



Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

Media Release - Tuesday 3 August 2010 – For Immediate Release

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day – Wed 4 August 2010 "Value My Culture, Value Me"

"Communities and organisations across the country are standing together for the safety, well-being and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in celebrating **National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day on Wednesday 4 August 2010**," SNAICC National Secretary, Desley Thompson, said today.

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day has been marked annually by SNAICC since 1988. The theme for National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NAICD) in 2010 is 'Value My Culture, Value Me.'

The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) is the national non-government peak body representing the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.

"NAICD 2010 seeks to draw attention to the need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to know they are loved and valued, and to have every opportunity to nurture and explore a healthy and strong sense of self and community - an integral part of achieving social justice for our children." Ms. Thompson said in Cairns today.

"It is also about communicating to the broader Australian community the need for action at the government, community and personal level that shows our children that their people and culture are valued." Ms. Thompson said.

"SNAICC urges all political leaders to continue their commitment to early childhood education and care, and ensuring that the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and communities is respected and celebrated in early childhood." Ms. Thompson said.

"Meeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's health, development and cultural needs is the best way to ensure improvements in their long term well being and educational achievements. This can be done through programs that value learning and respect for culture." Ms. Thompson said.

"SNAICC calls on both major parties to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's development by increasing support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led early childhood services" Ms. Thompson said.

SNAICC's Secretary Ms. Thompson will launch National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day in Cairns on Wednesday morning. The launch will include a display of children's artwork, guest speakers and a performance by Boopa Werem children. More than 50 other NAICD events will be held around Australia in child care centres, health services and community centre, including at activities for children and families, performances and much more.

National launch details:

7.00am for a 7.30 start, Wednesday 4 August 2010, Rydges Esplanade Resort Cairns, Cnr Kerwin St and the Esplanade, Followed by a family fun day at Wuchopperen Health Service from 10.00am

Other events around the country:

For details on local NAICD events, see: www.snaicc.asn.au/children and www.srs.snaicc.asn.au/happenings,

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