

THROUGH YOUNG BLACK EYES



**A GUIDE FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
LEADERS TO RESPOND TO FAMILY
VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE**

**SNAICC: SECRETARIAT NATIONAL ABORIGINAL
AND ISLANDER CHILD CARE**

Credits and Acknowledgements

Through Young Black Eyes: A guide for Indigenous Community Leaders to respond to family violence and child abuse.

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Research and Writing Michele Moloney, Kenny Bedford and Julian Pocock

Design and Layout Heather Hoare

Children's Artwork Produced by the SNAICC National Indigenous Family and Children's Resource Service

Cover Artwork Kahli Lutrell

Photography Kenny Bedford
SNAICC photographic collection

SNAICC contact details:

SNAICC Chairperson: Muriel Bamblett AM

SNAICC Coordinator: Julian Pocock

Administration Officer: Simone Andy

phone: 03 9489 8099

fax: 03 94898044

email: snaicc@vicnet.net.au

website: www.snaicc.asn.au



S.N.A.I.C.C



Commonwealth
Department
of Family and
Community Services

Foreword


Issues of violence, child abuse and child neglect are not new to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, nor are they unique to our communities.

SNAICC has always taken the view that violence is not the way our communities should deal with the anger, frustration and despair that flows from generations of abuse and violence inflicted upon our people through colonisation, dispossession and the removal of our children.

Over ten years ago SNAICC produced *Through Black Eyes*, a national resource handbook aimed at assisting communities to develop the strength to talk about and respond to domestic violence. In 2005 SNAICC is releasing *Through Young Black Eyes* to again assist communities to find the strength and energy to deal with issues of violence and abuse. This handbook, and the leaflet and community leaders guide which accompany it, focus on the particular impact of family and domestic violence on children and children who are subjected to other forms of child abuse and neglect.

Strong families raise strong children who will grow and rebuild strong communities. This is both the lesson of our history and the path to a better future. When governments sought to destroy our communities they took our children. Now that we have our children with us we must act to protect and nurture them. This must include protecting them from the devastating impact of family violence and abuse. Undoubtedly the best way to do that is to confront violence and abuse where it exists, uphold the rights of children to grow up in an environment which is free from violence and turn to – not against – each other and heal those that may be or have been perpetrators of violence .

Our children represent nearly half [48%] of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander population (ABS 1998).



For the 2001 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day SNAICC adopted the theme, 'We are watching and learning from you - make us proud of all you do'. That is the challenge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children present to the rest of our community. Will your children be proud of you if you neglect or harm them, will they be proud of you if you beat those you love or will they be proud of you if you resolve family disputes with violence? Children need to be proud of the people around them to be proud of their culture and proud of who they are – Australia's Indigenous people.


Confronting family violence, child abuse and child neglect with honesty and commitment will make our children prouder, stronger and happier. SNAICC hopes that this handbook assists in achieving that goal.

Muriel Bamblett, AM
SNAICC Chairperson

15% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are under five years of age - more than twice as many as the non-Indigenous population with only 7% under five (ABS 1998).



**How are you
protecting your
babies and children:
the future of your
community?**



This booklet was first produced with the aim of mobilising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders to respond to the needs of children in their communities – particularly those who were at risk and/or suffering from the impact of family violence, child abuse or child neglect.

There are some facts that we simply do have to acknowledge and as a matter of urgency to save our babies and young ones.

- Family violence, child abuse and child neglect are problems found in every community, including yours.
- Family violence, child abuse and child neglect often involve criminal acts that have very damaging effects on children, families and communities.
- Family violence, child abuse and child neglect are not acceptable behaviours - they never have been.
- Family violence, child abuse and child neglect are all preventable.
- Family violence, child abuse and child neglect must be addressed by people, families, communities, organisations and governments at the local, state and national levels.

Accepting these facts and doing something about them is not only going to save our babies but it will save all of us.

Honest and effective leadership is needed and it can start with anyone – the first person to stand up – then the second and the third, fourth.

Violence and abuse are major issues in most, if not all, of our Indigenous communities. They form part of an inter-related wave of problems that have inevitably stemmed from the

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children experience higher rates of child abuse and child neglect than non-Indigenous children (AIHW 2001).


injustices we have suffered throughout our modern history. These problems have naturally thrived due to the invasion of our lands, the ongoing destruction and interference of our family and social structures, and the general dominance of our traditional ways of life by imposing, foreign cultures.

This is an unfortunate truth that requires deeper recognition and understanding by all Australians. They may understand it and take it on board or they may make statements like “get over it”. However, this shameful history must not be an excuse for the continuing impact it has on our people and communities.

After the oppression we have endured over two centuries, the last thing we need is to be harming one another. We, Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, need to work harder



Approximately 3,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are found to have been abused or neglected each year (AIHW 2001).



than ever to turn this situation around. We are ultimately responsible for our own survival and future and our children's. The importance of caring for the needs of our children should not be underestimated, they are the future and the future of our culture. The longer we cover our eyes and ears to the problems of family violence, child abuse and child neglect, the greater the need becomes. Children cannot protect themselves from violence, abuse and neglect - they depend on us - they need to trust and depend on you.

Michele Moloney
SNAICC Project Officer

Kenny Bedford
SNAICC Family Violence Project worker (2001-2002)



Child neglect, (often associated with poverty, poor housing and unemployment), is the major reason for Indigenous children being removed from their families, not child abuse. (SNAICC 2001).

Community Leaders

Responding to Family Violence, Child Abuse and Child Neglect

SNAICC calls upon all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders to stand up against family violence, child abuse and child neglect. We have put some things together which may help and encourage you to take a stand in your community in order to protect our children and preserve our culture.

Think about how your leadership role can make a difference in protecting children ?

The most important thing to do is make a start, don't wait for government funding or for someone else to make a change. As a person you can make an immediate difference, and if you make a start in your community others will follow. SNAICC suggests that there are three things you should do;

- Raise community awareness
- Develop a local child protection response strategy
- Develop a long term prevention program

Raise Community Awareness

Many people and organisations are either unaware of, or turn away or go into denial about the fact, that family violence, child abuse and child neglect are major problems in our communities. Raising awareness and asking people to speak out about them is an important first step for all communities.


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are six times more likely to be removed from their families by welfare authorities than non-Indigenous children because of child abuse or child neglect (AIHW 2000).

Consider doing the following ?

- speaking up whenever you see, witness or hear about violence, abuse and neglect, and let people know that it is wrong and that you are prepared to take action to protect children
- get others to help you organise a public meeting to discuss family violence, child abuse and child neglect
- copy and distribute around material to help people understand family violence, child abuse and child neglect from the SNAICC handbook, “ Through Young Black Eyes”
- putting the issue on the agenda for the next meeting of an/your organisation, your AGM or your next Board meeting
- ask any organisations you are involved with if they have a child protection policy which says how they will respond if children are victims of violence, abuse or violence
- contacting SNAICC or a local AICCA for more information or assistance

Developing a local child protection response strategy

The most basic question that people need an answer to is, *‘What do we do if I know a child is at risk of being harmed through family violence, abuse or neglect?’*. It is vital that you remember that even if children see or live with family violence they are being harmed. Communities and organisations need to discuss and agree on what people in the community should do when they know or suspect that children are at risk. When children have been abused or harmed they need



urgent and immediate help and support of caring families and community members. Having a simple response plan that everyone is aware of will help ensure that children and ultimately the family get the support they need when they are at risk of harm.

For organizations have you considered doing the following?

- As an organization organise a meeting of all local Indigenous services such as the child care centre, pre school, play groups, legal service, AICCA, health service and other relevant agencies, (ie local schools, medical centres), to discuss how you should all respond to possible cases of family violence, child abuse and neglect
- Asking your own service/s, organisation, club or group what it currently does if there is a situation where a child is being abused or is at risk of abuse or neglect
- Ensuring that all workers and volunteers in your service, organisation or group understand how to recognise the signs of family violence, child abuse or neglect
- Working with other local groups to develop a response strategy or check list of what to do when it comes to your attention that a child is at risk of abuse
- Ensuring that staff and volunteers within your organisation know and understand the legal requirements to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect

Twice as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child are removed from their families because of child neglect than child abuse (SNAICC 2001).

- Developing a written protocol with other local agencies and services on how you can each support families and protect children including the need to keep children physically safe and how you can respond to needs of the whole family not just one individual child

When beginning discussions with other agencies or services consider the following.

- publicly admitting the problems of family violence and child abuse and the painful shame that this might bring about
- acknowledging the need for collective action
- always putting the rights and needs of children first as children depend on others to protect them
- encouraging 'silent' voices, such as those of women, children and young people and recognising their views
- identifying ways to overcome barriers to implementing programs
- focussing on what you can do not what you can't do
- recognising tensions between groups and between agencies
- recognising that all families, groups and agencies have a part to play in responding to family violence, child abuse and child neglect
- identifying energy or stress levels in the community
- building on existing organisations rather than starting from scratch

Developing Long Term Prevention Programs

Responding each time to an instance of violence or abuse will not ensure that family violence, child abuse, sexual abuse and neglect will not continue to happen. Communities need to look at these issues, acknowledge that they are happening, make a firm decision that they are not going to continue and hence develop a long term approach to tackling the issues. And in that long term approach is the need to develop strategies such as how to approach the calling of the meeting which will raise the tempers of some. The training of staff to work with those abused and also other staff and programs to work with perpetrators.

More and more indigenous communities are attempting to deal with these issues of violence and abuse. Some are taking the view that drugs and alcohol use and abuse is causing the situations and banning alcohol in their communities even going so far as to sit on the gates and fence lines to stop anyone from coming in with drugs or alcohol. Other communities fed up with the level of violence and abuse have called public meetings and have named or called out perpetrators. Others still are wanting to come up with strategies and programs on the ground that will work for them and also deal with perpetrators.

The most effective strategies are going to be those developed by the communities / from the ground up and that take a holistic approach and deal with all the needs – children – families and communities.

In developing a long term approach to prevention for your community SNAICC recommends that you try and learn from the experience of other Indigenous communities.

Over 85% of abused children are harmed by someone they know and trust - a parent, caregiver, family member or friend (FYCCQ, 2000).

Features of a strong community response can include:

- holistic initiatives that link health issues, drug and alcohol misuse, family support, parenting assistance and family healing
- community development models emphasising self determination and community ownership
- responding to families needs in the context of their local community
- providing a safe place for potential perpetrators, eg, sobering up centres and for victims, eg, safe houses
- respect for traditional laws and customs
- employment of local people where possible
- a focus on partnerships between families, agencies, community groups, police and welfare agencies
- providing crisis care and practical support
- involvement of Community Justice Groups, emphasising the authority of elders, including women
- recognising and building the role of existing organisations rather than imposing new structures or organisations on communities

In NSW, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children make up over 25% of all children in the care and protection system despite comprising less than 2% of the total population of children aged 0 - 17 (AIHW 2000).

Finding Out More

Learning from other projects & funding options

SNAICC has produced and updated a comprehensive handbook, **“Through Young Black Eyes – A handbook to protect Indigenous children from the impact of family violence and child abuse”**. Copies have been sent to over 1,500 Indigenous agencies, (including yours), such as health services, legal services, MACS, child care services, AICCAs and many others. The handbook has sections on: Family Violence, Child Abuse and Neglect, Child Sexual Assault, Reporting Child Protection Matters and a comprehensive Directory of Services and Resource Information. Powerpoint presentations and a how to in order to run workshops, leaflets to distribute, this booklet and posters. We encourage you to read the handbook, copy and distribute material from the handbook and use it in any way you can to prevent family violence and child abuse. Copies of the handbook can be obtained from SNAICC.

Some more Information and ideas

Listed here are a few of the other agencies and resources which will be useful to you including the contact numbers in each State and Territory for reporting child abuse and neglect.

In Victoria, Indigenous children comprise 10% of children in care and less than 1% of the population aged 0-17 (AIHW 2000).

Partnerships Against Domestic Violence, PADV

Partnerships against Domestic Violence (PADV) has a range of Publications including the selection of resources specifically for Indigenous communities. The Through Young Black Eyes Handbook has a list and copies of most *Partnerships* publications are also available on the PADV website. To order *Partnerships* publications, contact DAS Distribution on (02) 6202.5788 and they will fax you a publications list and order form.

PADV Website: <http://www.padv.dpmc.gov.au>

A selection of recommended publications and resources from PADV:

- The National Indigenous Family Violence Grants Program - working with indigenous communities experiencing domestic violence (Indigenous Solutions)
- Kids and DV - Models of Service
- Yitpi kits - Fun with Feelings
- Silent Witnesses Kit - Domestic Violence Hurts Kids Too
- Supporting Children and Young People Affected by Domestic Violence - Good Practice Reports
- Crisis Intervention in Aboriginal Family Violence: Strategies and Models for Western Australia
- Healing Our Families - Family Violence Advocacy Project (Produced by Apunimipa Family Violence Advocacy Project)
- Be cool ... not cruel - Community Education for Young Territorians

NAPCAN - National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

NAPCAN provide a range of resources and services for the prevention of child abuse and neglect including resources and programs designed for Aboriginal communities.

Head Office

(02) 9211 0224

email: napcanus@aol.com

website: www.napcan.org.au

Education Centre Against Violence

The Education Centre Against Violence is a specialist organisation committed to producing high quality training and resources for professionals working with children and adults who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence and physical and emotional abuse and neglect.

Ph: 02 9840 3737

fax: 02 9840 3754

email: ecav@wsahs.nsw.gov.au

website: www.ecav.health.nsw.gov.au



National Child Protection Clearinghouse

In a two-way involvement with the community concerned with child abuse, the National Clearinghouse collects, shares, monitors and distributes information on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Anyone concerned with the prevention of child maltreatment is welcome to use the National Clearinghouse. People may need information and resources on the latest developments in the prevention of child abuse and neglect - policy issues, what their peers are doing, what programs are most effective, where further research is needed, changes in legislation, and what changes in legislation might be needed.

The free advisory service to clients is provided using information from the library collection and databases. The Clearinghouse's Research Adviser is available to help with more specialised questions. Phone (03) 9214 7871.

Phone (03) 9214 7888.

Fax (03) 9214 7839.


Email: fic@aifs.org.au

Website: www.aifs.org.au/external/nch/pubs

Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse

Established in October 1999, the Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse is a national resource on issues of domestic and family violence. It provides a central point for the collection and dissemination of Australian domestic and family violence policy, practice and research. The Clearinghouse also provides information on international

Family violence impacts seriously on the physical, emotional and general health and development of a child. Babies and toddlers are especially at risk from the damaging effects of family violence (James, M. 1994).



efforts to end these forms of violence. It aims to meet the information needs of government agencies, generalist and specialist service providers, researchers and interested members of the public. Services include publications, databases, library information services and research.

Phone 02) 9385 2990

Fax 02) 9385 2995 TTY

Email: clearinghouse@unsw.edu.au

Website: www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au

State and Territory Child Protection Authorities

If you know or think a child is being mistreated or sexually abused and you know that child protection is there, but for many reasons you do not want to call them. Then do you know a good Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organization who will deal with this and the child. They are there. How long do our babies keep having suffering this. They do not deserve this. It is in our hands now to do something about this.

For advice, or to report your concern, call the following agency in your State/Territory (24 hour services):

ACT	02) 6207 0720	SA	13 16 11
NSW	1800 066 777	TAS	1800 001 219
NT	1800 700 250	VIC	13 12 78
QLD	1800 177 135	WA	1800 199 008

Young Indigenous women are 15 times more likely to be hospitalised due to violence than other young women whilst young Indigenous men are 2.7 times more likely to be hospitalised from violence than other young men (AIHW 1999).

Funding sources

SNAICC advises that organisations try a number of sources to secure funding for programs which focus on family violence, child abuse and child neglect.

State and Territory Welfare departments

The majority of funding for child welfare service is provided by the States and Territories and we recommend that you approach the Department of Community Services/Human Services in your State or Territory.

Commonwealth Government

The Commonwealth Government does provide some funding in this area and has flexible funding available under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy. We recommend that you contact the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services about the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, <http://www.facs.gov.au> or phone **1300 653 227**. Information on other possible funding from the Commonwealth Government is available through the GrantsLink website.

GrantsLink

<http://www.grantslink.gov.au/>

GrantsLink is a source of information for Commonwealth Government grants for communities. The site allows you to search or browse for Commonwealth grants and also offers general information on preparing Government grant applications.

Every community is affected by family violence, child abuse and child neglect, including yours.

Philanthropic Trusts/Foundation

There are an ever increasing number of trusts and foundations with an interest in children, young people, community development and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. SNAICC strongly recommends that organisations seek funding for child abuse prevention and other activities from these organisations.

To access a list of trusts and foundations with information about what they do we recommend you try the Philanthropy Australia website: <http://www.philanthropy.org.au/> and check out their 'links'

Specific trusts or foundations which focus on children and/or Indigenous issues include:

THE FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

<http://www.youngaustralians.org/>

Formed from the merger of the Australian Youth Foundation and the Queen's Trust for Young Australians, the Foundation is committed to assisting Australians up to the age of 30.

THE MYER FOUNDATION

<http://www.myerfoundation.org.au/>

Website includes the Myer Foundation's grant guidelines and areas of interest.

THE PRATT FOUNDATION

<http://www.visy.com.au/overview/foundatn.asp>

Information on the areas in which the Pratt Foundation will accept submissions.

THE SABEMO TRUST

<http://www.sabemo.org.au>

The Sabemo Trust supports projects which focus on providing assistance and early intervention for young children. Site includes information on the grant distribution and an application cover form.

THE TELSTRA FOUNDATION

<http://www.telstrafoundation.com/>

Mission is to make a positive and lasting difference to the lives of Australian children and young people. The foundation has two main programs - the Community Development Fund and the Telstra's Kids Fund.



SNAICC's role

in responding to child abuse and neglect

Underlying causes of child abuse and neglect

In 1995 SNAICC carried out a series of consultations with Aboriginal communities to identify issues which were seen as contributing factors to child abuse and neglect. They included;

- breakdown of traditional Aboriginal society and loss of child rearing practices
- deprivation of culture and loss of identity arising from previous generations of child removal from families and forced relocation of communities
- inadequate housing and housing facilities
- high levels of poverty and unemployment
- alcohol and other substance abuse

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW 2000) also report that the underlying causes of the over representation of Indigenous children in the care and protection system include;

- high levels of poverty
- poor socio economic status
- differences in child rearing practices and
- the intergenerational effects of previous separations, (the Stolen Generations)

Based on its consultations with communities SNAICC prepared the National Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse

Child sexual assault happens to boys and girls. 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 9 boys are likely to be sexually assaulted before they reach the age of 18.

and Neglect which has still not been funded or implemented by successive Commonwealth governments.

SNAICC advocates that all State and Territory governments in Australia with a role in child welfare must develop a specific policy objective to lower the rate at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are removed from their families for welfare related reasons. Tackling the over representation of Indigenous children in the care and protection system is an urgent national priority. Funding in relation to child welfare is mainly directed towards the removal and placement of children once family breakdown has occurred rather than towards family support to prevent the need for children to be removed. Supporting communities to prevent abuse and neglect is where our efforts need to be focused.

Currently SNAICC develops resources for communities, runs workshops and develops policy which it presents to all governments. Everything within it's scope actually to deal with all the issue good and bad of families.

Distinguishing Child Abuse from Child Neglect

Often child abuse and child neglect are discussed and reported in the media and elsewhere as though they are the same issue. They are not. Child abuse typically involves the deliberate harming of children at the hands of perpetrators who may themselves have been victims of abuse, separated from family and suffered great emotional trauma in their own lives.

Child neglect typically arises where parents and families are unable to provide for their children in a material sense due to family poverty, unemployment, poor housing and family stress. Poverty and disadvantage are the major

In some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities the rate of child sexual assault is likely to be higher (FYCCQ, 2000).



causes of child removal from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families - not inappropriate parenting or the abuse of children.

Providing additional support to families living in poverty to enable them to better care for their children is the best approach government authorities can take towards child welfare. This approach recognises that caring for children, particularly those living in poverty or at risk of harm, is everyone's responsibility - not just the responsibility of parents who are themselves poor.

SNAICC's response to family violence, child abuse and child neglect

This community leaders guide calls upon you to take action at the local level. SNAICC has also called for action at the State, Territory and National levels. Governments need to rethink the ways in which they respond to issues of child abuse and neglect. Specifically, recommendations from the *Bringing Them Home* report on the reform of child protection laws and support for self determination need to be implemented. Further, the underlying causes of child abuse and neglect need to be dealt with, as opposed to simply removing children who have been the victims of abuse or neglect.



SNAICC: a background

SNAICC is the national peak body in Australia representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.


SNAICC was formally established in 1981 after the creation of such a body was proposed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at a national summit held to discuss the welfare of children and families, *The First Aboriginal Child Survival Seminar*. The seminar heard a report from the late (Auntie) Mollie Dyer from the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service on the success of Native Americans in reducing the rate of child removal by welfare authorities and voted to form a national body, (SNAICC), to advance the rights and welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Soon afterwards the NSW Aboriginal Children's Service was formed in Redfern and South Australia AICCA in Adelaide with these new bodies becoming models for the establishment of similar agencies across Australia.

Some recent SNAICC activities relating to prevention of child abuse and neglect

SNAICC's commitment to serving the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families is ongoing and has included:

- Advocating to the current Federal Government that additional funding be allocated for Indigenous children's services and for family support through:
 - Increasing funding for Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services, MACS
 - Establishing an Indigenous Family Support Program to fund family support programs through AICCAs and other Indigenous service providers

Aborigines are more than 45 times more likely to be a victim of family violence than non-Aborigines. (Ferrante A, Morgan F, Indermaur D. & Harding R, 1996)

- 
- Implementing the National Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse prepared by SNAICC
 - Developing with SNAICC a National Indigenous Children's and Family Resource Centre to implement long term child abuse prevention campaigns
 - Membership of the Australian Council for Children and Parenting following our membership of the National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse
 - 'Through Young Black Eyes' family violence and child abuse prevention project in 2002 including the production of a national resource booklet, community leaders guide and parents leaflets responding to issues of family violence and child abuse.
 - Production of "Through Black Eyes - Family Violence Resource Handbook" in 1991 and 1992 to support women and families experiencing domestic violence.
 - Representing the rights and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1998 and 2000
 - Research and production of the 'Proposed Plan of Action for Child Abuse and Neglect in Aboriginal Communities' in 1996
 - Parenting Information Project 2005
 - Establishment of National Resource and Services Directory 2005-05-13
 - Development of resources and programs to work with fathers and young babies 0-6 years


Aborigines are more than 45 times more likely to be a victim of family violence than non-Aborigines. (Ferrante A, Morgan F, Indermaur D. & Harding R, 1996)

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Summary and final questions





As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples we must take control of our own destiny by doing all within our power to protect and nurture our children. Harming children is never the right thing to do, never has been and never will be. Many Indigenous leaders have been able to stand up for our children when this involves standing up against governments. Standing up to violence, abuse and neglect within our own families and communities is much more difficult. It is the challenge though that all Indigenous leaders must face. SNAICC is committed to assisting all Indigenous people to meet that challenge and we trust that this booklet will inspire and motivate you to protect children in your family and community.

So in summary ask yourself these questions

How can our community develop its response to the needs of the children impacted by family violence, abuse and neglect?

Where can our community get help and resources to raise awareness about the issues of family violence and child abuse and neglect?

How can we identify the specific needs of your community to address these issues and what help do we need to ensure that we don't just end up fragmenting the community?

What steps can you take immediately, now to help prevent the damaging effects of violence and abuse on the children in your community?

Who should we be working with to improve our community's response to these issues?

How does addressing the needs of children help to benefit the whole community and help to stop the long term cycle of violence and abuse?



Every community leader has a responsibility to do all that they can to protect children from abuse or violence and to respond to children's needs if they have been abused or harmed or are at risk of being abused or harmed.