



## **Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc.**

Suite 8, Level 1, 252-260 St Georges Rd, North Fitzroy VICTORIA 3068  
Tel: 03 9489 8099 Fax: 03 9489 8044 email: [snaicc@vicnet.net.au](mailto:snaicc@vicnet.net.au)

**Media Statement – 3 August 2006**

**For Immediate Release**

**National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day - Friday 4 August**

*Celebrating Indigenous Culture Across the Land*

All across Australia this Friday communities will celebrate National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NAICD). On the Gold Coast 600 children will gather to enjoy cultural activities, Aboriginal dancers, wildlife talks and exhibits; in Hobart kids will enjoy traditional foods, including mutton bird, at a children's cultural activity day; in Geelong the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Milla Milla playgroup is organising cultural face painting, boomerang and clap stick painting and a mural for kids to do; while in Port Adelaide children's services are holding a 'stay and play day' in child care for parents and their kids.

Organised each year by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC), the theme for 2006 is 'My Culture is Me – I am Proud and Strong'.

SNAICC Chairperson Muriel Bamblett, AM said, "The theme highlights the positive influence of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child's culture on their wellbeing."

She added, "We need to tell our Indigenous kids that they are valued and loved and that their culture is valued and respected. The best protection we can offer any child is to give them a sense of belonging. Culture can provide that sense of belonging and through that belonging, resilience."

"On this year's Children's Day rural, remote and urban communities will celebrate culture with strength, pride and confidence. Children's services, schools and community groups are being encouraged to hold activities that bring kids and families together to share stories, experience Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, showcase Indigenous arts, dance and music and build pride amongst Indigenous children in their culture." Ms Bamblett said.

This year, SNAICC has used positive images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families for its annual Children's Day poster and produced an Activities Kit to assist children's services, schools and others to organise community events. SNAICC will also launch a gallery of children's artwork on its website at [www.snaicc.asn.au/children](http://www.snaicc.asn.au/children) this Friday.

Ms Bamblett said, "The day is typified by the efforts of small community services such as Gurlongga Njininj MACS in Perth where the kids will create a mural on the day's theme using natural materials, vegetation, calico, and hand-prints. As the Prime Minister said recently in reference to reconciliation it is the many small things that make a big difference."

"On August 4 2006 hundreds of small services will be making a big difference to the well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children," Ms Bamblett said.

**Media Interviews:**

SNAICC Chairperson – **Muriel Bamblett, AM** (03) 9489 8099

SNAICC Executive Officer – **Julian Pocock** (m) 0419 379 764

Information on Children's Day activities around the nation are available online at [www.snaicc.asn.au/children/](http://www.snaicc.asn.au/children/)  
or from: SNAICC Publications Officer – Mark Lawrence (03) 9489 8099

### **Examples of Children's Day Events**

#### **Gold Coast, Queensland**

The Gold Coast Inclusion Support Agency is holding a huge Children's Day event at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the Gold Coast, with cultural activities, Indigenous dancers, wildlife talks and exhibits, and food for the kids. They will have 600 children from 24 child care and out of home care services and schools from the Gold Coast region.

#### **West Moonah, Tasmania**

The Aboriginal Children's Centre is holding a 'Family Day at Risdon Cove'.

The children will be entertained at a big cultural event on traditional land, with cultural activities and interactive displays, tree planting, traditional food such as mutton-bird provided for lunch, and cultural showbags for the children to take away.

#### **Geelong North, Victoria**

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Milla Milla playgroup will have a Children's Day celebration at their playgroup for all aged children to attend, with cultural face painting, jumping castle, boomerang and clap stick painting and a mural for kids to do. There will also be a didgeridoo player for the kids to dance to, and a BBQ and cultural food for lunch.

#### **Port Adelaide, South Australia**

Kura Yerlo Children's Centre is having a 'Stay and Play' day, with parents and elders invited to spend time at the centre to play with their children. They are using the Children's Activities developed by SNAICC for Children's Day as part of their day's activities.

#### **Alice Springs, Northern Territory**

Ampe Kenhe Apmere/Congress childcare centre is inviting families, carers and children to celebrate with a barbeque and open afternoon, and to celebrate the story of 'who we are and where we live' with an interactive display-collage of Alice Springs incorporating the Yeperenye (caterpillar) dreaming story of the Arrernte people.

SNAICC gratefully acknowledges the financial contribution of the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs towards funding NAICD posters and the support provided by the Victorian Government Department of Human Services for NAICD activities in Victoria.