



SNAICC – MEDIA RELEASE

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SNAICC welcomes national commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

In the lead up to the 2004 Federal Election SNAICC asked all the major parties to demonstrate their commitment to turning things around for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia by supporting Indigenous families with children.

Muriel Cadd, Chairperson of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) said: “SNAICC is pleased that the ALP has promised to develop a child welfare and development strategy with a focus on providing additional childcare services and early childhood programs for families. We also welcome the ALP’s commitment to fund 13 new Multi-functional Aboriginal Children’s Services to help meet the care and development needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.”

Ms Cadd said, “through the efforts of the Minister for Children and Youth, Larry Anthony MP, the current Government had succeeded in putting childcare and early childhood on the national agenda. It is encouraging that these issues were being tackled with a more bipartisan approach. “

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, she said, “are 3 times less likely to have access to an early childhood or childcare service but are nearly 7 times more likely to be removed from their families for child protection or poverty related reasons. In relation to school they are twice as likely to leave school early. This is why the ALP commitment to additional services and programs was so critical and SNAICC would be looking for a similar commitment from the Coalition parties.”

Ms Cadd said, “The ALP commitment to a national apology for past stolen generations policies was also welcomed and SNAICC remained disappointed that Prime Minister Howard had taken such a hard and negative stance on this issue. “

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