

'IPSU NSW & ACT Newsletter

August 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- 4th August National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day (NAICD)
- 19-21 September 2007 SNAICC National Conference
- 10, 11 & 12 October NSW IPSU State Training—*make a note in your diaries*

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Hello everyone and welcome to our first edition of the IPSU NSW & ACT Newsletter. The IPSU NSW & ACT Newsletter will be produced bi-annually (6 monthly). In this edition I have briefly summarized the TNA results which were conducted earlier this year; information about some workshops and conference that I attended; listed resources I have gathered and or heard about; changes to Out of School Hours Care (OSHC); DoCS one-stop shop; National Aboriginal Islander Day (NAICD); SNAICC conference; some funding opportunities and the launch of Early Childhood Australia *Code of Ethics*.

In upcoming issues I hope to share with you all photo's and ideas that I have gathered whilst out and about visiting centres and or attending workshops.

As this is your Newsletter (Indigenous-run children services NSW & ACT), I am keen to provide you with information that is relevant to your centre and supports you in your work within the NSW and ACT children services sector.

If you want to know more about a particular item, send us an email ipsu@gowrie-sydney.com.au or call 1800 450 472.

Also

Have you checked out our deadly website if not go to www.ipsunswact.com.au and let us know what you think.

Training Needs Analysis –Summary

I have briefly summarized results from the training needs analysis conducted earlier this year.

The top ten (10) priorities that managers identified as training for staff were:

1. OHS regulations
2. Effectively communicating with parents
3. Effective communication in the workplace
4. Working with children with challenging behaviours
5. Dealing with children's ongoing conditions

such as asthma, epilepsy, allergic reactions as well as storage, maintenance and use of 1st aid kits and medications.

6. How to make play interesting for children of all ages
7. How to foster children's language and literacy skills
8. Recording observations and how to write up things effectively
9. Fund raising for the service
10. Annual review of practices, performance and achievements

Aspergers and Autism

22nd and 23rd June I attended a seminar on Asperger's and Autism presented by Professor Tony Attwood a clinical Psychologist who has been researching Aspergers for over 30 years. The seminar was organized by Noah's Ark Centre of Shoalhaven.

There were approximately 450 people in attendance on the first day which were made up of parents, grandparents, people with Autism/Aspergers, school teachers, principles, teaching aids, special needs teachers, early childhood teachers, training and resource officers just to identify some of the participants. Day 2 didn't have as many only 250 people in attendance. Topics covered by Professor Tony Attwood over these 2 days were:

- Managing feelings—Cognitive Behaviour Therapy to manage anxiety, sadness and anger;
- Making Friends: Strategies to improve social understanding and friendship skills
- Managing Challenging Behaviour in children with Autism

- Special Interests: the origins of the special interests and constructive strategies

I thoroughly enjoyed this seminar, Professor Tony Attwood is a great presenter learnt heaps about Aspergers and Autism prior to attending this seminar I had very little knowledge about this syndrome. I purchased a couple of Prof Tony Attwoods books 'Complete guide to 'Aspergers Syndrome' which I am currently reading. The other books that I purchased were 'Exploring feelings—Anger and Exploring Feelings—Anxiety these books are a Cognitive Behaviour Therapy program Exploring Feelings designed by Prof. Attwood to be highly structured, interesting and successful in encouraging the cognitive control of emotions. These books can be purchased from <book in hand> contact 1800 505 221 or visit their website www.bookinhand.com.au, also Prof Attwood has a website with resources and information www.tonyattwood.com.au

Did you know that if you measured from your wrist to your elbow, that this is your shoe size?

NSW Annual Aboriginal Early Childhood Conference

26th –28th June I attended the NSW Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Annual Conference in Mudgee. The weather was bitterly cold and I was grateful that I didn't have to venture outside too often, as the conference venue and accommodation was held in the one building. Some of the workshops that I was able to attend were:

Dreamtime Stories presented by Aunty June Barker from Brewarrina, Aunty June spoke about what it was like for her as a little girl growing up on a Mission, having to live on mission rations (sugar, tea and flour), the people who looked after her and some of the things she got up to. Aunty June shared some of the stories that she had been told as a child—the session gave people who had no

idea of what it was like to live on a mission or had the opportunity of being told dreamtime stories by older people in the community. Dreamtime stories were told to children to teach them values and respect. If you listen to the stories you can pick out the values that they were trying to teach young children like patience, listen to adults (mum, dad, aunty or uncle) and not to go to certain places etc. Aunty June has produced a cd with 6 stories which she is selling for \$15 if you would like to purchase a copy let me know and I can place an order for you.

4th August-National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day

The theme for 2007 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's day is: *'Raise Children strong in culture; pathways to healing and revival'*

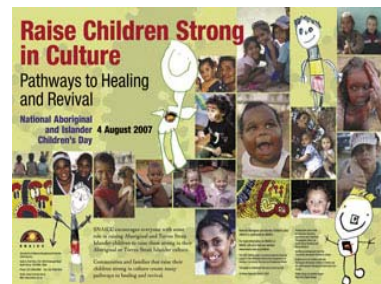
SNAICC who initiated this very important day back in 1988, encourages everyone with some role in raising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to raise them strong in their Indigenous culture. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and kin should talk to their children about the importance of culture, show pride in your identity and encourage children to do the same.

How did your community celebrate National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day?

This year, SNAICC produced an activity kit, similar to last years. If your service didn't receive an activities kit and posters contact Carmen Isherwood or Julie Higgins on 03 9489 8099 or email Carmen@snaicc.asn.au or Julie@snaicc.asn.au

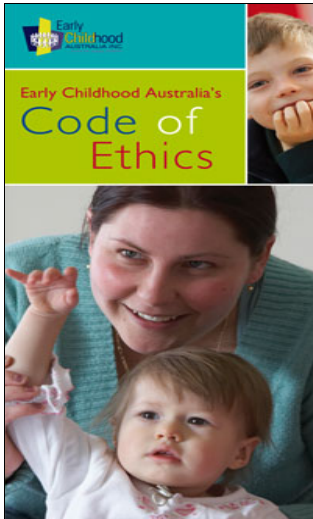
Send me an email or letter along with some photos to share with the other center's on what your

or to NAI-



community centre did celebrate NAICD or DOC week.

'Raise children strong in culture; pathways to healing and revival'



A code of ethics is a set of statements about appropriate and expected behaviour of members of a professional group and as such reflects values.

The Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics was first developed in 1990 by a national working party, with considerable input from the early childhood field.

2003-06 Code of Ethics Agenda resulted in a new Code of Ethics which was endorsed at Early Childhood Australia's National Council meeting in September 2006.

The new code of ethics has been redesigned and is available for purchase from Early Childhood Australia. You can download a copy of ECAs Code of Ethics and print off a free brochure by going to www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au you can also purchase resources online or contact the National Office staff on 1800 356 900

The Code of Ethics is owned by field, rather than imposed upon it.

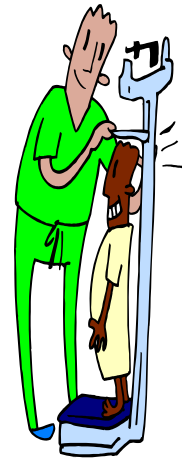
Continued from page 2 NSW Aboriginal Early Childhood Conference

Aboriginal Song & Dance workshop was presented by Maureen Silleri and Pat Field from Penrith City Council—Children's Services. There is no sitting down in their workshops, they always have the participants up singing, dancing and performing the actions to various songs. In this session they showed some examples of modifying traditional nursery rhymes and songs, putting an Aboriginal or an Australian perspective to them—for example 'I'm being swallowed by a boa constrictor' to I'm being swallowed by a 'Rainbow Serpent', Duck, Duck, goose became a Koori rhyme Emu, Emu, Kangaroo. We sang and performed the actions from Wombat Wobbles cd 'Part of the Human Race'

Maths in early childhood presented by Marina Papic a lecturer at the Institute of Early Childhood, Macquarie University.

Marina got us all to measure our heads (using colourful streamers), to see who had the biggest head, the bigger the head the larger the brain you had. This was a strategy in getting children interested in measuring and comparing, creating a graph to see who has the largest head, biggest foot size, tallest or shortest etc

Children are not only learning about maths but also building on their language base.



If you measured, with your arms outstretched, from left hand fingertips to your right hand fingertips—it would be your height. Give it a go and let me know.

Continued from front page—TNA summary

Learning and Accessing information:

Learning Styles: The majority indicated that small group activities or discussion groups with peers, face-to-face delivery, networks and interest groups where they can share ideas and actual demonstration at the service were the preferred methods.

Computer Usage: 11 of the 10 that responded stated that they had computers, but were not always available for staff use. Computers capacity varied, 9 centres were able download sizeable documents; receive emails and access attachments; and use of website for information. Peoples skills were at varied levels some were quite confident in using computers and others who had limited skills were willing to partici-

pate in further training.

From this TNA I am currently developing a training calendar, as previously stated to services at the State meeting that was held in Sydney in May this year that services will be receiving the following training on an annual basis:

- Each centre to receive 1 centre based training as identified
- 2 regional based for each centre (2-4 centres coming together) - creating learning Circles (networking and discussion groups)

I am also gathering information that staff had identified to be posted on the ipsu website

www.ipsunswact.com.au

For more information about the results of the TNA contact me on **1800 450 472**.

2007 SNAICC National Conference

The National SNAICC Conference *Ngadluko Ngartunnatiya—For our Children* in Adelaide 19th till 21st September 2007 at the Adelaide Convention Centre is an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organizations, policy makers, researchers, government representatives, other non-government organizations and various industry representatives to gather and make renewed commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Eight Australian and two international people have been invited as keynote speakers. Craig Hammond 'Engaging Fathers Program', Prof Judy Atkinson the Chair of the College of Indigenous Peoples at Southern Cross University and Kathy Abbott an Aboriginal Health Worker from the Northern Territory are just some of the people who will be presenting at the conference. Go to www.snaicc.asn.au

to check out any updates to the program and also to download a registration form if you haven't already received a registration form.

Hoping to catch up with some of you at the conference.

School aged children can be preoccupied with learning rules. Playing games with rules helps them understand what is 'right' and what is 'wrong'

Parenting

The Department of Community Services (DoCS) is currently updating two of their most popular publications *Parenting (general)* and *Parenting (0-5)*. Each magazine will provide practical guidance and advice for parents and families coping with babies, toddlers, and teenagers. Some of the subjects that will be included are: tantrums; getting ready for school; dealing with family squabbles; what it means to be a dad; teenage parents and how to deal with sole parenting issues. The new magazines are available from July or you can view them online at www.community.nsw.gov.au/html/

news_publications/news_pub.htm

Raising Children Network is an Australian parenting website (www.raisingchildren.net.au) that contains information for parents with children from 0-8 years. Some of the topics on this site are: Healthy meal ideas, encouraging good behaviour, finding local resources, talking with kids, common health issues and a forum just to name a few. It also contains some resources for professionals.

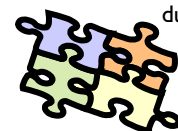
New One-Stop-Shop

The Department of Community Services (DoCS) has adopted a new approach to licensing of children's services. A new and more streamlined process when applying to DoCS for a licence to operate. Current forms and processes have been simplified and redesigned to make the application process more accessible and easy to follow. Forms can be download from DoCS website at www.community.nsw.gov.au

From April, children's services licences will have been received, processed and issued centrally at DoCS head

office (Ashfield) instead of from regional offices. be phased in on a regional basis from June 2007 through to March 2008. All enquiries about regulatory requirements, application forms and any other matter relating to licencing.

Also DoCS are establishing a list of approved authorized supervisors, who will be issued an approval number that can be transferred from service to service to reduce the processing process.



Changes to Out of School Hours Care

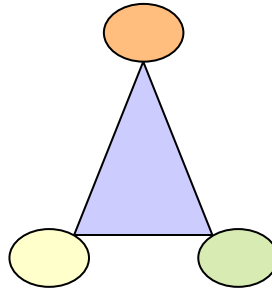
Has your OSCH service registered with DoCS. Registration became compulsory on 1st July 2007. Unregistered services are prohibited from operating until such time as they register.

The new requirement to register is provided under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Out of School Hours Care Services) Regulation 2007*, which came into effect on 23 February 2007. The aim of the regulation is the first stage in developing a regulatory framework for the out school hours care

service sector. IN order to encourage the delivery of quality out of school hours care services; ensuring children's developmental outcomes are supported in a safe, well-regulated environment. Other types of children's services operating in NSW are already regulated in this way.

Two documents are required to be submitted: 1 Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Services Registration Application and 2. Out of School Hours Care Questionnaire (there are 2 questionnaires—I

for before/after school care and one for vacation care) these forms can be downloaded from DoCS website or by phoning 1800 155 633



Australian Sports Commission-Active After-School Communities Program

The program is open to Australian Primary Schools and childcare benefit (CCB) approved Out of School Hours Care Services (OSHCS).

Schools and CCB approved OSHCS may express their interest in participating in the program for 2008.

What support will be available to primary schools and OSHCS accepted in the AASC program?

Support available to schools and OSHCS accepted into the program include:

The ability to apply for funding to covers costs incurred by the schools

in the delivery of the program, including:

- Remuneration of costs for the provision of supervising teachers
- Payment for the delivery of the program
- Purchasing of equipment
- Reorganization or transport to accommodate the after school hours travel needs of students
- A designated AASC regional coordinator to assist in linking primary schools or OSCHS to potential program deliverers Program deliverers could include:
- Personnel from local sporting clubs
- Private providers
- Community groups
- State sporting organizations

The regional coordinator will be the point of contact and support for the primary schools and OSHCS in establishing a delivery network

• A quality assurance framework to ensure that the AASC provides fun, safe and quality experiences for children and is delivered by suitably qualified and accredited personnel.

• Professional development opportunities for volunteers, teachers, OSHCS staff and community personnel to deliver appropriate programs.

• AN interactive website to teachers and OSHCS staff, families and children with updated information and advice on healthy, active lifestyles for more information and to obtain the expression of interest forms go to www.ausport.gov.au or contact 02 6213 1111

Did you know ?

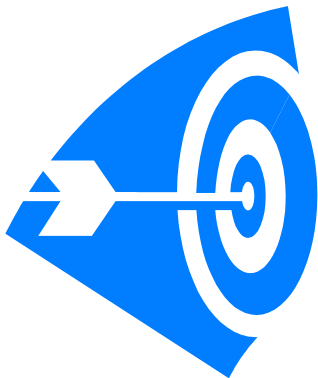
Kids' eating habits

are influenced

foremost by their

family, and then by

their friends.





Indigenous Professional Support Unit NSW & ACT

PO Box 6385
ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015
Level 1, 3 Joynton Ave.,
ZETLAND NSW 2017

TOLL FREE 1800 450 472
Phone: 02 8345 7605
Fax: 02 9313 7022
email: ipsu@gowrie-

\$\$\$\$ Grants \$\$\$\$

Looking for additional dollars to run that program, purchase that piece of equipment which your current funding doesn't cover. Go to:

www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au and click on Funding Programs

Supporting Indigenous Children & Staff in NSW & ACT



New Resources

Are you a member of Children Services Central Resource Library? If not it is only \$44 annually to join. You can browse on line, select the resource and have it delivered and returned free of charge. How easy is that. I have enclosed a membership form should you choose to become a member.

New Resources:

Aunty Wendys Mob cd and soon to be released teacher resource booklet that has lyrics to all the songs on the cd; illustrated & written actions to accompany 10 songs; extension ideas for each song; enabling teachers to easily implement an

Aboriginal perspective into the classroom program. Website www.auntywendysmob.com

Growin up strong cd \$22

Growin up strong resource book \$44

Aunty June Barker— Dreamtime Stories cd \$15 List of stories are:

- How the nightowl came to be
- Gaygah— the little mother duck
- Ganii-bark lizard
- Djirri Djirri—willy wag tail
- Purlymil
- Mungiigali—the Googah

If you would like to purchase a copy—let me know and I can place the order with Aunty June.

- Do you have a new resource that you have found or created and would like to share with the other centres?
- Is there a resource that you are looking for?
- Is there a resource that you would like to see developed?

Give me a call on our toll free number **1800 450 472** and I might be able assist.