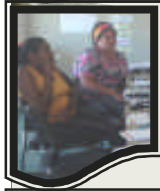
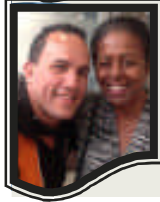




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○ ISSUE 5 | ○ JULY-SEPT | ○ 2014



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RAATSICC focus

Message to our Members:

Welcome to the 5th edition of the RAATSICC Focus. The last 3 months have been extremely tense for RAATSICC as we have been eagerly waiting on ministerial approval of future funding for 3 of our major programs. In the latter weeks of September we finally received GREAT news... I am pleased to inform you all that RAATSICC has been successful in securing triennial (3 year) funding for the below programs

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support Service (ATSIFSS)
- Remote Indigenous Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence Support Service

We will also continue to work collaboratively with Wuchopperen Health Service to provide the Recognised Entity Service for all the remote communities in Cape York.

RAATSICC Management Committee also called a Special General Meeting this quarter to propose to members, major amendments to the RAATSICC constitution. RAATSICC members

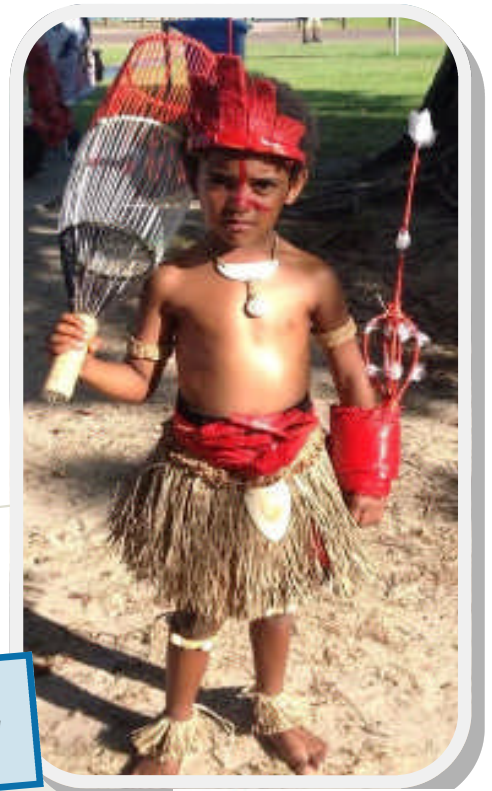
unanimously voted in favour of adopting the proposed changes, which will now be registered with the Office of Fair Trading. Myself and senior staff will be available to current members or anyone interested in our membership and will provide detailed support in regards to any queries about our amended constitution.

Again I wish to commend the dedicated staff of RAATSICC who continued to work tirelessly in this very tense quarter.

With funding now secure for the next 3 years, I will lead our senior operational staff in the next quarter in planning our service delivery and our secretariat functions to ensure that we not only continue to be a PEAK organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children, youth and families in North Queensland but also a quality service provider. Not only will we provide and deliver quality programs but we promise to be innovated in our approach.

Emma Schuh—Acting CEO

RAATSICC is a non for profit community organization delivering child, youth and family programs in Far North Queensland..



RAATSICC NETWORK & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 29 & 30 Oct 2014

We encourage all individuals and organisations who are concerned about children, young people and families to become members of RAATSICC and attend the AGM.

Spreading the word....



Blue Knot day is Adult Surviving Child Abuse (ASCA) national awareness day. On Blue Knot Day ASCA asks all Australians to unite in support of the 5 million Australian adult survivors of childhood trauma. ASCA's symbol for Blue Knot Day and it's symbol all year round is the tangles knot. When children are abused they become confused.... life, even in adulthood, can be chaotic and tangles. ASCA helps untangle the knot of child abuse for adults who were abused as children. ASCA helps those who have experienced childhood trauma to recover.

Recovery is possible

UNITE IN SUPPORT OF ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

" OUR CHILDREN, OUR YOUTH, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE, RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED"



FNQ REGIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE (ATSIFSS)

Providing practical support and assistance to parents and families.

The ATSIFSS program has recently been refunded for three years which is a relief, but also motivated the ATSIFSS team to plan long-term for improvement of service delivery. Firstly, we have a number of positions currently being advertised to start ASAP until 31st December 2014.

If successful applicants perform well there is the possibility of extension after 31/12/2014.

CURRENT VACANCIES:

- Regional Family Support Coordinator, Cairns (Level 6.1)
- Family Support Practice and Development Officer, Cairns (Level 5.1)
- Family Support Workers, Atherton, NPA, Coen, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Aurukun, and Pormpuraaw, (Level 4.1)

If you are interested in any of the positions, please contact the RAATSICC office 40300900 or

email to info@raatsicc.org.au for a position package.

All positions close on Friday 10th October 2014.

On another note Triple P – Positive Parenting Program was run again for the 4th time in Yarrabah. This was facilitated by Maryann and assisted by Barbara and Asta from 15th to 17th September 2014.

A current family support client received a certificate upon completion of the sessions. The client was able to immediately utilize the information and skills with her child which is the whole aim of the program.

Triple P – Positive Parenting Program sessions will be starting up again next year please contact RAATSICC for further information.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE FAMILIES THAT TOOK PART IN CHILD PROTECTION ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER.

WORKER PROFILE



Name: Roy Chevathen

Role: Recognised Entity Advisor

Location: Napranum, Weipa and Mapoon

I am a Wik Waya man from South of the Embley (Weipa) to the North of the Ward river (Aurukun).

I was born in Weipa and lived in the area all my life. I have 2 brothers and 3 sisters and enjoy going camping and fishing back on country with family.

What I enjoy about working at RAATSICC: I enjoy working with child safety and other organisations to ensure that the right decisions are made in regards to the safety and wellbeing of our children.

To use the service, you must be referred by a: SCHOOL, DOCTOR, or CHILD SAFETY OFFICER.

If you have received a support from the RAATSICC Regional ATSI Family Support Service before, you can contact us directly by calling 4030 0900.

Referrals are accepted via email to: fsregionalintake@raatsicc.org.au

Note from Regional Intake Service: if submitting a referral, please ensure you have detailed information about the child protection history and the current issues the family are facing.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP, WEIPA

From 18th to 22nd of August RAATSICC held a Professional Development workshop in Weipa that included Recognised Entity Advisors, Family Support Workers and shelter workers from Weipa, Cooktown, Northern Peninsula Area (NPA), Aurukun and Cairns. The workshop covered worker roles and responsibilities, record keeping and reporting, FGM / Scan requirements, RE Data Base, CSIS and RAATSICC policies and procedures. The purpose of the workshop was to improve staff productivity, provide an opportunity to discuss challenges and develop strategies to actively improve service delivery.

Working Together 4 Families

RAATSICC staff also enjoyed a lunch with stakeholder's including *Queensland Health, Child Safety, Apunipima, Weipa Community Care and Napranum Council members.*

This was a great opportunity to network with other professionals involved in the human services sector.

The successful week in Weipa provided RAATSICC management with valuable feedback that will assist in the development of new and improved practices, to support staff better, both with the intention of administering more effective services throughout the region.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS, RESOURCE & SUPPORT UNIT



Child and Family Support forum was held on Thursday Island on 17th & 18th September 2014 in partnership with Mura Kosker Sorority Inc. CAFS workers from Warraber Island, St. Paul community, NPA, Coen and Thursday Island attended.

The local Child Safety office staff, Keirra, Sam and Karen provided participants with information about child safety processes and roles of child safety staff who visit the Torres Strait. It was great to meet them, talk through challenges and begin more productive relationships to assist families to get vital information and for workers to support them. Kali McKeown (TI Child Care) provided

Child & Family Support Resource Service

participants with information about child development milestones that was very useful in the work with playgroups and family support.

The final day participants shared what they do in providing CAFS support in their Communities. This allowed the group to reflect on the good work they do (in often challenging circumstances) and also to identify gaps that we can all work towards filling in the future.

The next CAFS forum is planned for 3-4 December 2014 in Cairns. It will be the last for the year, so get in early for a place.

**SAVE THE DATE:
CAIRNS CAFSRS FORUM
3rd & 4th December 2014**



Child Witness of Domestic Violence Counselling Program

RAATSICC Child Counsellors have been very busy providing counselling support to children and young people who have experienced family violence.

Protective Behaviour workshops can be delivered to young people and support services in order to spread the message about being safe.

This program is available to children and young people and their families in the communities of Lockhart River, Mapoon, Kowanyama and Napranum.

*If you would like to discuss a referral to this service, please contact-
norah@raatsicc.org.au or
june@raatsicc.org.au.*

MA'AATHAN WOMEN'S SHELTER, AURUKUN

"Kaath a puk min-am pi-an" (Helping to keep our women and children safe)

Shelter staff are encouraging women and children escaping domestic and family violence to access the Ma'aathan Womens Shelter, and for other community agencies to continue to refer women to the shelter.

The shelter is accessible every day of the year, including public holidays, Christmas and Easter. Shelter workers are rostered on work days from 9am to 5pm and outside of these hours are on-call.

Women accessing the shelter will be provided with case

management support to work through issues in regards to them accessing the shelter, including housing and referrals to other services.

The shelter is available again for education, early intervention and prevention activities. If your service would like to utilize the shelter for work with your clients, please contact Enid at the shelter, or Larissa on Larissa@raatsicc.org.au.

Resource Corner



The RAATSICC 'Cyber Safe Place' project is aimed at spreading the word about being safe online.

Topics that are covered provide a ways for young people to identify cyber bullying, effects of abuse online and assist users of the internet and mobile phones to think about their actions and how this can effect others.

RAATSICC encouraged young people to help their friends and family access support if they are bullied online as well.

Resources were developed that services can display in their workplaces, schools, youth centre, etc and are available for purchase through the Community, Awareness, Resource and Support Unit. Contact RAATSICC for more info.





RECOGNISED ENTITY SERVICE PROGRAM

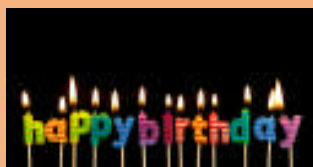
A partnership aimed at providing cultural advice and guidance in decisions about children and young people in the child protection system.

Staff celebrating birthdays in November & December:

- Carol Bligh —3/10
- Suzanne Williams—4/10
- Roy Chevathen 8/10
- Enid Chevathen 9/10
- Brenda Yunkaporta 9/10
- Laurel Doughboy—12/10
- Peter Pilot—25/10

Danielle Barty—11/11

Matthew King—02/12



Recognised Entity Advisors May Kepple (Coen REA) and Monica Josiah (Kowanyama REA) travelled to RAATSICC's Cairns office 17th and 18th of September for the last Professional Development workshop of 2014. Matt King led the discussions around decisions in which the RE program are involved.

A Recognised Entity must be involved in all steps in the child protection process including:

- Intake
- Investigation and assessment of suspected child harm or risk of harm
- Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) team meetings
- Childrens Court processes and Court Ordered Conferences
- A child or young person's case planning including family group meetings and the development

of a cultural support plan

- Placement planning and decision-making including helping to identify safe and compatible kinship carers.

A Recognised Entity must also be consulted when decisions are made about temporary changes to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child's or young person's case plan or cultural support plan. For example, a Recognised Entity must be consulted about changes to parental visits or the child or young person's participation in recreational or cultural activities.

The workshop was very beneficial with May, Monica and Matt sharing best practice and being more confident in providing RE service delivery.

RAATSICC staff held a **KIDS KORNER** at the **National Aboriginal & Islanders Day** event @ WuChopperen (Cairns), Saturday 30th August 2014. Children & their parents / carers took part in lots of deadly activities with Matt, Ashley & Larissa. This year the theme was

Kids in Culture — Strong, Proud, Resilient.

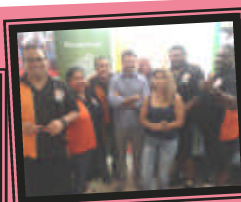
The theme focuses on turning around the over-representation of our children in the child protection system. It is also a great opportunity to promote the core importance of culture for our children's wellbeing.

NAICD is about celebrating your kids in your community in your way.



GOODBYE MICHELE, JONO & GRETA

RAATSICC have said goodbye to Jono Cornforth (Practice & Development) and Greta Sam (NPA FS). We thank you for the work you did whilst with



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2 October 2014: International Day of Non-Violence
- 18-26 October 2014: Children's Week
- 26 October 2014: Grandparents Day
- 31 October 2014: Day for Daniel

- 19 November 2014: World Day for the Prevention of Abuse and Violence against Children
- 25 November 2014: White Ribbon Day



SECTOR TRAINING AVAILABLE:

- Safe From the Start
- 11 December 2014—Cooktown (CDCC)
- 12 December 2014—Cairns (CRDVS)

This one day program covers the effects of violence on children, how to work therapeutically with children, educating workers, parents & the community on how brain development of young children is affected by exposure to violence, abuse or trauma. See more at: www.salvationarmy.org.au/safefromthestart

"A child who lives with violence is forever changed, but not forever 'damaged' – and there is a lot we can do to improve their future prospects." (Baker/Cunningham, 2007)

" OUR CHILDREN, OUR YOUTH, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE, RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED "