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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:



Hello and welcome. Our 14th edition of the *RAATSICC Focus* is the last for 2016. This quarter may be filled with uncertainties, but we continue to soldier on to meet expected outcomes for our people. From community events to Meet and Greets to our all staff workshop. We have had a full on, but fun filled quarter. You will read more about it in this newsletter.

As you all may have heard by now, and I did mention in our last RAATSICC Focus family support programs are going through a recommissioning stage and a new Family Wellbeing service will be established. Our region is in the Stage 2 procurement which includes locations across the Brisbane, Central Qld, Far North, North Qld, North Coast, South East Qld and South West Qld regions. In the 2-step open tender process, RAATSICC was successful in the EOI process, which progresses us to the Request for Quote stage, which is due on 13th January 2017. So again we are very busy with submissions, program / service delivery and advocacy.

The RAATSICC AGM was held on 24th November 2016. Our board consists of Stuart Marquardt—President (Aurukun Justice Group), Paula Neal—Treasurer (Yarabah Aboriginal Women’s Corporation), Matilda Savage—Non-Executive Member (Kaurareg Tribal Council of Elders), Lavinia Webb—Non-Executive Member (Qld Indigenous Family Violence Service). We do have a vacancy in the Vice President and ex-officio positions which the RAATSICC Management Committee will progress in the new year.

RAATSICC will continue with our annual distribution of Christmas hampers for our clients which were a great hit last year. We are hoping all our clients / service users throughout the Cairns and Cape York communities enjoy all the goodies this festive season.

A special congratulations to Clayton, Larissa, Lamar and Lani on the blessed new arrival of baby Cali....Welcome Cali to the RAATSICC family xx.

I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the RAATSICC Management Committee, myself and all RAATSICC staff to wish all our network members, communities members, Government partners a very Safe and Joyous festive season, and look forward to reconnecting again in 2017.



I would also like to continue to encourage RAATSICC membership to organisations in the FNQ please visit www.raatsicc.org.au or email info@raatsicc.org.au for application forms or information.

Thank you for your continued support.
Emma Schuh—CEO

Sexual Violence Awareness Month—October 2016

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

NAPRANUM CELEBRATES NAIDOC WEEK



The theme for 2016 National Aboriginals and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) was 'Songlines - the living narrative of our nation', highlighting the significance of Songlines to the existence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 'Songlines are intricate maps of land, sea and country. They describe travel and trade routes, the location of waterholes and the presence of food. In many cases, Songlines on the earth are mirrored by sky Songlines, which allowed people to navigate vast distances of this nation and its waters' said one of the National organizers of this year's NAIDOC.

In Napranum the RAATSICC team of two, Julie and Yvette, participated in several events celebrating the week long event. One such event was the street parade. Julie and Yvette decorated the work vehicle. A number of other agencies also took part in the procession – yet no other vehicle looked quiet as stunning as the RAATSICC car. The RAATSICC car was the only vehicle to throw goodies such as lollies, stickers and balloons to the children lining the

Napranum streets. Once the parade had finished, the RAATSICC team set up their children's activities stall (painting, art and crafts and goody bags), giving parents a welcomed break to sit and watch the magnificent sunset whilst listening to the band and catching a bite to eat before the fireworks.

The RAATSICC team look forward to NAIDOC week 2017, a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, music, story telling, dance and food – a great time to share and experience our amazing cultures.



National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day in Napranum

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day is celebrated across Australia each year on 4 August. Children's Day is a time to for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate culture and the strengths of their children. The day gives all Australians the opportunity to show their support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and learn about the vital impact that culture, family and community play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

In 2016, as with every year, Children's Day will emphasize celebrating and acknowledging the positive role culture plays in children's safety and wellbeing through strength, pride and resilience.

© National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day 2016

The Napranum RAATSICC team supported fellow staff member, Yvette Carter, as well as the Child Witness Domestic Violence Program, when we celebrated National Aboriginal and Islander Day with a delicious afternoon tea followed by games and prizes with children in the community. There was also much discussion about what National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Day meant to each of the children. This discussion was also entwined with cultural stories from Roy Chevathun and Julie Mairu.



The aim of the day was also to enhance and re-affirm the children's self esteem leading to positive outcomes in social and emotional wellbeing, along with a sense of belonging and resilience of Indigenous children. The RAATSICC team from the Weipa Cluster look forward to this event again next year.

ALL STAFF WORKSHOP

RAATSICC staff from all program areas participated in a 3 day workshop in December 2016 at our Cairns Secretariat office. The workshop covered topics including:

- ◆ RAATSICC Future Directions
- ◆ Human Service update (Stronger Families Reforms)
- ◆ RAATSICC Human Resource Policies and Processes
- ◆ 4WD training
- ◆ Safe Anger Release with Young People
- ◆ Suicide Prevention
- ◆ Worker Self Care and Self Compassion.



The Family Support Service team also presented an overview of current processes and procedures for the program including Intake Process, and Family Support Case Management. This provided a great opportunity to bring all staff up to speed with current process and trends and to equip staff with the knowledge and skills to take back to their communities. The goal was to provide greater transparency across the organization and to ensure more consistent and unified approach to service delivery. Local organizations were invited to attend a meet and greet and to educate services about the program, to bring them up to speed with current trends and processes, and it provided a great opportunity to connect with a whole range of services in the region that we don't generally get a chance to meet face to face in the general course of business. Thank you to all who participated and those who presented.

CAIRNS MEET AND GREET

In December 2016, RAATSICC held a M&G in the Cairns office where stakeholders could meet the individual team members of various RAATSICC programs and gather information on what they do in their neck of the woods (Cape York / Cairns).

The Recognised Entity team introduced themselves and what clan and community they represented. Each session had different people in it so we asked if they knew WHAT the Recognised Entity was a WHY it existed with some answers coming back that they did know, some knew a little bit and also with some visitors not knowing at all.

In our sessions we broke down:

Who are we ? Cape York RE advisors team

What we do ? We provide cultural advisor to the Dept. of Child Safety regarding CP matters

Why we exist ? To reduce to over representation of ATSI children in care

When do you need the RE ? Anytime Dept. of Child Safety come knocking on your door.

How can we be accessible to families for CP matters? Give us a call(07) 40300900



All the RAATSICC program sessions (Family Care, ATSIFSS, Aurukun Womens Shelter, CWDV Child Counselling) presented information about their programs and encouraged referrals and the opportunity to work in partnership with all agencies for the betterment of our children, young people and families. We were also given the opportunity to find out what other services were doing in the region and learn more about other services that we can access to assist families. We received lots of positive feedback about the meet and great from the participating organisations. Recently, one of the participants (a key provider in the region) was so impressed by the meet and that they've made changes to their own meet and greet process and have adopted the idea and inviting services to go to their organization and learn about all their programs and to share information.



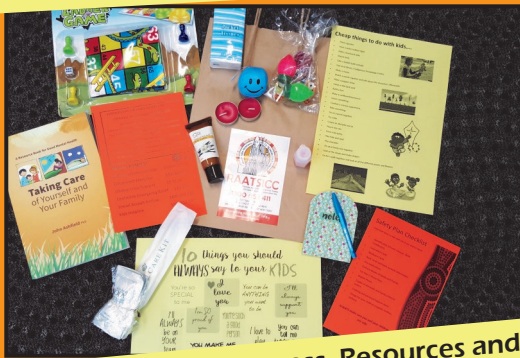
NEWS AROUND THE REGION.....



Thank you to the Qld South Native Title Services for donating toys to RAATSICC acknowledging the work that RAATSICC does with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.



RAATSICC ANNUAL MEMBERS FORUM
 "Forward for our Families" was held on 23 November 2017 at the Cairns Secretariat office. This was an opportunity for members to get statistics on RAATSICC programs and services. Presentations were also delivered by Qld Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service, Act for Kids, Mookai Rosie Bi-bayan, Cairns Safer Street Taskforce, Cairns Regional DV service and Child Safety. Contact the RAATSICC office on 40300900 to be a RAATSICC Member.



RAATSICC Community Awareness, Resources and Support Unit compiled 'Christmas Survival Packs' for Family Care and Child Witness program service users. They comprised of self care resource, pamper items, Safety planning tips, List of holiday activities, and contact details of support services.

We trust they were useful to all that received them this Christmas / New Year period.

RAATSICC held their end of year meet and greets in the Cooktown region. Staff went to 3 different communities (Wujal Wujal, Hopevale, and Cooktown) and invited local GOV & NGO organisations within those communities. The purpose of these meetings was to inform community members and other services about the services being delivered in community and how to access these services. Whilst also informing the other orgs what we have been doing and discuss how we all could work more collaboratively in a positive and community driven manner in the future. Everyone participated in the meeting and gained knowledge about each service that are either in community or travel in and it also gave an opportunity for the other services to give a little spiel about what they offer. Thank you to all who attended and participated we trust you gained further insight into RAATSICC and we can build our working relationships to improve our programs in 2017.



WORKER PROFILE



FIONA McLEOD
Family Support Worker
Cape York

My name is Fiona. I have lived in Cairns all my life. My background is both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. My mother's side is Torres Strait (Hammond/Thursday Island) and Giru (Bowen/Ayr) and my dad's side is English, East Kuku-Yalanji (Mossman) and Kalkadoon (Mount Isa area).

I have been a Family Support Worker for the past 14 months with RAATSICC. I am based in the Cairns Office but travel to Coen and Lockhart River to support our families.

What I love about my job is I get to meet new people, learn about their culture and community. I love listening to the elders and community members share their stories of their land. Each day I learn something new and am truly blessed to have the opportunity to work with our mob and help them the best way I can. I am also blessed to work with a great team. When I am not working, I enjoy camping and connecting with country, spending time with my family and friends at the river or beach. I have 5 children, 3 step-children and 6 grandchildren so I am always busy but I wouldn't have it any other way.

WORKER PROFILE



**GERTRUDE
YUNKAPORTA**
Aurukun Womens
Shelter

Hi my name is Gertrude Yunkaporta, I work at the Maa'athan Women Shelter in Aurukun. I am from the 'Alpech' Clan group and I have one daughter and grandson. I have 3 brothers (2 deceased) and 2 sisters, and all live in Aurukun.

I completed grade 11 at the Warwick Slade Boarding School west of Brisbane in 1987. I came back to Aurukun in 1988 and my first job was working at the old hospital as receptionist.

My favourite hobby is to go fishing with my partner and family.

One day I would like to travel around Australia.

I have been working with RAATSICC since 2014 at the Women Shelter and I enjoy working and meeting other RAATSICC staff who come into Community. As well travelling to Cairns for workshops and being with everyone.

I enjoy working for RAATSICC and working at the Maa'athan Women Shelter in Aurukun.

ACA National Conference

The Australian Counselling Association hosted a national conference from 23 to 25 September 2016 in Adelaide. The conference theme focused on "Multicultural and Indigenous Mental Health and Well Being" and was titled 'Kanyini', meaning connectedness through caring and responsibility – a concept that underpins Aboriginal life.

Yvette Carter, Child Counsellor for RAATSICC Weipa Cluster, attended and presented at this conference. Yvette spoke about the QuickSmart program, a numeracy and literacy program she has delivered in the Western Cape region for the past 3 years alongside her RAATSICC role. As part of this presentation Yvette also discussed and recognised the importance of relationship building and how this impacts on adult learning.

The conference, as a whole, explored the differences and similarities of working in a multicultural and/or Indigenous environment, whether it is working with Aboriginal people, Torres Strait Islanders, refugees, immigrants (new and old) or non-Indigenous Australians. The conference also incorporated the launch of the ACA professional college: College of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counsellors.



LOCKHART RIVER—FAMILY CARE SESSIONS

RAATSICC held a 'Family Care Day Out' for informal carers of Lockhart River Community. This event was set up for carers of the community to enjoy a relaxed day on country, caring for them selves whilst hunting, cooking, eating traditional foods and sharing stories.

In Lockhart River there are known to be 10 grandmothers/great grandmothers informally caring for their grandchildren that the Family Care Program provides support to these families, however there are potentially a lot more.

The 'Family Care Day Out' was set up for carers to come together on country to meet other carers of the community, to get to know one and other, create a network between each other and discuss the high's and low's of informal care. As the word got around the community a few more members turned up to the event to find out what family care is all about and stayed for a yarn and a cuppa.

Whilst food was provided, family care officer had also bought along ingredients for damper which was prepared by a local attendee and great advocate for the Family Care Program. Another attendee bought along some fish which was then wrapped in foil and also placed on the coals. With these items in place we put on some water for a cuppa and discussed issues that affect the informal carer in regards to caring and creating a safe environment for the children. Over a hot cuppa we then discussed how we can release stress and tension with some easy to do self care steps, going for a walk around the block, going fishing, getting back to country or gardening all the while doing calm breathing in and out whilst clearing your mind. The 'Family Care Day Out' was a great success in Lockhart River, attendees enjoyed them selves and relaxed whilst learning self care methods.



happy birthday

January

4th Michael
13th Allira
15th Norah
16th Daphney
24th Yvette

February

6th Julie
14th Ani
17th Cynthia
18th Moses
25th Vera

March

3rd Nancy
19th Joe
23rd Emma



Welcome new staff



Irene
AWS Relief worker



Lisa
Reception Cairns



Nancy
FSW Cairns



Kelly
FSW Cairns



Eileen
FSW Cairns



Pauline
FSW Cairns



Justine
AWS Shelter worker

Goodbye and Good luck



Richard
Bignell



Patimah
Singe



June
Kellemeier

Christella
Flanders

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

26: Australia Day / Survival Day

February

13: National Apology Day
23: Lockhart River Foundation Day

March

8: International Womens Day
16: National Close the Gap Day
17: National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence
21: Harmony Day
31 March—9 April: National Youth Week

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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