income (deficit) before income tax</b>	<b>510,484</b>
Income tax expense	
<b>Net income (deficit) after income tax</b>	<b>510,484</b>

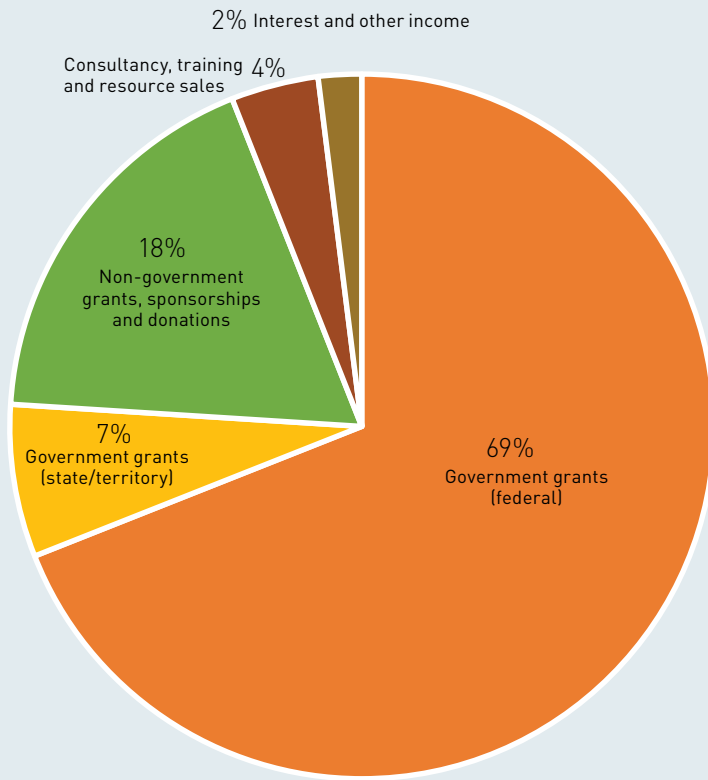
## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

ASSETS	
<b>Current assets</b>	
Cash & cash equivalents	2,621,787
Trade & other receivables	425,220
Contract assets	46,719
Prepayments	162,972
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>3,256,698</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>	
Plant and equipment	45,501
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>45,501</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>3,302,199</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>	
Trade and other payables	230,437
Deferred income	1,502,868
Employee benefits provision	160,333
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1,893,638</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>	
Employee benefits provision	5,161
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>5,161</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,898,799</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,403,400</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained earnings	1,403,400
<b>Total members' equity</b>	<b>1,403,400</b>



# SOURCES OF SNAICC INCOME

## 2020-21



- Government grants and incentives (federal) – 69%
- Government grants and incentives (state/territory) – 7%
- Non-government grants, sponsorships and donations – 18%
- Consultancy, training and resource sales – 4%
- Interest and other income – 2%





# BECOME A SNAICC MEMBER

## 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.

- Join our national advocacy to make real policy change
- Regular updates on sector news including members-only updates and communications
- Opportunities to participate in sector development and policy research
- Invitations to events and SNAICC member webinars
- Discount registration to the biennial SNAICC National Conference
- Special offers for National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
- A community that shares knowledge, resources and best practice
- Voting rights at our AGM (for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled members only)

SNAICC membership year runs from 1 July to 30 June and costs \$200 per year (includes GST).

**JOIN TODAY!**

### SIGN UP

[www.snaicc.org.au/about/membership](http://www.snaicc.org.au/about/membership)  
online

03 9419 1921  
call

[membership@snaicc.org.au](mailto:membership@snaicc.org.au)  
email







[www.snaicc.org.au](http://www.snaicc.org.au)

SNAICC – NATIONAL VOICE FOR OUR CHILDREN