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WE ALL STAND ON SACRED GROUND:
LEARN, RESPECT & CELEBRATE

○ ISSUE 7 | ○ JAN-MAR | ○ 2015



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RAATSICC *focus*

Message to our Members:

Hello and welcome to the 7th Edition of the *RAATSICC Focus*.

How quickly the Jan-Mar quarter has come and gone. It has been an interesting quarter with the settling in and adjustments of new staff and new positions. I would like to add though, we have an extremely dedicated bunch of people this year delivering our services within the region. It is all business as usual with all our programs: RAATSICC ATSI Family Support, Cape York RE, Child Witnesses of DV, Child and Family Support Resource and the Maathan Women's Shelter.

Staff have been conducting *RAATSICC Meet & Greet* sessions throughout the Far North Queensland region to strengthen and enhance our partnerships with various stakeholder in the Social Service Sector. This is in line with our VALUES and GOALS of ensuring **effective partnerships** to achieve **quality outcomes**.

Unfortunately this quarter, our Treasurer Mr Peterson Opio has resigned from his position thus affecting his role on our Management Committee. Our interim Treasurer is Miss Paula Neal until the next AGM. Peterson will however remain linked in the role of an ex-officio of the RAATSICC Management Committee. Vacant positions are currently been filled on an interim basis via a process of expression of interests from current eligible members. RAATSICC welcomes membership from all over the Far North Queensland region, and encourage interested individuals and organisation to contact our office for all enquiries.



Emma Schuh
CEO



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

Farewell and Welcome to staff ...

We would like to send our well wishes to the following staff :

Jo Borg - Practice & Development Officer, Tammy Hunter - Family Support –Team Leader Cape York Region and James Kerr - Cairns Based Family Support Worker all the best we are sure that you will excel in your new ventures.

And welcome to the team: Janay Hodges – Assistant Family Support Worker, Michelle FAULL – Family Support Worker, Aurukun and Julie MAIRU – Family Support Worker, Weipa Cluster.

“ OUR CHILDREN, OUR YOUTH, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE, RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED ”



Protecting Kids - OUR WAY

The Protecting Kids - OUR WAY slogan has been a part of RAATSICC for a number of years. This slogan highlights the significance of an Indigenous service providing support to its people of the Far North Queensland region. We pride ourselves in keeping our families and children safe and knowledgeable about child protection issues.



Indigenous Disadvantage Report

Emma Schuh and Larissa Walker attended the Indigenous Disadvantage Report information session, presented by the Productivity Commission on 4 March 2015.

The report measures the wellbeing of Australia's Indigenous peoples and provides information about outcomes across a range of strategic areas such as governance, leadership and culture, early child development, education and training, healthy lives, economic participation, home environment, and safe and supportive communities.

The presentation was very interesting and covered national findings in relation to progress against the COAG targets and headline indicators and indicators, with a focus on education and justice areas.

For those interested, you can find the **report, short video and other information on the Productivity Commission website at**

<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/overcoming-indigenousdisadvantage/key-indicators-2014>



Horn Island

We had a very successful week in the Torres Strait Region. Myself and staff conducted RAATSICC Meet and Greet sessions with various stakeholders, as well as Members Forums with board members of our member organisations, on Horn Island and Thursday Island and in the NPA. As explained in the sessions and forums, RAATSICC's constitutional boundaries include remote and discrete communities in the Far North Queensland region. RAATSICC is committed in strengthening existing partnerships as well as creating new relationships with services and organisations that are linked within the Social Service Sector. We would like to acknowledge and thank the *Kaurareg Tribal Council of Elders* and *Gudung-Yadaikana* traditional owner, Collena Ruben for the warm welcome to their country.

Emma Schuh

RAATSICC Meet and Greets

Napranum

Our first "Meet and greet" for 2015 was held in Napranum on Wednesday 21st January, it was a great success thanks to the RAATSICC staff who helped me with the organisation of this event. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Debra Jia – Algnith Traditional Owner for the "Welcome to Country" and Maryann Coconut – Elder and Councillor for the "Opening Prayer".

The time spent during the "meet and greet" was advantageous as it gave us the opportunity to introduce our new staff members and also reacquaint our former staff to the organisations, services and stakeholders that we have in our area.

Once again thank you all to those involved and we look forward our next "Meet and greet", because it will be bigger and better than the last, now that we have a full complement of staff in the Weipa Cluster.



New Mapoon

On the 25th March 2015 we had our RAATSICC Meet and Greet Stakeholders gathering at the New Mapoon Council Community Hall. RAATSICC staff introduced themselves and the roles they are in and what support services we provide to the NPA.

There was a good turnout of staff from various Departments and NGOs networking with the group and sharing what their roles were and who they work for.

Afterwards the CEO invited the groups to have a small snack and cup of tea and mingle and talk to different people and get to know each other.

Clara Day (RE) and Allira Wasiu (FSW)





Jay Gebadi
Recognised Entity Team Leader
(Child Protection Unit)

Hi I am the RE Team Leader for Cape York region. My name is Jay Gebadi and I am of Angkamuthi/Erubian/Saibaigal decent. I would like to acknowledge and show my respect to all the Elders and Custodians of the land both past and present to where you are reading this.

My previous role within RAATSICC was a Family Support Worker in Cairns throughout 2014. This year 2015 there are a lot of new things happening in around RAATSICC, we have secured new funding, some new changes in the Cairns office with staff throughout the whole organisation as well as new infrastructure **#Awesome**

The Recognised Entity is valuable and important within Child Protection Legislation and advocating for Indigenous families. My detailed Knowledge and understanding of the Child Protection Systems supports me to undertake my role accordingly.

I am very passionate about helping our families and keeping our children together whilst also maintaining culture.

I look forward to working with all of you this year and will be seeing you all very soon.



FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY
COMMISSION (FRC)
INFORMATION SESSION

On 13th January 2015 Larissa Walker and Peter Pilot presented information about RAATSICC programs and referral processes to FRC Local Coordinators from Coen, Hope Vale, Aurukun, Mossman and Cairns. This was a great opportunity to start relationships between RAATSICC and FRC and for the local coordinators to begin referring clients to RAATSICC programs for follow-up intervention and support.

ATSI Family Support Service

Giving people a helping hand!

A single parent family went from being in fear of facing homelessness to maintaining stable housing thanks to the FSW.

Depression and stress were major factors that influenced a father who had him and his three children to provide for with the possibility of having no roof over their head. In this case the Family Support worker had contacted the Department of Housing and gathered documents to support him and his family. As a result the family were able to stay in their home.

We wish this family all the best and thank the Family Support Worker for keeping families strong, safe and together!

Napranum Stakeholders Meeting

By Yvette Carter

During the month of February I was invited to attend a meeting at the Napranum PCYC in the Napranum community. I did this for two reasons; the first being to promote RAATSICC and the service it provides in community, and secondly raise awareness of the role of the Child Counsellor.

The PCYC Manager, Ang Lui, and I discussed the many possibilities both agencies could offer youth in the Napranum area. Together we worked for a number of hours on setting up a positive, productive and nurturing program that will appeal to a wide range of young people.

This support will include components focused on healthy relationships, self esteem, feelings, self discovery and problem solving as well as other areas associated with safety and safe behaviours.

This collaboration not only supports community as a whole but also on an individual level.

I look forward to engaging with the youth and also to work alongside the PCYC whilst strengthening partnerships within community.

Good News Story from the ATSI Family Support Service

Family situation: *An 8 year old child was continually absconding from their Grandmother's care and sleeping at all different houses for a period of 2 months, spending a maximum of 2 night at one place at a time and running around town. The Grandmother had just suffered a stroke and was finding it difficult to care and keep up with this child's movements.*

How the FSW supported this family: I went to see family and only the Grandmother was home, she was very emotional about the news so I drove the Grandmother around to find her grandchild. We located the grandchild and we yarned together about the situation. Grandchild has agreed to come back home and live with Grandmother again. Both the grandmother and grandchild are communicating great again. And the grandchild has agreed to abide by house rules and come home everyday.

I will continue to work with this family to strengthen their bond.

#TeamATSIFSS

Richard Bignell.

Family Support Worker.



We all Stand on Sacred Ground:
Learn, Respect & Celebrate

NAIDOC 5-12 July 2015

We all stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect & Celebrate

The 2015 NAIDOC Grant Funding round is now open and will close at 5.00pm ACT local time on Friday 24 April.

More information on how to apply and all of the documents you need, including the Registration Form, Application Form and the Application Kit, are available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website <http://www.dpmc.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/grants-and-funding/funding-under-ias>

Or check out the NAIDOC website for more information
<http://www.naidoc.org.au/>



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

WORKER PROFILE



Position and community you live:

FS Worker - Yarrabah

Where are you from?

Nulgabulgan tribe from Mt Mulligan

What you like about being a FSW?

Helping families in need, children returned to their parents after being on a CPO.

The struggles of a FSW and clients...

Empowering our families to help themselves, clients not engaging, and making people understand we can only support them to make changes

What would a perfect world be to you?

That everyone live in peace and harmony.

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

...April...

Patimah Singe 06/04
Clara Day 24/04
Gertrude Yunkaporta 29/04

...May...

May Kepple 24/05
Jay Gebadi 27/05
Barbara Thomas 28/05

...June...

Larissa Walker 10/06
Asta Naden 12/06
Madonna Hamilton 17/06



A number of staff attended the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Training held at the Tropicana Lodge on the 11-12th March 2015.

The two day training explains the dynamics of Mental Health and provides the tools to be able to provide first aid for those facing Mental Health conditions such as: depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and self-harm, psychosis and the effects of alcohol and drugs.

The staff walked away with a better awareness of the conditions, signs and symptoms and the resources to be able to provide initial support to a person/client suffering from Mental Health condition/s.



Create a positive you!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Month of April

10th-19th April National Youth Week

Month of May

Domestic Violence Prevention Month
10th May Mothers Day
15th - 21th National Families Week
15th International Families Day
15th-22nd Under 8's Week
26th May National Sorry Day
27th - 3rd June National Reconciliation Week

Month of June

3rd Mabo Day
15th World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Community Healing Project

Want to know more about the Community Healing Project?

Contact: Michael White
Project Coordinator

Tel 07 4052 2512 | Mob 0407485 455

Email mjwhite@redcross.org.au



We would like to send well wishes to Peterson Opio who has resigned as Treasurer on our Management Committee.
Thank you for your time and efforts.

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