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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:

Welcome to the 22nd edition of the RAATSICC Focus and the last for 2018. RAATSICC had a very eventful and busy quarter with many changes to service delivery, new initiatives and a focus on promotion and meeting with key stakeholders to inform of the changes within our organisation.

In late October 2018 we saw the Recognised Entity service come to a close, which consequently meant having to say goodbye to many staff members who have been pivotal in the successes of RAATSICC. In particular we want to thank Clara Day (NPA RE Advisor) who was a also a founding member of the RAATSICC organisation.

The RAATSICC management committee, members and staff would like to give a sincere THANK YOU to all the Recognised Entity Advisors employed with RAATSICC over the past 7 years for your commitment and strength in providing much needed RE services throughout Cape York. We know the work you contributed by providing cultural information and community knowledge to child safety has aided in keeping children safe in Cape York.

The RAATSICC organisation gives priority to ensuring our workforce have opportunity for upskilling and this quarter staff participated in various sessions of benefit. Some including:

- ◆ Technology-facilitated abuse and its relationship to domestic and family violence;
- ◆ Lifting the Lid Seminar (child sexual abuse);
- ◆ Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid;
- ◆ Lateral Violence prevention training;
- ◆ SHIP training for shelter workers; and
- ◆ Family Led Decision Making training.

RAATSICC are currently recruiting for a number of workers throughout the region, so if you have experience and a keen interest in working with us for the betterment of our children, young people and families, please take a look on our website or contact the secretariat office.

As the festive season approaches, we wish all our service users, community partners and supporters a safe and enjoyable time with family and friends. We look forward to working alongside our partners, and forming new relationships in 2019.

*Yours in partnership,
RAATSICC Leadership Team*



 International Women's Day

#BALANCEFORBETTER—8 MARCH 2019

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

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK



An important event each year RAATSICC is involved in is CHILD PROTECTION WEEK which aims to:

- ◆ Raise the profile of all issues connected with child protection, including child abuse prevention, treatment, research, education, service provision and support for children, young people and families;
- ◆ Create a statewide focus for child protection allowing government and non-government agencies to present a cooperative and coordinated community oriented campaign;
- ◆ Support and value professionals and volunteer child protection workers by providing 'best practice' training and a forum to exchange ideas and information;
- ◆ Offer a framework to recognise advances in the field, and there by contribute to better outcomes for all children and young people, especially those who have been harmed or are at risk of harm.

With this in mind, and during Child Protection week, the Napranum RAATSICC staff attended a Family Fun Day on the green at Rocky Point in Weipa. Staff encouraged children and their families to participate in the creative activity on offer (colouring, gluing, painting and collage work) while families and RAATSICC staff engaged in conversation surrounding Child Protection Week, its purpose, raising awareness on issues relating to Child Protection and where to seek support should families need to. During the event, various community members were asked to take the microphone and discuss the services on offer to children and their families. Yvette Carter (RAATSICC CWDV Counsellor) spoke on behalf of RAATSICC and explained the various programs offered by RAATSICC and the locations in which they were based. As a result of this, several parents approached both Yvette and Roy (RAATSICC RE), about the availability of support and how this support 'might look' for their specific needs. Staff encouraged self referrals to RAATSICC programs, and provided many families with the RAATSICC office details to further conversations about service delivery.



Roy prepares the RAATSICC stall for Family Fun day event, Weipa



Many families gathered around the RAATSICC stall to be part of the creative process and speak with RAATSICC staff



Aurukun Smoking Ceremony

Local Aurukun Elders and women of the community took part in a traditional smoking ceremony at the womens shelter with RAATSICC staff. This ceremony was to bless the building, staff and visitors to the shelter and to provide cultural safety to the women and children seeking refuge and support. RAATSICC would like to thank Uncle Ron Yunkaporta, Dorothy Pootchemunka, Selina Wolmby and Marlene Yunkaporta, along with Lila Bowenda for blessing the shelter and guiding this special occasion.

Wheel of Wellbeing, December 2018

Suzy and Josh (CWDV Child Counsellors) attended the "Wheel of Wellbeing" workshop held at Cairns Regional Council and presented by Linsey Graham & Linda Shannon.

This workshop focussed on organizational awareness of self, others, heart-mind-body and spiritual growth. Focusing on the heart-mind-body including spiritual growth, allowed for sacred space to be transformed and created. Raising such awareness, prompts you to keep intact with your inner world and wellbeing. Workshop participants were provided tools and therapeutic guided activities and exercises to utilize on regular basis. Such therapeutic activities and exercises are beneficial for professional use, especially when dealing and working alongside children and parents in our professional practice. Key messages of the Wheel of Wellbeing Workshop were:

- * Understanding, the awareness of yourself and others
- * Mindfulness, self- care (therapeutic practices and exercises)
- ◆ Importance of giving.

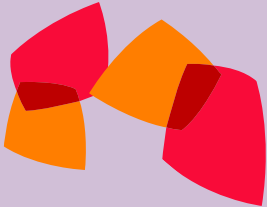
For more information about the Wheel of Wellbeing, check out www.wheelofwellbeing.org



#RAATPACK—Christmas Party



RAATSICC staff and loved ones came together in December to celebrate a big year and to acknowledge the commitment, effort and contributions each team member has made. Great food, fun games, and gift sharing made it a memorable night for all.



RECOGNISED ENTITY SERVICE ENDS

It was with a heavy heart that in October 2018 RAATSICC Recognised Entity Service ended after 7 years of delivering this much needed support in Cape York. We would like to give a sincere thank you to WuChopperen Health Service, the lead agency for this service, as well as all communities in Cape York that supported the RE service over these years.

RAATSICC would like to acknowledge all Recognised Entity Advisors over the years that supported decision making

in child protection matters for our children and families. We understand the challenging and often difficult circumstances that you had to work to ensure that Child Safety were provided with cultural and community information to inform their decisions.

We appreciate all the work you did and wish you all the best in the future!



WORKER PROFILE



*Coralie Lawrence
S.A.F.E Worker,
Kowanyama*

I have lived all my life in the community of Kowanyama. I am the 5th child in my family with 5 sisters and 3 brothers, I am a mother of 2 daughters and 1 son and a grandmother of 1 girl and 2 boys. My hobbies include, spending time with family, reading and fishing. I started with RAATSICC in November 2017 in the role of Family Care worker, then Recognised Entity (RE) Advisor. I am enjoying my time at RAATSICC and would like to continue being part of the team. I am currently a S.A.F.E. worker which involves me helping support my people and families in the community which I have always been passionate about. Something interesting about me is that in 1985 when I was 13 years old, I climbed to the top of AYERS ROCK along with other community members to sign our name in the signature book. I was selected to travel to Alice Springs on a school excursion along with other well behaved students of the year. This is something that I will always remember as a highlight of my teenage years.

GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK

Lisa Cooper

Colleen Lyall

Roy Chevathen

Jackie Dunn

Clara Day

Gertrude Yunkaporta

Charlene Boxer

Emma Schuh

WELCOME TO THE #RAATPACK...

*Jerry Callope—Project Officer,
Lockhart River*



**GET YOUR FREE RAATSICC 2019
MEMBERSHIP TODAY! CONTACT THE
RAATSICC OFFICE FOR AN
APPLICATION AND GET INVOLVED IN
THIS GRASSROOTS ORGANISATION.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2019

2: RAATSICC Offices Reopen
26: Survival Day / Australia Day

February 2019

13: National Apology Day

March 2019

8: International Womens Day
15: National Day of Action Against Bullying and
Violence
16: 21: Harmony Day
25: National Close the Gap Day



CELEBRATING CHILDRENS WEEK

RAATSICC staff, Joe, Brenda and Lela joined services in Aurukun for Children's Week celebrations. Our staff prepared yummy fruit platters and giveaways, while Safehouse staff coordinated the banner, and Apunipima staff ran games. CYE staff cooked pancakes while Aurukun school staff coordinated the event. By all accounts the children, teachers and services enjoyed the event and had a positive and fun interactive experience participating in the games and banner making. This collaboration led to conversations with the school about local child and family related services collaborating together on a more regular basis.



**Kowanyama Our Community, Our Home
reference group finalising winners of
the poster design competition.**

October

1st Colleen M
4th Suzi
8th Roy

November

20th Jackie

December

5th Natasha
7th Colleen B

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