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○ ISSUE 9 | ○ JUL-SEPT | ○ 2015



RAATSICC

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

RAATSICC *focus*

Message to our Members:



Welcome to our 9th Edition of the RAATSICC Focus. In this edition you will see stories and updates of our involvement at various events that have been held this quarter. From the Laura Dance Festival 2015 to the 6th SNAICC national conference in Perth. We also have some extra information on our new and unique Family Care Service plus a whole lot more. On page 3, there are highlights from the very last Child and Family Support forum to be facilitated by RAATSICC. A special thanks to everyone who have been a tremendous support of these forums over the years, especially the CAFS workers we worked with from the communities of Aurukun, Coen, Cooktown, NPA, Pormpuraaw and Torres Strait.

From new office space to new programs, RAATSICC has been positively moving along assisting children and families in the Far North region. As you are aware, RAATSICC membership extends up into the Torres Strait region. This quarter also involved a visit to Boigu Island, where we were invited by the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to give a presentation on the RAATSICC organisation and the type of services and programs we deliver plus an offer of our membership. Thank you to Mayor Mr Fred Gela, CEO Ms Dania Awang, and all the councilors, especially Cr Dimas Toby for the welcome to Boigu Island.

We are also busily preparing for our AGM in November and will be developing our annual Christmas contingency plan to ensure the families that we work with are well supported during the festive season. We are always looking at innovative ways of improving service delivery and welcome feedback anytime.

Information regarding our AGM will be available on our website www.raatsicc.org.au or you can call the secretariat on 40 300900.

Emma Schuh
CEO



Dania Awang, Emma Schuh, Peter Pilot and Cr Fred Gela

WHITE RIBBON DAY—25 NOVEMBER

 **White Ribbon
Australia**

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

LAURA FESTIVAL 2015: 19 TO 21 JUNE 2015

RAATSICC was approached by the Laura Dance Festival organisers to have an information and activity stall at the 2015 Laura Dance Festival.

Laurel from the Cooktown office, Ani from Atherton office and Joe, Larissa, Peter and Emma from the Cairns office put their names down to help organise and run the RAATSICC stall for the 3 day event. Luckily Norah, Laurel and Emma travelled up to Laura early and secured a fantastic stall and camping site for us all. The RAATSICC stall was very busy from the moment we opened up on Friday morning to when we decided to shut around midday on Sunday. Besides selling RAATSICC resources, Freddy's Story, flipcharts and My Story books, we had a variety of activities that were very popular with children, young people and adults. The most popular were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tattoos, colouring-in, Aboriginal recycled mat raffle and the very popular Laura Dance Festival family portraits. Special thanks to Lani Enoch for being our photographer during the day!

We would also like to thank everyone who visited our stall, got information about our programs, and took part in our activities. All our staff had a great time meeting lots of new people, catching up with old friends and watching the amazing dancing and performances. We all were strengthened in the knowledge that our children performed with such pride in our shared culture and did so with big smiles all weekend.

Congratulations to the organisers. We look forward to participating and being part of in this wonderful event again in 2017.



Dale Mundraby was the lucky winner of this beautiful recycled Aboriginal mat that RAATSICC raffled at Cairns NAIDOC celebrations. Takings from the raffle has contributed to printing of RAATSICC resources that have been used in child and family counselling. Congratulations Dale and Djunbunji rangers and thank you for supporting RAATSICC.

NAIDOC 2015

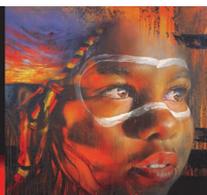
RAATSICC took part in NAIDOC activities throughout Cairns and Cape York, celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. In Cairns we had an information stall selling resources and promoting our services to families in the area and those visiting from our Cape York / Torres Strait communities. NAIDOC is always a great celebration for our families and we look forward to watching the amazing talents and skills of our people in action!



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

CHILDREN'S DAY 2015

4 AUGUST



LITTLE PEOPLE
BIG FUTURES

NAICD—4 AUGUST 2015

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is a time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. The day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for our children, as well as learn about the crucial impact that community, culture and family play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child. Children's Day is held on 4 August each year and is coordinated by SNAICC. Children's Day was first observed in 1988, with 2015 being the 28th celebration. This year's Children's Day was all about helping our kids stand tall and feel connected and

proud in culture. The theme for 2015 was: **Little People, Big Futures**. RAATSICC took part in NAICD events at WuChopperen Health Service, Cairns with information and an interactive activity for children, young people and parents/carers. The beautiful artwork is now hanging in the RAATSICC Counselling Room.



Learning from the Past—Building the Future

The last Child & Family Support forum was held on Horn Island in July 2015. This was the last forum as the Child & Family Support Resource Service ended 30 June 2015. Participants at the forum came from various agencies, including Lena Passi Womens Shelter, Mura Kosker Sorority Inc, Tagai High School, TI Primary Health service, NPA Family & Community Services, and Port Kennedy Association. The final forum centred around learning from our work in the past, utilising these skills and knowledge and planning to build our early intervention and prevention strategies for the future. Norah and Larissa facilitated the 2 day forum, which included a number of activities that can be used with children, young people and families. Other sessions included: * Support 4 Support program (Lena Passi WS) including discussions about community responses against D&FV, * Caring for Me, Caring for You session (self care self-evaluation), * Student Services Team presentation (Tagai College), * Protective Behaviours program, * Communication techniques, * Community drug awareness session, * Child Protection information. It was a fantastic way to end our many years of CAFS forums, however a little sad as we no longer will be supporting and working closely CAFS workers in the various communities. We wish everyone well with their work and thank you all for supporting RAATSICC Child and Family Support Resource Service program over the years.



Family matters – Kids Safe in Culture, Not in Care was the theme of the 2015 SNAICC

**6TH SNAICC National Conference
15-17 September 2015**



conference. It is nationally recognized that there is still an over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system with very limited improvement to the high percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children taken into care. Keynote speakers spoke candidly about the Australian child protection system and the significant effects it poses on the future generations of our children, families, communities and culture. Many shared similar views and opinions around child protection matters and emphasized the need for a shift from the current system to one that is more culturally based and culturally appropriate to meeting the immediate needs of the people and culture. Majority of the panelist argued for cultural consideration and for emphasis to be placed on culture thus giving the onus back to the people and community.

The conference sessions brought together NGO's from all over the country to share ideas and knowledge regarding culturally safe practices in service delivery and the positive impact it would have on people and community. These sessions were quite beneficial as it provided an insight into the different initiatives and level of work that is already being implemented across the country. Examples of the different types of initiatives were: culturally appropriate resources, implementation of cultural programs to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, culturally appropriate practice tools, communication strategies and also strategies to work in partnership with government agencies.

A highlight presentation by Cindy Blackstock (First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada) centered on the 2007 human rights complaint lodged by the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations against the Government of Canada. This was based under the failure to provide equitable and culturally based child welfare services to First Nations children. Conference entertainment was organized each day to showcase Noongar history, skill and talents. The Beat Walkers (young dance group) was a highlight showing off the precious young people of the local area. RAATSICC also had an organizational information stall for the 3 days where we were answering questions about RAATSICC and selling resources. The main resources available were Freddy's Story, Family Flipchart, Flashcards, My Story booklets. There was a lot of interest in our stall which was great to see and hopefully we will build on the networks and relationships that were formed to share and continue to learn from our colleagues around the country.

Ma'aathan Womens Shelter, Aurukun has a new security sign supported by Aurukun Shire Council, Aurukun Police, Community Justice Group and RAATSICC.

Thank you to Madonna (past RAATSICC employee) and Chris from Aurukun Council for coming by to put it up for us, and continuing to support works at the shelter.



AURUKUN SUPKIDS SUPKids is an educational program designed to teach Stand Up Paddling & water safety, with an emphasis on being able to deliver lessons in the most remote locations to local kids who need it most.

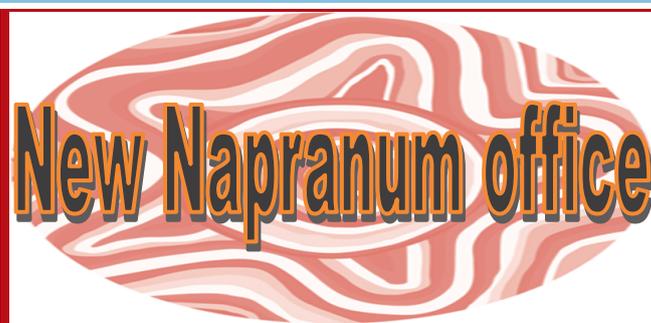
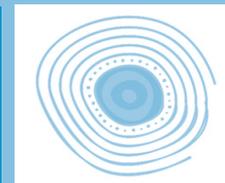
Students from Aurukun have been rewarded for their high attendance at school and good results in the classroom by attending a SUPKids program at Weipa Pool. 'It's great for the kids to be recognised for the good things they do. When the kids do well at school, or have high attendance and they get some recognition for that, it's really good for their self esteem' *Vivien Bull, Director Community Services, Aurukun Shire Council.*

It was community support from Royal Flying Doctor Service, PCYC, SkyTrans, Aurukun Shire Council, RAATSICC and Glencore that made the day possible.

'The children were a delight to teach. Everyone was engaged throughout the theory component and showed great resilience and determination learning the new skill of Stand Up Paddling. It was wonderful to see the children's confidence grow throughout the day and to see such big smiles on their faces!' *Kate Wilcomes, Co-Founder SUPKids.*

Take a look at the video of the Aurukun SUPKids event.:
<https://vimeo.com/mickwilcomes/review/141399739/6c0690fef8>

For more information about the SUPKids Program email
kate@sup-kids.com



The Napranum staff would like to say a big "HELLO" from the Western Cape region and let you know a little about what we have been up to. Our little, but dynamically amazing team is made up of four members: Roy 'The Roy' Chevathen who is the RE Advisor for Napranum and Mapoon, Julie Mairu and Marissa Sabatino are Family Support Workers who cover Aurukun, Mapoon, Weipa and Napranum, and the Child Counsellor for the Weipa cluster is Yvette Carter. Between the four of us we visit and support residents of Mapoon and Aurukun once a week, the rest of the week is devoted to supporting families and children in the Weipa & Napranum areas. Our new office is shaping up very nicely. The team moved in a few weeks ago and have only just finished unpacking the last boxes. RAATSICC is now located in the old woman's shelter in Napranum. After much cleaning, hanging of curtains, re-arranging of furniture and cups of tea the RAATSICC sign hangs proudly in front of our new office for all to see and know we are open for business. RAATSICC staff have attended stakeholder meetings in Weipa over the past few weeks. At the last meeting it was decided the RAATSICC staff would host the next meeting on Tuesday 20th October 2015 – and proudly 'show-off' our new office space. We hope to host many events in Napranum which will raise our profile & increase community awareness of the supports we offer. Napranum staff are searching for books and magazines on various topics that appeal to all ages and interests in the hope of commencing a small library for the Napranum community based in the RAATSICC office. We already have toys and a small array of books to make this a reality!! On Saturday 10th October 2015 the team participated in World Mental Health Day in Weipa. Here, the RAATSICC team set up a stall promoting RAATSICC and the services we offer. As part of this we provided activities for the children attending the day and had small give-aways for them, all the while talking with families and the broader community about RAATSICC and how we can support children and families. We are always busy – as I am sure all of you are, delivering positive, healthy and productive support. Thanks for supporting us so that we, in turn, can support others. Take care & cheers friends, Roy, Julie, Marissa and Yvette.



This year Grandparents Day was held on Sunday October 25. Each year Grandparents Day gives us a chance to celebrate the love and guidance our grandparents give us. This year we want grandparents, grandchildren, and communities across generations to connect with one another and create shared memories.

GRANDPARENTS DAY 2015

NEW PROGRAM: FAMILY CARE SERVICE

The FAMILY CARE SERVICE is new RAATSICC program that is unique to the sector. It provides a support service to individuals and families (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) that have temporary 'informal' care arrangements in place for children 0—18years.

Operating in the communities of Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Wujal Wujal and Laura, three family care workers engage with families who may need assistance with information and strategies to enhance their care for children and young people.

Information that workers can assist with include:

- ◆ Emotional management skills
- ◆ Family and social relationships
- ◆ Financial management skills
- ◆ Basic self-care
- ◆ Living skills
- ◆ Social interaction and communication....



RAATSICC believes that this program acknowledges the strength and commitment of family and community to protect our children, and understands that this can be both challenging and rewarding.

If you, or someone you know could benefit from this support, please contact RAATSICC office on 40300900.



WORKER PROFILE

NORAH BAGIRI

I married George Bagiri 20 years ago and we have 6 children, Clinton, Pierotta, Georgina, Ben, Haydan & Andre. Things I enjoy are fishing, performing in front of a crowd, going to the movies, cooking and spending time with family. At RAATSICC I like engaging with people in community and offering a service to them that assists them in life to enjoy with their families. I like performing: I'm an actor, singer, songwriter, playwright and stand up comedian. I love making people laugh, I think it's the best remedy to decrease any tension, friction and ill feelings you may have. Laughing will get rid of anything.. trust me.. Oh yes, and I also LOVE anything with FRESH CREAM...!! LOL...!!

TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE TRAINING FOR CHILD COUNSELLORS

On Friday 11th September 2015 Norah and Yvette attended a workshop focusing on the impact separation, divorce and trauma has on a child's developing brain and body, how these can impede early attachment and the long lasting effects these influences have when a child is forming relationships. Beth Guy, the Program Manager from the Australian Childhood Foundation, delivered an information packed day along with practical hints and fun activities which can be used when supporting youth of all ages e.g. blowing bubbles, blowing a feather through a straw. This possibly sounds quite silly and even a little flippant but the theory behind the activities is extraordinary!!

Learning outcomes from the workshop included: Being informed about the link between the neurobiology of complex trauma and its impacts on the brain, body and relationships. In this, various types of trans-generational trauma, and its positive and negative impacts on resilience, adaptability and survival were discussed in depth. We explored perspectives and ideas on theories relating to trans-generational trauma and its impact on how families function and how children develop with a focus on what this actually means for family interventions with a family law perspective. Building a participants understanding of the broad issues vulnerable children face, the difficulties in engaging and re-engaging separating/divorcing parents who have also experienced complex trauma and the long term implications of this for both the participant and the support worker. We also explored the science of epigenetics and its impact on trans-generational trauma. This workshop was great, so informative and fun, great for networking and learning new and relevant theories and practices. It provided us with activities, case studies and strategies so as to link the theory from the workshop to our day to day practice and working lives.





CHRISTMAS / NEW YEARS OFFICE HOURS

24 th Normal work day	25 th Christmas Day	26 th Boxing Day
27 th CLOSED	28 th CLOSED Boxing Day Holiday	29 th 120 Spence St Office OPEN 9:00am – 2:00pm
30 th 120 Spence St Office OPEN 9:00am – 2:00pm	31 st 120 Spence St Office OPEN 9:00am – 2:00pm	1 st CLOSED
2 nd CLOSED	3 rd CLOSED	4 th Normal

ALL other RAATSICC offices will be closed.

Aurukun Shelter on-call number is 0457 086 250 or 0448 102 095 for clients to access the shelter for crisis accommodation.

Contact RAATSICC on 40300900 or 0407 300 907 or visit the Cairns office at 120 Spence Street from 29th to 31st December 2015.

If you require individual support please contact:

Child Safety After Hours: 1800 177 135	Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800
DVConnect: 1800 811 811	Statewide Sexual Assault Helpline: 1800 010 120
Mens Line: 1800 600 636	Parentline: 1300 301 300
Lifeline Crisis Line: 13 11 14	Health advice: 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)
Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467	Police Emergencies: 000



Have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA (WLSA) needs your help. WLSA is a network of specialist community legal centres that provide free legal advice and information to women in Australia.

WLSA advocates on safety in family law. One of our current concerns is there is no specific protection in family law preventing a perpetrator of family/ domestic violence who is representing themselves without a lawyer, from directly cross examining the victim/ survivor at trial. This can re-traumatise the victim/ survivor and has a lot of other concerning consequences for the victim/ survivor and their children, the ultimate court outcome and on the family law legal system as a whole.

WLSA is interested in gathering more information about the extent this is happening and the impact it has on victims/ survivors of violence. We hope this evidence will help us convince decision-makers about the need for the law to be changed to stop this from occurring in the future.

If you are a victim/ survivor of domestic/ family violence and were involved in family law children's proceedings and would like to help please click on the link below and answer the short survey. It should take about 5 – 10 minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PYZDVFX>

If the survey in any way makes you feel upset, concerned or has any other negative impact on you please contact the National Domestic and Family Violence hotline on 1800 737 732. (24 hours/ 7 days).

The survey will remain open until 31st December 2015. Thank you for your assistance.

Farewell to staff ...

NATHAN COSGREVE— FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER, CAIRNS

MONICA JOSIAH— RECOGNISED ENTITY ADVISOR, KOWANYAMA

Thank you for your work with RAATSICC! We wish you both well in the future.



October

3rd Carol Bligh
4th Suzie Williams
8th Roy Chevathen
9th Enid Chevathen
9th Brenda Yunkaporta
12th Laurel Doughboy
25th Peter Pilot

November



December

7th Colleen Burfitt
18th Leanne James
20th Irene Tommy

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

2 International Day of Non-Violence
22 –30 Childrens Week
25 Grandparents Day
31 Day for Daniel

November

19 World Day for the Prevention of Abuse and Violence Against Children
25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
25 White Ribbon Day

December

25 Christmas Day

Cape York / Gulf Remote Area Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Care Advisory Association Inc.

120 Spence Street, PO Box 6242, Cairns Qld 4870
Phone: (07) 4030 0900 Fax: (07) 4041 5082 Free Call: 1300 663 411

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