



▶ KOWANYAMA EXPO 2



▶ STAFF PROFILE 4



▶ AURUKUN NAIDOC 3

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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 to our 17th edition of our RAATSICC Focus.

Another challenging but yet successful quarter for us here at RAATSICC, especially resulting from the “somewhat confusion” around expiration dates of contractual agreements.

Nevertheless, I am proud to say that we continue to excel in consistency and continuity regardless of the sectoral changes.

A quick update on our current programs, the RAATSICC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Family Support Service and Family Care service has been extended until January 31<sup>st</sup> 2018. So it will be business as usual for the next couple of months and then it will be back into our transition phase once again. Apologies for the confusion, however we must agree with what is offered in order to provide these services to our vulnerable families until the implementation of the new Family Wellbeing Service.

We wish to confirm that RAATSICC did submit a proposal in the procurement round and we are now waiting on the results, so fingers crossed that all our good work is recognised and we receive a favorable response to our submission.

I did mention that this quarter was also successful, well, I am so pleased to announce that RAATSICC has successfully met the requirements of the Human Services Quality Standards (HSQF) and that our service delivery systems are compliant to these standards. I would like to acknowledge once again the valued efforts of Managers Karen Roger, Larissa Walker and Cynthia Lui, I am truly blessed to have such an elite team of excellence. We will be proudly displaying the HDAA mark in our future promotions.

We successfully delivered our Victim of Crime (VOC) information session in Weipa and on Thursday Island (TI). Members have indicated they would like more sessions especially in the evenings to cater for those who are busy at work to attend in the day. We will be going back to Weipa and TI again in the next quarter, and if you see the advert when we are there next please do come along, they are very informative sessions with an aim to support and respond effectively to all Victims of Crimes in our region. Larissa and I did attend the national Victims of Crime conference in Brisbane which we aim to enhance these sessions with national updates.

There is much more in the newsletter about this quarter so I do hope you enjoy this edition, before I go....as always, I encourage you to become a member of this wonderful grassroots organisation so that you can be involved and play a vital part in enhancing the lives of our families, youth and children in the region.

Please note our annual Members Forum and AGM will be in November, the notice will be out soon so please look out for it, again I urge you to attend and participate and I do hope to see you there, until then stay safe.

**Emma Schuh**  
CEO



**WHITE RIBBON DAY—25 NOVEMBER**

**In support of  
White Ribbon**

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

# Coen Child Protection Week Event - 5th September



RAATSICC Cape York Family Support and the Recognised Entity Programs are a strong presence in the Coen community. Working with families and children is our priority ensuring our children are safe within their homes and community.

RAATSICC was privileged to take part in the Child Protection Week community event held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

This event was organized and facilitated by Carol Fyfe from Cape York Partnerships in partnership with

Apunipima.

RAATSICC workers assisted with preparations for the day and assisting Carol and the team. This was an opportunity to work collaboratively with other support agencies who are also working with mutual clients. RAATSICC workers took part in an eventful day from taking part in the street march with school students and staff and the daycare children and staff. We also had a RAATSICC information stall consisting of program information, children's activities and giveaway bags. This opportunity raised much awareness for families and the community in particular of the support services presented in the community and how these services can work together for the purpose of our families ensuring the protection of our children. Program Support Officer Rita Suavai gave a

5minute talk of the programs that are available at RAATSICC and introducing our new Coen Family Support Worker Renee Griffith and acknowledging our long standing community based Recognised Entity Advisor May Kepple.

RAATSICC congratulates Carol and the team for a well organised day with the inclusion of many services. Well done to the RAATSICC team who took part in the



## Edmonton Child Protection Week 26th September

RAATSICC Team – Rita, Suzie and Renee held a stall at the Child Protection Event at Ravizza Drive. The stall included bubbles, photo shoot, painting and handouts.

Over 200 community members attended with approximately 30 services participating. Services included;

- \*Hambeldon House \*Wuchopperen
- \*Relationship Australia \*Firefighters \*Rock Church
- \*Cairns Council \*Edmonton Child Safety
- \*Innate Therapies and other service providers.

An Acknowledgement of Country started the event then acknowledgements were made also to the work of services in keeping our children safe.

A variety of activities were set for the children to engage in such as with the firefighters stealing the show with their sirens going and opening their drivers seat to the children to experience.

The RAATSICC drink bottles and information packs were a hit and we went through all of our stock which was great as families came over to find out more about RAATSICC and what we do. Renee ran the photo booth whilst Rita and Suzie engaged with the families and shared about our role as human service providers.

The event was very successful in that the children appeared to have had a great time whilst families were able to meet service providers and learn about the roles we play in protecting children of FNQ.

## Kowanyama Expo

- On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Kowanyama held an Expo at the Community Multi Purpose Complex. Services represented included; Kowanyama Shire Council, Clinic, Apunipima, Mookai Rosie, Act for Kids, Community Police, RISE Job Network. The RAATSICC stall was a huge hit with the kids doing slinky apples and having access to program information.

- Community awards were given out to different children and barbecue lunch was organized by RISE Job network service.
- At the end of the event we were honored by the students of Kowanyama performing cultural dancing.

- The RAATSICC team in attendance where John - CWDV Counsellor, Moses - FS Woker, Jacky - RE Advisor, & Suzi - Family Care worker.





# NAIDOC Celebration – Aurukun 2017

Renee Griffin (Family Support Worker) took part in Aurukun NAIDOC celebrations, kicking off at Apunipima with a healthy breakfast, and then a community street march which saw many community residents and service providers joining together to celebrate the national theme, “Our Languages Matter”. Many activities were organised, including face painting, games and giveaways supplied by the Women’s Art Centre. Stories were told through traditional Aboriginal dance and local leaders explained the stories in both Wik Mungkan and English. One such dance told of the old people travelling far and wide and ending up in Aurukun. Many locals were joined by non-locals who took part in this demonstration of respect, understanding and celebration. A community Elder spoke at the event stating, “This is what true reconciliation looks like. When non-Indigenous people and Indigenous people can come together in collaboration and share culture, reconciliation is found”. RAATSICC would like to thank the community for inviting us to be part of this celebration and congratulate Aurukun for such an amazing day.



Photo: Kayla from GIVIT with RAATSICC Staff

## GIVit - Goods for Good Causes

Givit are an online organisation who work on supplying good to people in need. RAATSICC look forward to tapping into their service and supporting families to provide practical needs to sustain a healthy and happy family environment.

Check out the GIVIT FB page for more information on donating and requesting goods.  
<http://www.givit.org.au>

## *Courageous kids fight for their family*

A Counsellors story....The mum of two of the beautiful kids receiving counselling through the Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence program told the counsellor they both were disappointed to hear they had two weeks holiday in September 2017 as they wanted to continue to see the counsellor each week.

The mother mentioned since commencing counselling, one of the children has almost stopped getting into trouble at school (he now gets 5 smiley faces for the day, previously he was flat getting one smiley face).

The mum also said her partner, and the kids dad had recently returned to community from prison. Very soon after being home he began drinking.

She feared for their safety so took the children and herself to a relatives home and stayed the night, not returning home until she knew her and the kids would be safe. When the dad woke up, the two children (5 and 7 years old), told dad they wanted to speak with him in the back yard. When their dad came outside the two of them told him they did not like what he was doing to himself or the family. They told him of their fear of him when he drinks and how ‘this is not ok’ (some of the language used in their counselling sessions). These two children told their dad how they ‘are allowed to say how they feel without being scared of what might happen because of it’. The dad started to cry.

They also told their dad they will always leave (with their mum), when he is drinking. There were lots more talking and lots more tears before this conversation finished.

RAATSICC are so very proud of this family, particularly the children who have shown strength, courage and love for their family. For referrals to the CWDV child counselling program (Mapoon, Napranum, Kowanyama, Lockhart River), contact RAATSICC on 40300900.





## WORKER PROFILE

# Josh Williams

**CWDV COUNSELLOR  
LOCKHART RIVER**

I was born and raised in a small country town north of Cairns called Mossman. I am a descendant of the Kuku Yalanji people and my clan group originates from Daintree (Julaymba) and China Camp (Buru) situated between Mossman and Bloomfield River (Wujal Wujal). I enjoy my traditional knowledge learning and teaching the next future generation children (bama- karrkay). My personal hobbies and interests include; Rugby League, Music – Playing, instrumental and Local track recording, Bush Walking and Camping, Arts & Craft Fishing and enjoying the relaxation and peace of mind on the beach.

I have been employed with RAATSICC for about 3/4 weeks now. I really enjoy learning new ways of operating in a workplace,

RAATSICC staff member's are very supportive and caring.

I couldn't ask for a better workplace, a friendly and welcoming environment, makes me feel safe and at home.

In my own time, I like to listen to live music on weekends, be creative and do a lot of therapeutic tradition Indigenous painting and story writing and recording.

I enjoy giving a lot of my time in helping others achieve their personal and professional goals, whatever it may be.

Spiritually up build individuals to be empowered, so they then feel confident in achieving and succeeding in the career pathways they desire to partake in.



**July**  
10th Lela

**August**  
2nd Josh  
5th Coralie  
25th Karen

**September**



*Thank you and farewell*  
*John Bull - CWDV Counsellor*  
*Daphney Claremont - RE Advisor*  
*Diana Sullivan - ATSI FSS*  
*Allira Waisu - ATSI FSS NPA*

### WELCOME TO...

**Constance Sailor**  
Aurukun RE Advisor

**Coralie Lawrence**  
Kowanyama  
Family Care

**Shauna Giblet &  
Daiana Volavola**  
AWS Workers, Aurukun

**Alana Koko**  
Lockhart River  
Family Care



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October

Sexual Violence Awareness Month  
2: International day of non-violence  
21-29: Children's Week  
27: Napranum DOGIT Day  
30: Grandparents Day  
30: Day for Daniel  
29: Lockhart River DOGIT Day

### November

19: World Day for the Prevention of Abuse and  
Violence against children  
25: White Ribbon Day

### December

24: Christmas Eve  
25: Christmas Day  
26: Boxing Day  
31: New Years Eve

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

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

*"Our Children, Our Youth, Our Families and Our Communities are safe, resilient and empowered"*

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