

Raise Children Strong in Culture

Pathways to Healing and Revival



A central part of SNAICC's advocacy has always been the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being raised in their culture. For an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child, culture is a source of strength, resilience, happiness, identity and confidence. For some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in particular, such as those that are being raised away from their families, access to their culture is critical as it provides a link to their heritage and a source of strength and pride.

SNAICC encourages everyone with some role in raising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to raise them strong in their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture. Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunties, cousins and other kin should talk to their children about culture and spirituality, show pride in their cultural identity and encourage children to do the same.

Foster parents, carers and services working with our children should encourage children to feel proud of their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity, provide opportunities for children to participate in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and community events and wherever possible have contact with their family so they can learn about



National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day

4 August 2007

their culture and heritage first hand. Strengthening our children's cultural identity is the best way to build their confidence.

This year, SNAICC has used positive images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children for its annual NAICD poster – they show our children proud, happy and confident about who they are – children from the oldest living cultures on earth.

Communities and families that raise their children strong in culture create many pathways to healing and revival: children develop confidence and pride in themselves, their families and their culture; and communities grow in pride and strength.



S N A I C C

www.snaicc.asn.au

Participating in NAICD

The most important thing to do is participate in NAICD and organise an event – no matter how small – in your children’s service, school, health service or community group.

Make NAICD something you focus on each year to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

A list of suggested local activities is included in this pamphlet.

Use the Children’s Activity Kit

This year, SNAICC has again produced an NAICD Children’s Activity Kit, containing culturally relevant activity ideas for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. This year the Kit also contains the DVD, *The Dreaming*, a selection of animated Dreaming stories that have been reproduced by the SNAICC

Resource Service. The NAICD Children’s Activity Kit

is available for children’s services and schools to use as part of their NAICD celebrations. We encourage you to use the activities to allow children and young people the chance to learn about and express their pride in their culture and themselves.



Children’s Artwork Programme

SNAICC is inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children’s and young people’s artwork to be displayed at our National Conference from 19 to 21 September 2007 in Adelaide. We encourage you to work

with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in your service, school or organisation to create artworks that express their ideas about their culture and family, and/or express their hopes for the future. The artwork could be drawings, paintings, poems, sketches, photos, videos or mosaics – for display at the conference. All entries will be recognised and rewarded.

Details are available from the SNAICC office or our website: www.snaicc.asn.au/news/ChildrensArtComp2007.html

Register your event with SNAICC

SNAICC promotes activities organised in local communities for NAICD. We encourage you to fax back the NAICD Event Registration Form mailed out with the poster and leaflet. SNAICC will feature some stories from NAICD local events in our newsletters, in media statements and on our website: www.snaicc.asn.au

Send us photos of your event

Please send us photos of your NAICD event for us to include in our newsletter. Please only send hard copies that you don’t want back and include your contact details on the back. You may also send us digital photos by mail or email.

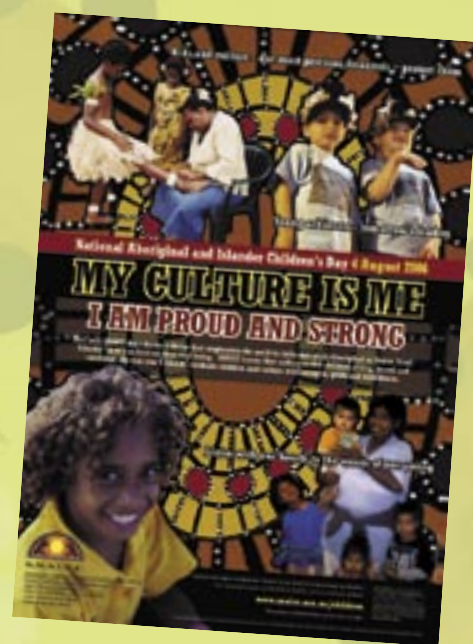
If you would like SNAICC to publish your photographs in our publications, your service will need to secure the permission of the parents or guardians of the children photographed, and demonstrate to SNAICC that you have their permission. Contact the Publications Officer at the SNAICC office to discuss sending photographs and getting permission to use photographs of children in your service.

The history of NAICD

To celebrate Children’s Day each year, SNAICC produces free posters featuring original artwork to represent the year’s NAICD theme and distributes them to community organisations throughout the country. Many of these community-based children’s services organise local celebrations and free activities with a focus on children and families.

Each year, more and more schools and mainstream services are joining with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to celebrate NAICD.

Since the first Children’s Day in 1988, NAICD has focused on themes ranging from child poverty, to the forced removal of children from their families, from access to education, cultural pride and inheritance, to the importance of Elders in children’s lives. Other themes covered family reunification and healing, speaking up in response to child abuse and investing in the early years of childhood.



Suggested local activities

Services can organise a wide range of practical activities that focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Here are some ideas:

- Arrange for kids at school or in child care to create their own paintings and artwork about the NAICD theme and display them for everyone to enjoy.
- Organise an open day or morning tea at work for people to bring their children to their workplaces.
- Arrange for kids to do culturally relevant activities in services, school, child care, or at home with their carers.
- Hold a family fun day for foster and kinship carers and their foster children and young people.
- Promote the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in your school or local community through young achiever awards.
- Organise a children's picnic or activities in a local park.
- Bring Elders, families and their children together in your service or school for storytelling and cultural activities
- Have a flag raising ceremony with children and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.
- Tell your local papers, radio and TV about why your services support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- Hold a fete or fund raising activity for children in your community.
- Organise sporting events or competitions for children and young people in your service or school.
- Sponsor some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to have a day out with their families at the pictures or in other activities.
- Invite local leaders, politicians and Elders to spend some time at your service or school on NAICD.
- Screen-print some t-shirts or caps to celebrate NAICD.



Previous Children's Day themes

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| 1988 Stop the Cultural Genocide | 1994 Children – Our Dreaming. Keep our families together | 2001 We are watching and learning from you – make us proud of all you do |
| 1989 Our children are our future – let's protect and educate them | 1995 Never Again – Break the Chains | 2002 Tracks in the Sand – A path to self determination (SNAICC 20th anniversary poster) |
| 1990 Aboriginal Child Poverty – we don't make the problems; why must we pay? | 1996 Unity is Our Future | 2003 Not Now – Not Then – Not Ever No Excuses – Speak up Against Child Abuse |
| 1991 Stolen Generations – Demand an inquiry into the forced removal of Aboriginal and Islander children | 1997 Bring Them Home (Stolen Generations) | 2004 One Childhood – One Chance – Let's protect and educate them |
| 1992 My family – where are you now? – Enquiry into the forced removal of Aboriginal and Islander children | 1998 Heart of our Community – Teach, love and learn our children | 2005 Foster and Kinship Carers – Keeping kids connected to community, family and culture |
| 1993 Their Future – Our Responsibility | 1999 Elders and Children: the circle of life; sharing culture, knowledge and wisdom | 2006 My Culture is Me – I am Proud and Strong |
| | 2000 Cultural Inheritance – the right of every Indigenous child; celebrating our children's future | |

Keep informed through the SNAICC website

SNAICC publishes updates on NAICD, including any media release we put out about NAICD and children's issues, on our website. Visit our website regularly to get the latest news, resources and announcements.

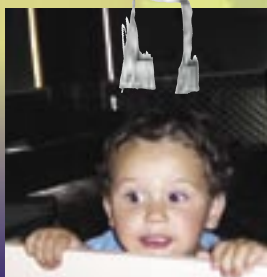
Tell others what your organisation is planning for NAICD. Find out what other family and children's services and schools across the country are doing to celebrate NAICD through SNAICC website. You can register your NAICD

event and initiatives through the Networking section of our website. You can share news, resources and ideas about your NAICD initiative online.

Got to www.networking.snaicc.asn.au

Make suggestions for next year's theme

Use the fax Event Registration Form to tell us your ideas for next year's theme, including any issues you think SNAICC should focus on for NAICD.



Credits and Contacts

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Credits

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Contact SNAICC

SNAICC Chairperson Muriel Bamblett, AM

SNAICC Executive Officer Julian Pocock

For inquiries about SNAICC membership, subscribing to our newsletter, SNAICC News, or to learn about our other publications, contact:

Suite 8, First Floor, 252–260 St Georges Rd
North Fitzroy VIC 3068

Phone: (03) 9489 8099

Fax: (03) 9489 8044

Email: snaicc@vicnet.net.au

Website: www.snaicc.asn.au

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**SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL ABORIGINAL
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Advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander children and their families



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