

A close-up photograph of a young Indigenous Australian child. The child has traditional body paint, including a white and red design on their forehead and cheek. They are wearing a white feathered headdress. The background is blurred, showing other people in traditional attire.

ANNUAL Report

2018-2019

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

Acknowledgement of Country



RAATSICC acknowledges that we operate and function on many lands across North Queensland.

We pay our respect to these lands that provide for us.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the ancestors that walked and managed these lands for many generations before us.

We acknowledge and recognise all Aboriginal people who have come from their own country and who have now come to call this country their home. We acknowledge our Elders who are our knowledge holders, our teachers.

”Our Children, Our Youth, Our Families and Our communities are safe, resilient and empowered”

We acknowledge our youth who are our hope for a brighter and stronger future.

We acknowledge and pay our respect to our community members who have gone before us and recognise their contribution to our people and community.

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Stuart Marquardt
President

Message from the President

As President and on behalf of the Management Committee I present the RAATSICC Annual Report 2018/19.

The last 12 months has been a hectic year with Management Committee members working closely with Senior Management to navigate through big changes to programs such as the ceasing of the Recognised Entity Role and staffing matters as a result of the Chief Executive Officer departure. Upmost importance to the Management Committee was the stabilisation and continuity of service delivery that would not have been achieved without the commitment of staff at RAATSICC and we thank them for their continued loyalty.

We had new Members join the Management Committee who have provided valued input to the strategic and policy direction of the organisation which contributed to improvements in the financial management and an substantial decrease in the deficit over the 18/19 financial year.

The recruitment of a new CEO took longer than expected and the successful applicant commenced in early June 2019. Kris Smith was previously CEO of Galambila Aboriginal Health Service in Coffs Harbour, NSW and brings with her a wealth of experience in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. We are looking forward to a renewed look to the operations and strategic direction of RAATSICC as we continue our journey in providing Child and Family Support Service to communities within Cape York.

I would like to thank members of the Management Committee for their commitment and support and our Government Funding Agencies at both a State and Commonwealth level for their continued contribution.

Stuart Marquardt



Message from the Acting CEO

I was honoured when asked to undertake the CEO role for a short period of time and thank the Management Committee for their support and guidance.

Throughout all my years with RAATSICC I have seen more changes in the last five (5) years than ever before. We have had significant decreases in staffing numbers over this time due to the loss of programs but over the past twelve (12) months we have been successful in being awarded other government funding programs such as the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and the Family Participation Program.

These programs will go a long way to strengthening our counselling and family wellbeing service model. A major focus was the management of funding agreements for the delivery of programs and services within budget. New processes were introduced to improve decision-making to expend funds in a timely manner.

This improvement assisted the managers and team members to better monitor their expenditure against programs deliverables. A special project that is drawing to an end is 'Our Community, Our Home' with the release of culturally-informed resources for children in foster and kinship care and their carers from the communities of Kowanyama and Lockhart River.

Local project officers, community contributors and supporters of the Our Community, Our Home project will be formally recognised at the launch to be held in late 2019.

Thanks to all the wonderful staff of RAATSICC for their continued support and assistance and I look forward to meeting the challenges and celebrating the achievements with everyone into the future.

Larissa Walker



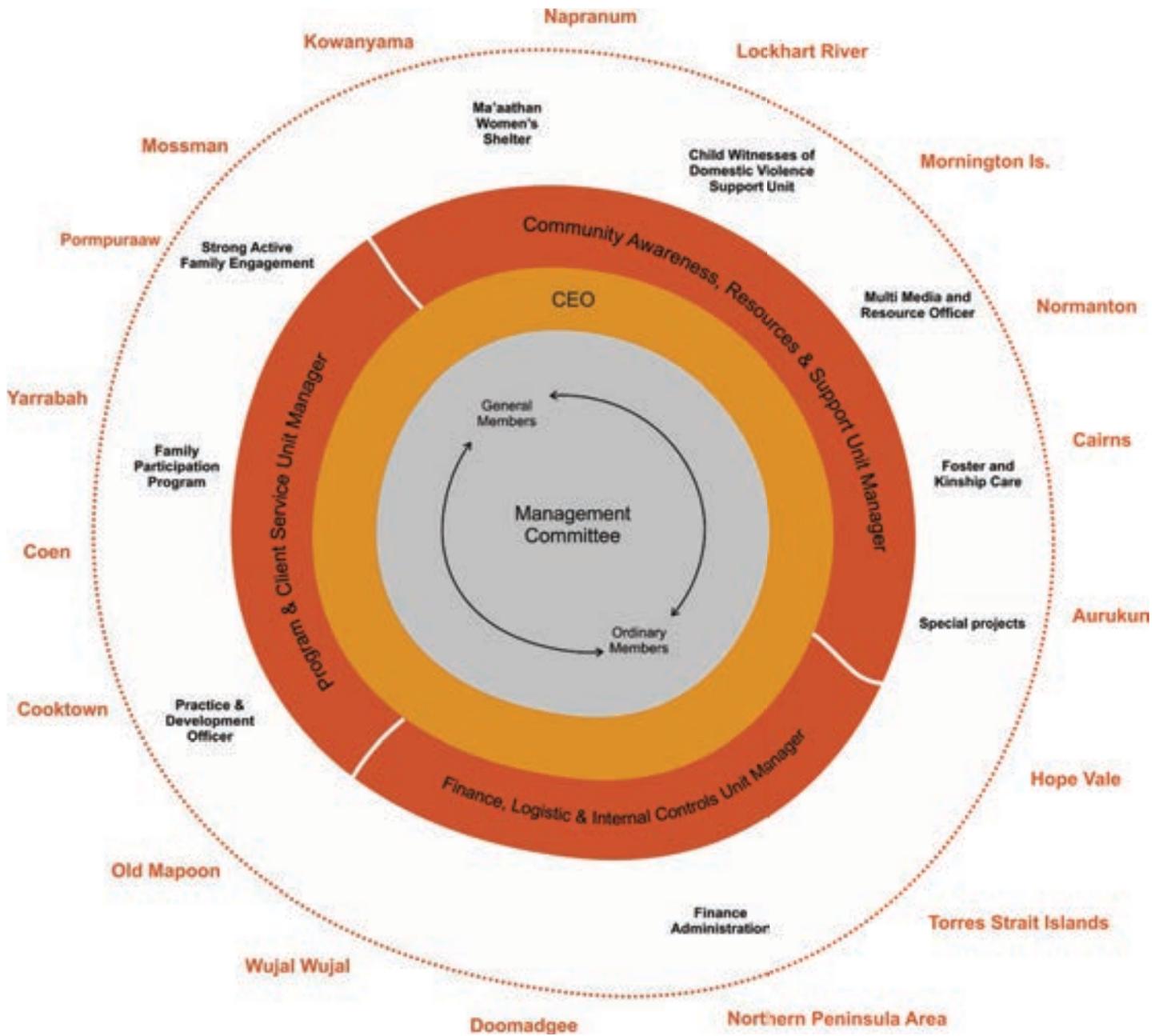
Larissa Walker
A/CEO



Organisational chart

RAATSICC currently has offices in Napranum, Pormpuraaw, Aurukun, Northern Peninsula Area, Lockhart River, Kowanyama and the head office in Cairns.

Some programs have special considerations for service provisions to the North Queensland region including Gulf, Torres Straits and Palm Island.



Ma'aathan - Helping Hands

Centre Base Support

Additional CBS was aimed at:

- Providing information, advice and referral about specific services available to women and children effected by domestic and family violence (Centrelink domestic violence support, DVConnect, specialised domestic violence counselling);
- Case Management – assessing risks and needs, safety planning, developing and monitoring support plans, coordination of support (Aurukun D&FV Prevention Team, court support if appropriate), review, closure and evaluation;
- Community Education – provide training to local organisations about domestic and family violence, and engage with the Aurukun community to raise awareness of violence and effects.

Focused on physical and verbal abuse
Number of participants



Women provided with CBS Case Management support



1st Quarter 8
2nd Quarter 26
3rd Quarter 33
4th Quarter 53

Case Management for all service users include supporting holistically:

- Homeslessness
- Client wellbeing
- Child wellbeing
- Family support
- Other practical assistance
- Domestic and family violence issues
- Issues at home (financial, employment)



Women & Children Accommodated



Case management may look like this



Child Happy, Healthy & Safe

For over 25 years RAATSICC has been committed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children growing strong, confident and safe. With early beginnings supporting Child Care Centres throughout Cape York and the Gulf Country to this time delivering culturally responsive programs and services to continue to achieve the ultimate goal set down by community members all those years ago.

The Child Protection Commission of Inquiry 2013 indicated that over ten (10) years the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care had tripled. Making 121 recommendations for change in the Child Protection System. This Inquiry instigated a 'Reform Agenda' that meant significant changes to funded programs such as the Recognised Entity program replaced by the Family Participation Program. This meant the RAATSICC also had to look for other funding sources such as the sub-contract arrangement with WuChopperen to deliver the Family Participation Program to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Cape York.

Commencing in February 2019 the Family Participation Program (FPP) is a new way for families to be part of the decision making process to keep their children safe and having them remove from family and community. RAATSICC FPP workers facilitate processes whereby authority is given to parents, family and children to work together to solve problems and lead decision-making in a culturally safe space. We currently have staff providing services in Northern Peninsula Area (NPA), Pormpuraaw, Napranum, Lockhart River, Kowanyama and Aurukun. As a relatively new initiative the referrals have been slowly increasing as community and key stakeholder gain a greater understanding of the program.

Early 2019 RAATSICC entered into a partnership with Churches of Christ in Queensland (CoCQ) to deliver the Foster and Kinship Care program with the intention to transition over to RAATSICC within four (4) years. Initially RAATSICC role is to recruit Foster Carers and provide support. CoCQ will assess eligibility of Foster and Kinship Carers, provide training and approve placement of children.

Counselling for Changes

Sandtray Expressive Therapies have been delivered by RAATSICC Counsellors for four (4) years to children witnessing domestic violence in East Cape, North West Cape and West Cape Cluster.

It has been a very important service that has provided children, adolescents and their families insight on the impact of domestic violence and coping strategies.

Over the past year Counsellors have worked with 64 children.

15
CHILDREN

WEST CAPE

12
CHILDREN

EAST CAPE

37
CHILDREN

NORTH WEST
CAPE

64
CHILDREN
TOTAL

Family and Community Resilient and Empowered

The Strong Active Family Engagement (SAFE) program commenced on 30th April 2018 due to the ceasing of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Intensive Support (ATSIFISS) program.

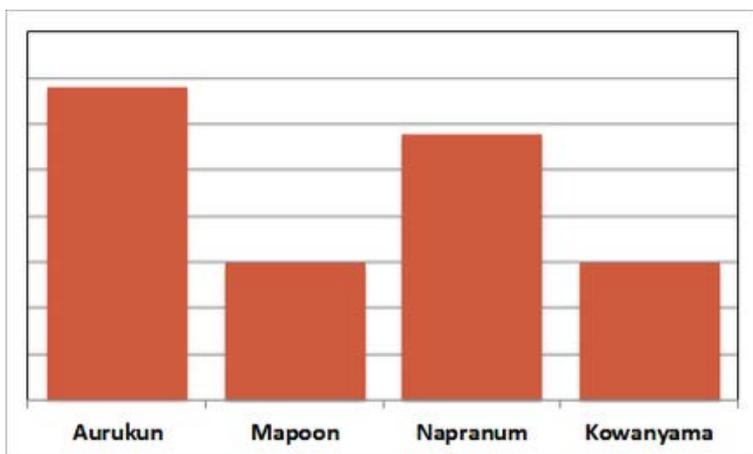


The new service provides support to vulnerable and/or at risk Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander families from entering the child protection system. RAATSICC was successful in gaining funding to set up community hubs that would deliver this service to several communities within the Western Cape York area. The catchment area the will receive support from RAATSICC include Kowanyama and the North Western Cape (NWC) cluster of Aurukun, Napranum and Mapoon.

The service was operational over the 52 weeks of the year excluding the public holidays and was opened for business between the hours of 8.30 – 5.00pm Monday to Friday with offices in Kowanyama and Napranum. The SAFE team consists of a Team Leader based in the Napranum office with two Safe workers. The teams are provided support by the intake officer, Senior Practice and Development officer and the Manager who are all based in the head office in Cairns.

The Safe workers are part time contracted to 30.4 hours except the Aurukun support worker who is full time including the rest of the team.

REFERRALS ACCEPTED



108
REFERRALS
ACCEPTED
TOTAL

Treasurer's Report

I am delighted to present the annual financials for Cape York/Gulf Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Advisory Association for the year ending 30th June 2019, reviewed and audited by our external auditor - Barrier Reef Accounting.

In terms of our financial performance, we have worked hard to improve our financial managements system to better cope with the changing service environment and the different funding programs we are receiving.

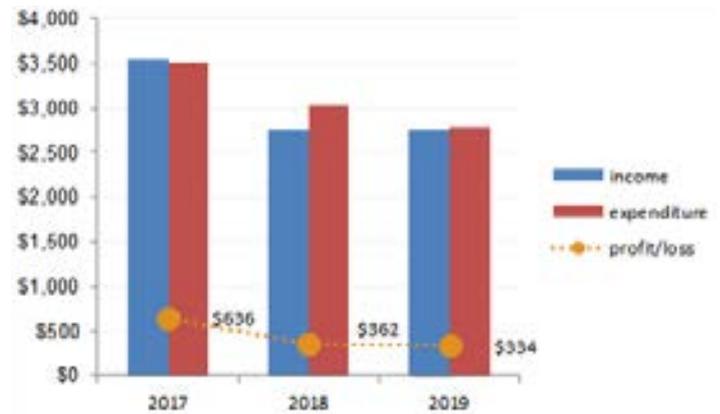
RAATSICC has been able to consolidate its position over the past year to reset the foundations for the development of a service model to deliver Family and Children Wellbeing Services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Cape York and Northern Peninsula Regions of Far North Queensland.

Cash Flow At 30th June 2019, RAATSICC held cash of \$1,567,726 compared to last year of \$1,234,375.

Our achievement this year would not be possible without the collaboration of many key stakeholders.

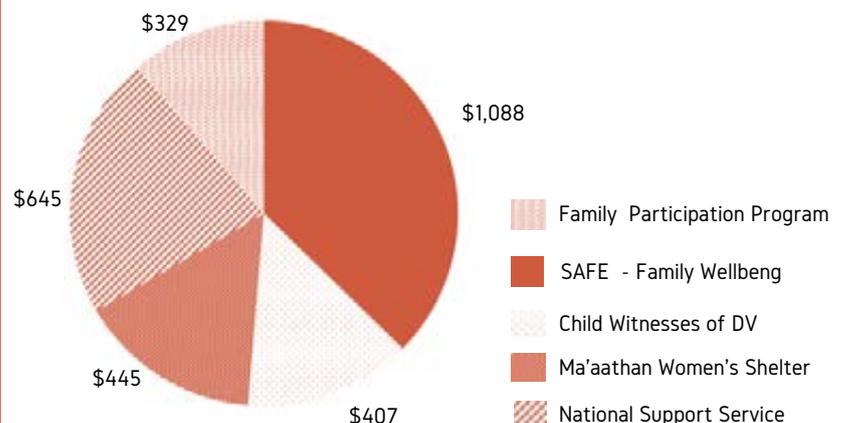
I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all RAATSICC staff for their commitment, the Management Committee and Members for their involvement our Auditor Greg Stanton for his support and expert advice and most important to acknowledge the participation of families, children and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives without whom we could not achieved the result for this year.

The result for the 2018/2019 continues decline and balanced out against the previous year.



Paula Neal

Financial Highlights 2019 - Program Income



Independent Auditor's Report

Cape York/Gulf (RAATSICC) Advisory Association Inc For the year ended 30 June 2019

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Cape York/Gulf (RAATSICC) Advisory Association Inc. (the association), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2019, the Profit and Loss Statement for the reporting period ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Cape York/Gulf (RAATSICC) Advisory Association Inc is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in the Significant Accounting Policies section is appropriate to meet the requirements of the association's constitution and the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Basis of Qualified Opinion

The Association has a trade creditors balance of \$135,074 as at year end 30 June 2019. We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to support payable balance of \$62,740 out of the total payable balance at year end, this was because there are no invoices provided by the suppliers to support this amount. As such we are unable to determine whether this balance was fairly stated.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Cape York/Gulf (RAATSICC) Advisory Association Inc as at 30 June 2019, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Associations Incorporation Act of Queensland 1981.



Emphasis of Matter

The association receives income from trading, fees, and fundraising activities. As is common for associations of this type, no accounting controls can practicably be established over completeness of accounting for all income received and expenses incurred. Our examination of income and expenditure has therefore been restricted to confirming that amounts recorded in the accounting records of the association were in agreement with records maintained by the association's bankers.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies section to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Cape York/Gulf (RAATSICC) Advisory Association Inc to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Name of Firm: GKS Chartered Accountants
Address: 197 Martyn Street Manunda QLD 4870
Date: 28 October 2019
Signed: 
Gregory Kelth Stanton CA



Consolidated Balance Sheet

Cape York/Gulf (RAATSICC) Advisory Association Inc
As at 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalent	1	1,567,726	1,234,375
Trade and Other Receivables	2	16,573	10,634
Total Current Assets		1,584,299	1,245,008
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment, Vehicles	3	46,697	22,367
Total Non-Current Assets		46,697	22,367
Total Assets		1,630,996	1,267,375
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables		135,074	132,377
GST Payable		100,321	35,175
Employee Entitlements	4	132,230	92,225
Provisions	5	55,256	62,868
Unexpended Grant Funding Liability		830,294	521,206
Total Current Liabilities		1,253,175	843,851
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	5	43,472	61,153
Total Non-Current Liabilities		43,472	61,153
Total Liabilities		1,296,647	905,004
Net Assets		334,349	362,371
Member's Funds			
Retained Earnings		362,371	636,552
Current Year Earnings		(28,022)	(274,181)
Total Member's Funds		334,349	362,371



Statement by Members of the Committee

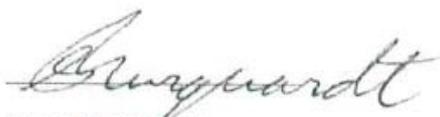
Cape York/Gulf (RAATSICC) Advisory Association Inc As at 30 June 2019

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outline in Summary of Significant Accounting Policies section.

In the opinion of the Committee the Profit and Loss Statement, Balance Sheet, and Notes to the Financial Report:

- The financial statements and notes present fairly the association's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the reporting period ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Summary of Significant Accounting Policies section; and
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and they fall due.
- The Association keeps financial records in a way which properly records the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:


Stuart Marquardt

Date 16/10/19



Paula Neal

Date 17/10/19



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