

Indigenous Professional Support Unit NSW & ACT

'IPSU NSW & ACT Newsletter'

Dates for your Diary

- 29, 30 April & 1st May—NSW Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Conference in Wollongong
- 26th May—National Sorry Day
- 6-13th July—NAIDOC Week
- 4th August—National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day (NAICD) 2008 theme is 'Nurturing our Children to Flourish'
- 7-11th December—WIPCE in Melbourne

February 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

Welcome Back.....

What an exciting year ahead for all of us..

- We have a new Federal Government - moving around of departments and programs.
- An Apology to the Stolen Generation—scheduled for 13th February—the first sitting of Parliament for 2008 and this a priority for Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

hope to have information about activities and events that services are doing to celebrate the games.



The Year of the Rat (1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996)

For those that are interested in Chinese Astrology.

福娃 Fuwa



- Beijing Olympics – 8-24th August 2008. Their website www.beijing2008.cn/en.shtml, has information on: up-to-date developments on the lead up to the Games; information on the official mascots and their significance, view the history of past Games. In our next edition I

Nurturing our Children to Flourish is this year's theme for National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day (NAICD) which is celebrated on the 4th August each year. How does your Centre do this? The sharing of ideas and events via this newsletter or on the IPSU NSW & ACT website is one way of advertising the positive work that you and your staff do for our children. So if you have something that you would like to share with the other services please let me know.

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Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU)

IPSU NSW & ACT provides Indigenous-run children's services (currently—2 x LDC, 10 x MACS, 2 OOSHC, 1 x Mobile and 3 Aboriginal Playgroups) with professional support that meets the needs of Indigenous children and families.

IPSU will deliver this support by providing advice, training, resources and referral to those services who have been identified

by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) as eligible to receive professional support from IPSU NSW & ACT.

We also work closely with Children's Services Central and Communities @ Work and the 19 Inclusion Support Agencies (ISAs) to support children's services in provid-

ing quality care that is culturally safe, appropriate and meets the needs of Indigenous children.

IPSU NSW & ACT Role
.....Continued on page 4

World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education

The World Indigenous Peoples Conference: Education (WIPCE) is an internationally significant triennial conference attracting Indigenous people around the world to celebrate and share diverse cultures, traditions and knowledge with a focus on Indigenous education.

The purpose of WIPCE is to provide a forum to come together, share and learn and promote best practice in Indigenous education policies; programs and practice. WIPCE 2008 will be held on the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation, Melbourne, Australia from 7th to 11th December.

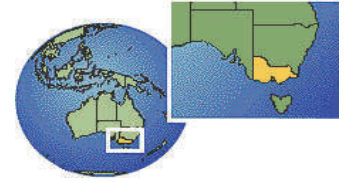
The overall theme for WIPCE 2008 is “Indigenous Education in the 21st Century – Respecting Tradition, Shaping the Fu-

ture”. Sub themes have been developed, with each focusing on a particular theme.

Day One will be guided by the theme **Respecting Tradition** and will centre around issues such as ‘growing, connecting, celebrating and maintaining traditions through education’, ‘building history / histories’, ‘pathways to knowledge’ and ‘language and identity’.

Living with Competing Knowledge Systems will form the focus of Day Two, which will look at questions around ‘defining education’, ‘the impact of culture and education’, ‘understanding the present culture of educational institutions’ and ‘exploring knowledge systems’.

Day Four will focus on looking **Beyond the Horizon** and aims to build on the themes of WIPCE 2005. This will include looking at ‘shaping our own



Kulin Nation, Melbourne — The place to be in December 2008

futures’, ‘thriving in the education system’, ‘engaging community’ and ‘resilience’.

If you register prior to 30th June 2008 you will save up to \$300.

If you would like to do a presentation on your service or a group or if you want to do a collective presentation on NSW services—the closing date for abstracts is 11th Feb’08. For more information on the conference go to www.wipce2008.com

Are you a Good Director/Manager/Coordinator?

Some steps you can take to create a positive work environment...

- Smile, greet, and interact with each staff member each day
- Model a respectful and harmonious work environment
- Acknowledge staff’s accomplishments
- Create a culture of lifelong learning
- Develop a clear vision statement, goals, policies, procedures, and work responsibilities in consulta-

tion with employees

- Develop specific job descriptions that outline expectations and responsibilities for trained and untrained staff
- Do annual staff evaluations and encourage self assessment and goal setting
- Identify training gaps for career development and access to resources
- Offer to support professional development, such as time off

- Match staff’s abilities, skills, and interests to program requirements
- Evaluate programs; ask for feedback on improvements; follow through on approved recommendations
- Delegate responsibility

An excerpt from a Canadian Child Care Federation book, **Partners in Quality** by Barbara Kaiser and Judy Sklar Rasminsky, reproduced in ExchangeEveryDay free daily e-newsletter, if you would like to subscribe to this e-newsletter go to:

www.childcareexchange.com/eed/subscribe/

“The golden opportunity you are seeking is in yourself. It is not in your environment; it is not in luck or chance, or the help of others; it is yourself alone.”

Orison Swett Marden

Tools for Managers/Directors/Coordinators.....

The Support and Management (SaM) online (SNAICC providing subscription for 2 years to 200 Aboriginal services nationally. Funded through the Australian Government’s Early Childhood Invest to Grow – Stronger Families and Community Strategy)

Have some great templates, that you as Directors/Managers/Coordinators can use to assist you in your role within your service. For example you can review the way you and/or your staff work, performance management and staff development, performance management planner and carry out a staff survey. All these templates can be saved in word documents and modified to suit your service type. Remember that this website is based on community run services not specifically on children’s services.

If you are wanting some assistance in using this website and/or tools you can either call **IPSU 1800 450 472** or contact the MSO team via the website. If you haven’t visited the site yet, look on page 3 of this issue for tips on **Getting started...with SaM**

Getting Started.....with SaM

First of all you need to have received your booklets with username cards

After signing onto the site via www.snaicc.asn.au/srs or www.managementsupportonline.com.au

There are three different ways you can get started:

1. Use [checking your needs](#) to identify and prioritise what you need, and then design a package for you or your organisation.
2. Use the search facility to look for what's available to you under specific headings.
3. Go to each of the service areas (icons on the left panel) and dive right in!

To help yourself to become familiar with the site, go to [site help](#) for an easy orientation.

Changing your details ...

Your organisation has 10 passwords for the staff and management committee of your organisation. The email details for all your passwords are those of your organisation's main contact person. All SaM emails will go to that person unless you change your contact email details. You can change the contact email details for individual people who have passwords by going to [my details](#). If you want SaM emails to go direct to a particular person, you should change the name and email address for that person in 'my details'.

Remember if you are still having problems don't hesitate to contact either IPSU 1800 450 472, MSO Team or SNAICC SRS Team on 03 9489 8099



Aboriginal Community Languages Assistance (Grants) Program

The NSW Aboriginal Languages Research and Resource Centre, funded by the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) administers the Aboriginal Community Languages Assistance Program. This grants program provides one-off grants of up to \$25,000 to Aboriginal community organisations to help them undertake language revitalisation. Projects eligible to apply must meet the following selection criteria:

- The project must be involved in recording, revival, education or use of language or developing materials to help in the use or teaching of language;
- Projects must support Aboriginal community language work;
- Applicants must be an incorporated Aboriginal community organisation, for example an Elder's Group, or a partnership between an Aboriginal community organisation and an incorporated body;
- The items produced through the project will be made freely available on the publicly-accessible Online Archive; and the project is not currently receiving funding from any other government agency.

Other sources of funding for language revival work:

1. DCITA funding http://www.dcita.gov.au/indigenous_programs/funding_programs_and_support/Maintenance_of_Indigenous_Languages_and_Records
2. NSW Government : <http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/>
3. The Endangered Languages Documentation Program offers up to UK£1million in grants each year for the documentation of endangered languages across the world. In evaluating applications for grants, they look at the degree of language endangerment and the urgency of the situation. They favour projects that will document social and cultural contexts as well as formal aspects of languages, and projects that are likely to enhance expertise in field linguistics, including among members of language communities. ELDP is funded by the [Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund](#). It is governed by an [international panel](#), and administered by the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London.

Contact Details for the NSW Aboriginal Languages Research and Resource Centre:

NSW Aboriginal Languages Research and Resource Centre
 NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs
 Level 13, Tower B
 Centennial Plaza
 280 Elizabeth Street,
 SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
 Phone: 02 9219 0700 or visit their website www.alrrc.gov.au

Transition to School Programs

A good Transition to School process ensures children will start school ready to learn and schools will be ready for children (Pianta 2004). There is not a one size fits all transition to school program, each program will depend on your local community needs. You could have a program that is a couple of hours per week over several weeks or over several months. Good practice transition programs usually have activities for the children as well as parent/carer information sessions. Transition to school programs are more effec-

tive by involving parent/carers. The early childhood staff in your centre can assist families in building a relationship with the school that their child will be attending via the informal information sessions. Some useful resources and websites:

- The Illawarra Transition to School Program—Billy Backpack you can also view Noogaleek MACS program on this website – www.transitiontoschool.com.au

- NSW Public Schools have resources and information on Transition to School programs— www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/primary/tranision/indexd.php

The transition to School resource that was developed by Ooranga Wandarrah MACS—Airds is making its way around to centres for people to view.

Role of IPSU NSW & ACT Cont/.....page 1

Role of IPSU NSW & ACT

- Build relationships with staff in eligible Indigenous-run children's services and provide professional support, advice and training where appropriate, in line with the Inclusion and Professional Support Program (IPSP) aims and national priorities.
- To work collaboratively and provide advice to the PSCs (Children's Services

Central—NSW & Communities @ Work—ACT) and ISAs (18-NSW & 1-ACT) to assist these organisations to ensure that professional support is culturally safe to all Indigenous children.

- To provide advice to the PSCs and ISAs on the needs of Indigenous children and child care staff and strategies for meeting their needs.
- To make referrals to the

PSCs and ISAs when necessary to meet inclusion and professional support needs of eligible Indigenous-run children's services.

- Advise the PSCs on how to ensure the general resource library is sufficiently equipped to meet the needs of Indigenous children and facilitate quality child care.

“He who never made a mistake, never made a discovery” - Samuel Smiles

More dates for your Diary.....

- **26th May National Sorry Day**—for more information visit the National Sorry Day Committee (www.nsd.org.au) or Reconciliation Australia (www.reconciliation.org.au) websites.
- **6-13th July National Aborigines & Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week**—if you go to their website www.naidoc.org.au you will be able to order posters etc for your service.
- **4th August National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day (NAICD)** - each year SNAICC produce posters and activity kits for children's services the theme for 2008 is *'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families—Nurturing Our Children to Flourish'* - visit SNAICC's website www.snaicc.asn.au for more information.

Jump Rope for Heart

The Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart program was established in Australia in 1983. Since then, more than 8 million Australian school children have participated in the program to promote health and fun while raising valuable funds, raising over 60 million dollars.

Today, around 400,000 children participate each year in over 2300 schools across all states and territories of Australia. They have given schools enough rope to stretch from Sydney to Perth!

In 2008, the Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart program turns 25. You can help them celebrate their 25th birthday by joining in a mass participation skipping event to break a Guinness World Record for skipping. The current record is held in the United Kingdom by just under 8,000 participants skipping at various locations for three minutes with breaks of no more than 10 seconds. They are sure with the competitive Aussie spirit we will truly beat this record. They hope your school will join us for this unique opportunity to make history!

How to join in

Jump Rope for Heart is the Heart Foundation's number one program for schools. Join them and make a difference to your school community.

For more information and to download a registration form

http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/Healthy_Living/Kids.htm



“Jump Rope for Heart program turns 25— Help them to celebrate”

Scholarships

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council is offering scholarships to students of all ages, under the Education Endowment Fund. The Freddy Fricke Scholarship offers individual funding of up to \$10,000 for tertiary students.

Bev Manton, Chairperson for NSWALC is thrilled that the Council is able to offer a large number of educational opportunities to students throughout NSW.

Preference will be given to scholarship applications by members of Local Aboriginal Land Councils and their children.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.alc.org.au, completed forms need to be sent to Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Australia by the close of business on 29th February.

All inquiries should be directed to the National Manager Foundation Services, Marlene MacFarlane, on 02 9929 9633.

Indigenous Professional Support Unit NSW & ACT

This Newsletter is provided by the Indigenous Professional Support Unit NSW & ACT

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PO Box 6385, Alexandria 2015

TOLL FREE: 1800 450472

Phone: 02 8345 7605

Fax: 02 9313 7022

Supporting Indigenous Children & Staff in Children's Services in NSW & ACT

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.ipsunswact.com.au

Pro Bono Australia

Pro Bono Australia is a small social purpose company working to provide not for profit organisations with the resources they need to run effectively. The Australian Directory of Not for Profit Organisations is now available on the website. It provides the contact details of the organisations, along with their mission statements and projects in progress.

Pro Bono Australia provides a web-based news service discussing current issues in the not for profit sector. You can view articles online or subscribe directly to the news service. Pro Bono Australia also has listings of employment opportunities and events in the not for profit sector. To find out more go to <http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au>



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Community Builders-NSW

www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au

& Our Community (a Victorian based group)

www.ourcommunity.com.au,

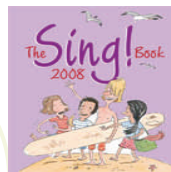
both these sites have information on grants (who, where and when to apply)

New Resources

Music CD—**Chrissy's Island Family** by Christine Anu. Chrissy's Island Family, is the adventures of Chrissy and her 'Tropical Island Blue' friends, as they discover the wonders of their island home in the Torres Strait. **CHRISSY'S ISLAND FAMILY** represents the birth of a new genre of children's entertainment is refreshingly

Australian. It provides children with the opportunity to enjoy a very special brand of music and story telling rich in history and Indigenous Australian Culture.

Available from ABC Shop and or Target—\$14.95



The Sing! Book 2008 is jam-packed with over 50 songs for primary school students to listen to, learn, and sing along

with. This vibrant collection includes an exciting variety of song categories, as well as five songs based on this year's theme,

Change Our World. Categories include: Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander, Australasian, Being Me, Country, Environment, Popular, Speech Rhymes and Rap, Show Tune, World Music... and much more! Available from ABC Shop—\$13.95

POSTER—"101 Things to Do (When there's nothing to do)" full of activity ideas—you can stick it on your centre wall—\$5.50

Creative Planning, 3rd Ed.2007 Basic, practical information on successful program planning. \$11.00 you can download and order from www.netoosh.org.au



Original Girl—Mari Miyay By Michelle Witheyman-Crump illustrated by Vicky Duncan with Gamilaraay translation by Des Crump and brother John Giacon published by and available to purchase from Black Ink Press www.blackinkpress.com.au—\$15.00.

A little Australian preschool girl, who loves playing with sticks, looks for different ways to become an Original girl. Eventually she discovers that she already is a Gamilaroi (Ab)original girl.

The message of cultural strength and identity is reinforced by the story being told in Gamilaraay as well as English. Black Ink Press also has a selection of other children's books that may be of interest to people, I chose this one as it was NSW based and also the story appealed to me.

Have you found a book, CD, DVD or some other resource that you would like to share with others or is there a resource that you are looking for? If so, let me know on 1800 450 472 or email me ipsu@gowrie-sydney.com.au

IPSU NSW & ACT Training Calendar 2008

Date	Time	Topic	Centres/s	Region	Centre Based - Venue
TBA		Language Exchange - Toomelah	Birreele MACS		Birreele - Tamworth
Dec		Understanding Accreditation	Murawina LDC		Murawina - Redfern
24th Jan	9:30 - 4:30pm	Record Obs & writing up	Awabakal MACS		Awabakal - Wickham
tba	9am-12:30	Communication in Workplace	Birreele MACS		Birreele - Tamworth
tba	1:15-4:30pm	Brain Research	Birreele MACS		Birreele - Tamworth
26th Feb	9am-4:00pm	Document, interpret & Use info about children	Gujaga MACS		Gujaga - La Perouse
19th Mar	5:30-7:30pm	Born to Play	Yawarra LDC		Yawarra - Mt Druitt
20th Mar	9am-4:30pm	OHS & Manual Handling	Towri MACS		Towri - Bathurst
25th Mar	9am-1:00pm	OHS	Awabakal/Murrawina/Gujaga	Sydney	
25th Mar	1:30-4:00pm	Guiding Children's Behaviour	Awabakal/Murrawina/Gujaga	Sydney	
27th Mar		topics to be identified	CTI/Koori Kinder/Toomelah/	Lismore	
28th Mar			CTI/Koori Kinder/Toomelah/		
2nd April	9:30-1:00pm	Guiding Children's Behaviour	Allira/Towri/Yalbilliga Boori	Dubbo	
2nd April	1:30-4:00pm	Communication in Workplace	Allira/Towri/Yalbilliga Boori	Dubbo	
4th Apr	9:30-4:00pm	Maths & Science	Gujaga/Murrawina/Awabakal	La Perouse	
15th Apr	6:00-9:00 pm	OHS	Yalbilliga Boori MACS		Yalbilliga Boori - Cowra
16th Apr	time TBC	OHS	Wiradjuri MACS		Wiradjuri - Wagga Wagga
24th Apr	9:30-4:00pm	Recording Obs & Writing Up	OW/Gudjahghamia	Airds	
28th Apr	9:30-4:00pm	OHS & Manual Handling	Noogaleek		Noogaleek - Berkley
9th May	9:30-1:00pm	Communication in Workplace	Wiradjuri/Koori Kindermana		
9th May	1:30-4:00pm	Born to Play	Wiradjuri/Koori Kindermana	Wagga	
28th May	4:30-7:00pm	In/Out door environments	Murawina LDC		Murawina - Redfern
29th May	4:00-7:30pm	OHS	Gudjahghamia		Gudjahghamia - W.Bay
2nd Jun	9:30-4:00pm	Maths & Science	Noogaleek/OW/Gudjahghamia	Berkley	
24th Jun	9:30-4:00pm	Aboriginal awareness—mainstream	ISA - Canberra		
8th Jul	9:00-12:00	Brian Research	Awabakal		Awabakal - Wickham
4th Jul	9:30-4:00pm	Maths & Science	Birreele/Toomelah	Tamworth	
14th Jul	9:30-4:00pm	Recording Obs & Writing Up	Towri/Allira/Yalbilliga Boori	Bathurst	
15th Sept	9:30-12:00	Communication in Workplace	Gudjahghamia/Noogaleek/OW	Wreck Bay	
15th Sept	1:00-3:30pm	Guiding Children's Behaviour	Gudjahghamia/Noogaleek/OW		
2nd Sept	9:30-4:00pm	Maths & Science	Yalbilliga Boori/Towri/Allira	Cowra	
13th Oct	9:30-1:00pm	Guiding Children's Behaviour	Awabakal/Murrawina/Gujaga	Newcastle	
13th Oct	1:30-4:00pm	Born to Play	Awabakal/Murrawina/Gujaga	Newcastle	