



# ABORIGINAL CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CARE STATE SECRETARIAT

LOOKING AFTER  
OUR KIDS

## ABSEC NEWS

August 2013

### CEO Report

Welcome! This new look AbSec news has arrived and a great opportunity to touch base.

AbSec has been busy supporting and managing a number of initiatives that benefit Aboriginal people's access to family support, early intervention and Out-of-Home-Care. Our involvement with the Department of Family and Community Services (FacS) is ongoing and we acknowledge the work on some key reforms that will impact on Aboriginal communities, especially in respect to restoration and Aboriginal Family Conferencing.

SNAICC National Conference 2013: For our Children: Living and Learning Together held on 4-6 June in Cairns. It was great to see a number of people attend and enjoy interesting and empowering keynote speakers and workshops.

The Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA) commissioned a trend paper which was released on 1 July 2013; revealed that foster care agencies (like AbSec) need to explore new avenues to recruit carers. The trend paper, part of ACWA's recently-launched Fostering NSW campaign draws on expert opinion and research to explore new face of fostering and how it will change in the next 10 years. This release is timely as the AbSec Foster Training and Support team travelled the state, visiting communities to engage potential Aboriginal carers.

The National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day was held on 4 August, this year's theme "*Right Here, Right Now. Our Rights Matter*" continues to serve as a reminder of the importance of children's rights and the work we do supporting Aboriginal children, young people and carers.

AbSec have been busy continuing our commitment to supporting Children, Young People and Carers. We recently had a morning tea with the Hon. Pru Goward MP, Minister for Family and Community Services, Minister for Women to acknowledge the work by our carers. It was a great opportunity to yarn with the Minister on issues facing carers and for our carers to tell their stories.

I am encouraged by the progress AbSec has made with our programs and partnerships. The information session recently held in Moree regarding our PACT program and improved relationships with our government partners will only strengthen and benefit the community.

The Aboriginal Carer Recruitment Roadshows have been successful, with staff already visiting 20 communities it has been great to see the response from the community, acknowledgement of the need for more carers.

Our transition team is working closely with communities to increase the number of accredited community-controlled Aboriginal organisations (ACCO), partnership agencies and agencies with provisional accreditation from the Children's Guardian.

Acknowledgement is given to the AbSec Board for their ongoing support and leadership.

Chief Executive Officer





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## AbSec Conference Rescheduled to Wed 19 & Thurs 20 March 2014

### Strong Sector Connected Kids Conference

Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat (AbSec) are **rescheduling** our bi-annual conference for workers involved in the family support, child protection and out-of-home care (OOHC) sectors in NSW.

The “**Strong Sector Connected Kids**” Conference which was scheduled to be held at the Opal Cove Resort in Coffs Harbour in November 2013 will now be held on **Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 March 2014**.



Further details go to the AbSec website [www.absec.org.au](http://www.absec.org.au) or email [jodie.porter@absec.org.au](mailto:jodie.porter@absec.org.au)

AbSec is still calling for Registrations, Sponsorship and Abstracts for the conference.

**ABSEC WORKERS CONFERENCE**  
**ON**  
**6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2013**

The AbSec workers conference will be held at Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour and is open to all AbSec board and staff, member agency staff & boards and partnership agencies. The workers conference will feature keynote speakers and workshops that cover Self Preservation – Living and Working in the Community, Responding to Trauma Related Behaviours, Partnership Development, Report Writing, Walking and Working together, best practice financial reporting and much more. For further details or to register please visit the AbSec website.

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### A message from Winangali

Meg Habchi here from Winangali Indigenous Communications, delivering the Government's Digital Switchover message to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander communities in Sydney and surrounding areas.

The switch to Digital is only TV signals is 3 months away for Sydney residents, and I want to tell you how Indigenous communities can best prepare for digital-only TV signals. We have the latest information so please go to our website [www.winangali.com.au](http://www.winangali.com.au).

To find out more about the switch to digital TV in your area visit the Digital Ready website [www.digitalready.gov.au](http://www.digitalready.gov.au) or call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13 (available 7 days a week, 8am to midnight AEST)







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## Transition NEWS

An essential principle of the Transition is a commitment that Aboriginal children and young people be cared for by Aboriginal carers and Aboriginal caseworkers within accredited community-controlled Aboriginal agencies. Just over a year ago there were seven AbSec member agencies providing out of home care to 350 Aboriginal children and young people. In a busy year for AbSec and the Aboriginal OOH sector the last year three new agencies have achieved provisional accreditation, six partnerships have been signed and Aboriginal agencies now care for 700 Aboriginal children and young people.

This ensures that, wherever possible, Aboriginal children remain within their community and maintain their cultural connections. This is essential to ensure the healthy development and future of Aboriginal children and their communities.

Where we were:



Where we are now:



The accreditation ceremony hosted by Minister Pru Goward at NSW Parliament House was an important event that recognised the achievement of three new Aboriginal OOH agencies and their determination to develop their services to deliver to Aboriginal children and young people in their communities.

The OOH sector cannot underestimate the importance of accreditation and the effort required in not only achieving it but also maintaining it.

One of the significant things about this event was the high presence of Community Services and Children's Guardian staff who are also committed to supporting the development of Aboriginal OOH agencies.

From the Transition Teams perspective one of the most moving events was the speech by a Carer from the Illawarra whose heartfelt words showed the passion commitment and recognition by Carers themselves of the need to support Aboriginal Children and young people.



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## Transition news (continued)

### *Kids in Care Cup*



AbSec is sponsoring an initiative of our Capacity Building Manager, Barry Lenihan, who in his role of President of the Illawarra Titans RLFC has organised a koori knockout as a warm up event to Octobers NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout, in which 16 teams will compete for the “Kids in Care” Cup. One aim of the event is to raise awareness of the transition and the need to recruit more Aboriginal Carers to care for Aboriginal Kids.

The “Kids in Care” Cup will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September during Foster Care week. The event will be a 16 Men’s Team Knockout competition along with a Women’s demonstration game and an Under 10’s Reconciliation Cup between an Illawarra Aboriginal All Stars Team and the Illawarra Coal League All Stars.

As well as AbSec, major Sponsors of the event include the Association of Children’s Welfare Agencies (ACWA), NSW Government Family and Community Services (FACS CS), Link Up NSW Family Link Project, Fostering NSW and the Aboriginal Legal Service. As the event is about “Kids in Care” all “Kids in Care” and their Carers will be given free entry to the event. The tickets will be supplied to local CSC’s and NGO OOHG Services through the Steering Committee via the Illawarra Titans

As this event is seen as a genuine warm up for The Titans have already received 10 expressions of interest to participate in the “Kids in Care” Cup from communities as far north as Kempsey, west to Orange and south to Batemans Bay.

Left- Minister Pru Goward wearing Cup Jersey

### *SNAICC Conference 2013*

Not only an opportunity to learn and to meet national leaders in the Aboriginal and Non- Aboriginal Out of Home Care Sector, AbSec transition team members also shared with our interstate colleagues our learnings/ Transition story in four presentations.

Genuine partnerships for change explored the meaning of genuine partnerships between mainstream and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services, and some of the challenges and opportunities they bring. Shared learnings on how these partnerships can contribute to stronger local leadership and new ways of working to support and strengthen families caring for young children.

Cultural advice and support services in child protection decision making.

The story of how the aspiration that “Ultimately, all Aboriginal children and young people in out of home care will be cared for by Aboriginal; Carers, supported by Aboriginal caseworkers employed by local Aboriginal managed agencies” was included as a guiding principle in the NSW transition of OOHG from government to the NGO sector and implications for building capacity in Aboriginal OOHG in NSW and other states and territories.





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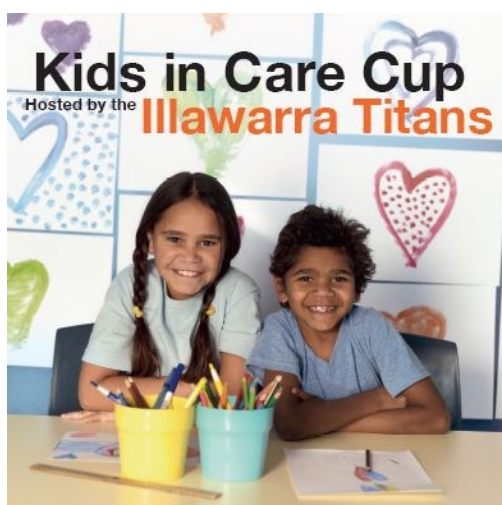
## Transition news (continued)

### Ngurambang update

Since our last newsletter Ngurambang has signed a partnership agreement with Jaanimili, the Aboriginal services unit associated with United Care Burnside. AbSec funded a Project Manager position to support the work of the partnership and Ngurambang's development toward becoming a standalone OOHC agency once it achieves accreditation with the Children's Guardian. A Casework Manager has been recruited and five Aboriginal children have transferred from Community Services



Left: Representatives from Yaanimili Aboriginal Services Unit and other representatives from Uniting Care Burnside, Ngurambang OOHC board members, Nick Corrigan AbSec.



Support your local team in the ultimate state-wide

**Men's Aboriginal Rugby  
League knockout challenge!**

The Kids in Care Cup raises awareness about  
the need for more Aboriginal foster carers.

**When:** Sunday, 15 September 2013  
**Where:** WIN Stadium, Wollongong  
**Cost:** \$10 at the event  
or through [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)





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## Update from Fostering NSW

by ACWA's Elizabeth Jarrett

If you are an early bird you may have seen foster carers Nathan and Dean on Channel Seven's Sunrise this week discussing the findings of Fostering NSW's The Changing Face of Fostering in Australia trend paper. The paper was released on Monday July 1 to highlight the diversity of carers needed, including Aboriginal agencies for Aboriginal children as well as culturally and linguistically diverse carers.

It's one of the many ways in which we're highlighting the urgent need for 900 new foster carers in NSW, as part of the Fostering NSW campaign.

Agencies should be receiving their packages in the mail containing promotional materials such as flyers and posters. This is part of our integrated approach to raising awareness through public relations, paid advertising, and social media such as the Fostering NSW forum and Facebook page.

The campaign launch on Thursday May 30 at Parliament House in Canberra was a great success. Family and Community Services Minister Pru Goward and ACWA CEO Andrew McCallum unveiled the campaign to representatives from the NSW out of home sector, care ambassadors and a sea of local, state and national media who reported the event including Ten Network, Channel Nine, SBS, The Australian, The Daily Telegraph, Herald Sun, and The Sydney Morning Herald to name a few.



Illawarra Aboriginal Corporations Tina McGhie & Rod Broad at the campaign launch in May.



Minister Pru Goward with AbSec's Barry Lenihan, CEO Angela Webb and Board Member Garry Matthews at the campaign launch.

We are excited to announce that Fostering NSW will be sponsoring the Kids in Care Cup in partnership with ACWA, Absec, Community Services, Link Up, Aboriginal Legal Service. The Kids in Care Cup is an Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout being hosted by the Illawarra Titans Aboriginal Rugby League Football Club in partnership with Absec. The event, to be held on Sunday September 15, will raise awareness in Aboriginal communities about the need for more Aboriginal foster carers,

Recruiting Aboriginal carers for Aboriginal children has been identified as a priority area for the Fostering NSW campaign due to the high level of need – Aboriginal children account for around one third of all children in foster care in NSW. A targeted media and marketing strategy will support grassroots engagement throughout the campaign. Agencies have been mailed posters and flyers prioritizing the need for Aboriginal carers for Aboriginal kids. You may also have spotted one of our ads placed in Koori Mail.





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## Update from Fostering NSW (continued).

ACWA continues to work with regional groups to determine the recruitment needs of agencies in each region and to support regional collaboration to link in with the Fostering NSW campaign. You can help us promote the campaign by including the campaign's calls to action: '1800 2 FOSTER inquiry line and Fostering NSW website to find out more' through your own networks or show your support by following us on Twitter @Fostering's and liking the Fostering NSW Facebook page.

But all these efforts can't replace the power of word of mouth. Did you know most carers are recruited by a carer they happen to know? So spread the word and encourage your carers to support the campaign too. ACWA will raise awareness through the Fostering NSW campaign but we are relying on agencies to recruit the carers they need. If you have any suggestions as to how we can support agencies in your region to recruit carers, Aboriginal or otherwise, please feel free to call ACWA's Media and Communications Officer, Elizabeth Jarrett on 02 9281 8822 or email [Elizabeth@acwa.asn.au](mailto:Elizabeth@acwa.asn.au)



## Ministers visit to AbSec

9 August 2013 the Hon. Pru Goward, MP Minister for Family and Community Services, Minister for Women joined carers and workers from Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat (AbSec) for morning tea and a yarn.

Carers were welcomed by ABSEC CEO Ms. Angela Webb, who acknowledged the vital role carers have in the lives of Aboriginal children, by giving our children a safe, caring home.

The morning tea with Minister Goward provided carers an opportunity to share their stories and experiences.

The morning tea coincided with International Day of the World's Indigenous People. This year's theme was "Indigenous peoples building alliances: Honouring treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements." The day was celebrated with a cutting of the cake.

This year's International Day theme aligns with the direction of the work AbSec does in working with the community to achieve self-determination for Aboriginal people.

Right: AbSec CEO Angela Webb, Minister Pru Goward and AbSec's Tracey Keevers Keller.





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## Training and Support Team

One of the priorities for the Training and Support Team this year has been the **Aboriginal Carer Recruitment Roadshow**. Since January 2013, We have visited approximately 20 communities across the state to help raise awareness of the need for more Aboriginal carers and assist with recruitment of Aboriginal carers for our agencies as well as Community Services. During these events there has been lots of discussion from community members acknowledging the need for more carers in their own communities.



The **SNAICC National Conference 2013** - For our Children: Living and Learning Together, was held on 4-6 June in Cairns, in beautiful Far North Queensland. The conference was well attended and it was great to see Aboriginal Carers in attendance at this conference. There were a lot of workshops presented by many organisations from around the country, which was a wonderful opportunity to be able to hear about the good work that is happening out there in the sector amongst our people. One of the highlights is to see young children get involved in culture, and being able to present that in the form of dance, language and singing to a wide audience. Yarrabah State School has been proactive in promoting Cultural learning for the students, and delighted conference delegates with a performance.







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## Training and Support Team (continued)

### NAIDOC 2013.

Each year the Training and Support Team look forward to getting out in the community to celebrate NAIDOC. This year we have been able to participate in various NAIDOC events across the state, which included:

CS NAIDOC Carers Event, Mt Druitt  
Family Fun Day, Moruya  
Jaanimili NAIDOC Celebration Dubbo  
Burrundjil NAIDOC, Kempsey  
Gandangara Regional NAIDOC Ball, Liverpool

Jamison Park, Penrith  
Celebrate NAIDOC, Nowra  
Inverell NAIDOC

TAACS Family Fun Day, Tamworth  
Red, Black and Yellow Ball, Katoomba

Shellharbour NAIDOC  
Bellambi Family Fun Day  
Tenterfield NAIDOC



Our Regional Carers Support Staff have been working consistently to establish and maintain our **Carer and Support Groups** during the past year. Currently we have 34 Carer Support Groups across the state. Support Groups allows Carers of Aboriginal Children to come together to support each other, as well as being supported by our AbSec Regional Carers Support Worker. Carers meet in an informal setting to discuss any issues that they feel necessary, listen to guest speakers talk about topics Carers are interested in, as well and participate in activities. This allows Carer to become better informed whilst caring for our kids, as well as being supported and connected to other Carers in their community.

If you are interested in finding out if there is a Carer Support Group in your area, please call: 1800 888 698 to find out, or access our website on [www.absec.org.au](http://www.absec.org.au) for further information.



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Training and Support Team (continued)

## new the working with children check ★

The new **Working With Children Check** has recently been launched. It covers more people, is more comprehensive and provides better protection for our children. All authorized Carers and Adults who live in Carer Households must apply for the Working With Children by 31 December 2013. Any adults that reside in your home for more than 3 weeks will need to apply.

You can apply online at [www.newcheck.kids.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcheck.kids.nsw.gov.au) or by calling 02 9286 7219.

You will then need to visit a Motor Registry (formerly RTA) or a Council Agency if there is not a Motor Registry in your area – please ensure you take your application number and proof of identity with you. Carers are not required to pay a fee for this check. If you have any questions or need assistance regarding this process, please call us on Ph: 1800 888 698.

## Upcoming Events

To celebrate National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day on 4 August 2013, the Training and Support Team held a Bowling Day for Carers and families held in Penrith. This was a great day for all who attended and enjoyed bowling, laser skirmish, arcade games and afternoon tea.

AbSec will be participating in the Foster Care Week Picnic Day which will be held on Sunday 8 September in Parramatta Park. Please refer to our website for more details.

Northwest Regional Carer Support Workers will host a Paddle Steamer Cruise for Carers in the Bourke Area on 12 September. For further information, please email Deb or Julie on [northwest@absec.org.au](mailto:northwest@absec.org.au) Foster Care week will be held from 8-14 September 2013.

AbSec is planning a Carers Conference in 2014. Please refer to our website early in the new year for details.

## Things to Know

**Carers Code of Conduct** developed by Community Services has been released and as is available on [www.community.nsw.gov.au](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au)  
**Carer Support Line** - If you are a Carer of an Aboriginal Child and have a question or concern, please call us for advice and or support on 1800 888 698.







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*Focus on....*

## Wandiyali ATSI Inc.

Wandiyali ATSI Inc. was established in 1997 to work with Koori youth that were homeless or at risk of being homeless. In 2000 the Hunter Koori Youth SAAP Service began operation with caseworkers working with youths aged 14-25 years (target age 14-18). Over the past 13 years the service has expanded, they are currently funded through Community Services, FAHCSIA, Lifetime Care and Support and Aged, Disability and Home Care.

Wandiyali's journey toward accreditation started in May last year when they were successful in securing 85 OOHC places through the FaCS tender process. In July 2012 the Wandiyali General Manager, Mrs. Barb Kelly and the Wandiyali OOHC Manager Denis Jackson started the formal accreditation application process. They were offered very good support from the Office of Children's Guardian, who were patient with their questions and encouraging of their desire to achieve provisional accreditation.

Invaluable support, encouragement and guidance was offered by the accreditation team from AbSec, in particular Peter Jones. Peter travelled up the freeway many times to attend meetings with Barb and Denis, help plan the approach toward accreditation and offer his extensive knowledge of the OOHC sector and the written requirements to address the 22 standards for OOHC. The writing team of Barb, Denis and Peter made a decision to produce policies and procedures to address the 22 standards and to support these policies and procedures with a set of manuals. The manuals included: Case Management Manual; Carer Management Manual; Carer Handbook; Finance Manual; Board Manual; OOHC forms and Job Descriptions for all staff. The completed set of OOHC policies and procedures, manuals, forms and supporting documents became the accreditation package that was submitted to the OCG in mid-November 2012.

The OCG reviewed the accreditation package within 5 working days were advised they had been successful on their first attempt on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012.

Wandiyali was delighted to have achieved provisional accreditation and the feedback received from the OCG was very complimentary of the detail and process that Wandiyali used to meet the standards.

Wandiyali Children's Services OOHC opened for business on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2013 and has now grown to case manage 54 Indigenous children and young people in OOHC with indicative growth of a further 111 places.

It's been a very busy 12 months but the satisfaction of supporting carers to help their kids has been felt across the entire organisation.

Wandiyali's Barb Kelly is AbSec's newest Board Member.



Above: Wandiyali staff



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## Keep Them Safe & Communities Team

### **Intensive Family Based Service (IFBS)**

IFBS is a service that provides an intensive home based program for Aboriginal families in crisis, whose children are either at risk of entering out-of-home placement due to protective concerns or, whose children have been placed in out-of-home care and are to be restored with their families. The service consists of 12 weeks of intensive family support with an option of a 6 month step down service.

AbSec is working in partnership with Family and Community Services (FaCS) to pilot the service with 4 Aboriginal non - Government agencies which are:

Bungree IFBS – Wyong/Central Coast  
Burrin Dalai IFBS – Kempsey  
Ngangaagi IFBS – Wagga Wagga  
Clarence Valley IFBS - Grafton

All locations are fully staffed and operational and are providing intensive casework to Aboriginal families in their respective locations. An evaluation is currently being undertaken which is showing very positive outcomes in regard to the reduction of protective concerns for children and young people and the number of re-reporting of those families receiving the service being reduced by up to 90%.

The pilot will be completed in June 2014 and it is hoped that the positive results thus far will contribute towards the continuation of Aboriginal IFBS well into the future.

### **Protecting Aboriginal Children Together (Pact)**

PACT is a Keep Them Safe initiative designed to respond to recommendation 8.5 of the Special Commission of Inquiry, 2010, and is a model of consultation to provide an Aboriginal perspective in relation to the best ways of keeping children and young people safe. AbSec is also working in partnership with FaCS to implement the pilot which is being conducted at two locations:

Myimbarr Aboriginal Child, Youth and Family Services - Shellharbour  
Bamba-Baa Aboriginal Children's Service - Moree.

Both sites are fully staffed and functioning at full capacity. Early results are showing improved relationships between Aboriginal clients and FaCS with the PACT service providing invaluable cultural knowledge and consultation to Government workers and excellent support to Aboriginal families through advocacy and day to day information and support to families involved with FaCS.

Recently, an information day was held in Moree which involved the provision of information about the PACT service to the Moree community and local service providers. Participants were informed of how the PACT service operates and allowed for questions and feedback on the service to the local community. An information day for the Illawarra community is being planned.





#### KTS & Communities (continued)....

##### **Protecting Aboriginal Children Together (Pact) continued....**

Both services are meeting the needs of their respective communities and continue to build relationships between the Aboriginal community and local service providers.

As a pilot, both services are working together to identify best practice within the PACT Guidelines and continually communicate with each other to develop the most culturally appropriate methods for Government support services to work with Aboriginal families.

The two PACT services are also currently being evaluated. The evaluation will consist of two parts – a process evaluation and an outcomes evaluation. Early results are showing improved capacity by support service workers dealing with Aboriginal families and improved engagement by Aboriginal families with support services. The final evaluation is due in December 2013 with the pilot to conclude in June 2014.

##### **Family Group Conferencing (FGC)**

FGC is a process which brings together all relevant family members to participate developing plans and strategies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people within the family group.

The FGC is a pilot project which is focusing on delivering the service to families in Shellharbour, Lismore and Coffs Harbour. As the role out continues, the FGC Officer, Paul Dutton, will work with other Community Services Centres to introduce the FGC model and strengthen relationships. As the pilot continues and grows, more locations will be added to the process.

A partnership with TAFE NSW has been developed and a 12 month FGC training course will be implemented in the near future. AbSec member agencies will be requested to nominate one staff member to undertake the training ensuring our sector is well placed to deliver FGC services to Aboriginal families.

##### **Aboriginal Jobs Together (AJT)**

The Aboriginal Jobs Together program aims to increase the capacity of skilled Aboriginal employees in Community and NGO's throughout NSW. To date we have 9 trainees and 9 cadets registered with a further 41 applications for trainees and 3 cadets throughout a number of agencies across NSW.

Current Trainees are studying in a number of disciplines ranging from Cert III in Business Admin to Cert IV in Community Services. Current Cadets are studying a range of disciplines as well ranging from Diplomas in Alcohol and Other Drugs to, BA's in Psychology.

Assessment of new applications are currently being undertaken.

Trainees are supported for a period of up to 1 year whilst cadets are supported up to 3 years.



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## Stolen Generations Council NSW / ACT *auspiced by AbSec*

AbSec held a Healing Foundation funded workshop for the Girls at Caves Beach on the Central Coast on 5th – 10th May.

The workshop was held to get the Girls together and also have a healing process with Lorraine Peeters, who runs to Marumali Circle of Healing Program.

The Girls really enjoyed themselves, just being around each other and yarning and talking about when they were growing up together.

There were activities for the Girls and opportunities for them to also talk about their feelings and what they could do to make things better for each other.

AbSec also invited two commissioners, Helen Milroy and Jennifer Coate, from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to attend the workshop to give information to the Girls about the Commission and how they can talk to someone if they want to make a submission.

NAIDOC 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013

AbSec hosted a NAIDOC morning for The Stolen Generations members and carers to attend. The theme was 'Digital TV Get Ready' change over. The ladies really enjoyed themselves just sitting around yarning and having a good laugh.

### **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

AbSec held a forum on the 4<sup>th</sup> July for our member agencies and other colleagues in NSW Aboriginal non-government organisations (NGOs) and peak agencies.

The Royal Commission was set up to look into how institutions responsible for looking after children have handled and responded to allegations and cases of child sexual abuse. It will look into where systems have failed to protect children, and make recommendations about existing legislation, policies and practices to prevent child sexual abuse in institutions and how to better respond to allegations and case.

AbSec invited Commissioners Helen Milroy, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Winthrop Professor and Director, Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health UWA and Jennifer Coate, Judge of the Family Court of Australia, to inform our agencies about the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The aim of the meeting was to bring Aboriginal agencies from across sectors together to discuss ways to facilitate participation of our clients and communities and co-ordinate cross sector support. Chris Snewin, Stakeholder Engagement Manager from the Royal Commission was also in attendance.

There was a great turn up by a range of organisations and we very much appreciated their coming along and taking part, including from all the peak Aboriginal organisations, the Kinchela Boys and Stolen Generations Council Inc, and the Shed. We all had opportunities to hear how the Royal Commission will roll out, about the Commission's plans to facilitate community participation and provide support and we were able to ask questions directly of the Commissioners about how our community members and clients could take part. A representative from the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agencies (VACCA) Royal Commission programme attended and filled participants in about how they were sharing information between Aboriginal agencies and with community members to support them to take part. There was very positive feedback about how helpful and informative Commissioners Milroy and Coate had been – and that they were solid!





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Peak agency representatives present from the Aboriginal Land Council, the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT, the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council and AbSec chair Dana Clark and CEO Angela Webb agreed to form a peak working group. The group will help ensure agency plans and community responses are well planned, integrated and in a strong spirit of working together to support our communities to be supported to take part and ensure their voices are heard in the Royal Commission.

CEO Angela Webb undertook that AbSec would initiate and organise the meetings. The first meeting will take place in the coming weeks and outcomes will be shared through the newsletter and through our networks.

Anyone interested in finding out more about AbSec's work in relation to the Royal Commission should contact Dave Tierney, Senior Programs Manager, KTS & Communities at the office on 9559 5299 or at [family@absec.org.au](mailto:family@absec.org.au).

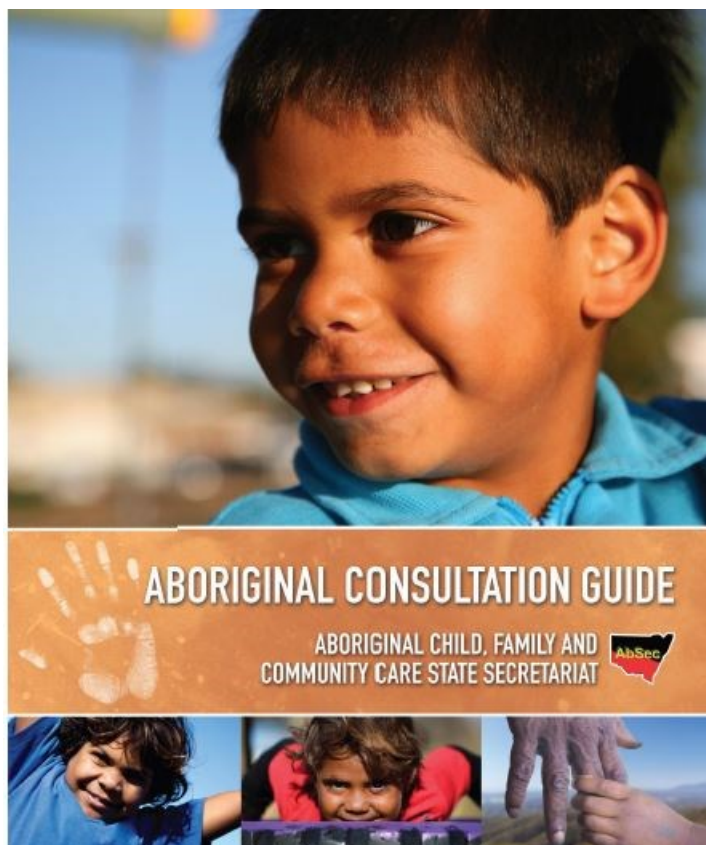
## Aboriginal Consultation Guide

Aboriginal Consultation Guide provides a practical framework to assist Non-Government Organisations to work consistently, effectively and sensitively with Aboriginal children, families and communities when providing out-of-home-care (OOHC) services.

The guide highlights the legislative requirements of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* that specifically relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including self-determination, participation in decision making and the placement principles and provides practical advice to assist NGO's to apply these requirements in their day to day work with Aboriginal children and families.

This guide supports a standard and practical approach to Aboriginal identification, Aboriginal consultations and cultural support planning to assist the NGO sector to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC.

We hope that agencies and workers use the guide when they are consulting with Aboriginal families and communities to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children receive the best culturally appropriate outcomes.





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## AbSec Staff

### Executive

**Angela Webb**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Gail Pencheff**  
Executive Assistant to CEO

**Shandel Tarabay**  
Web & Publications Officer

**Jodie Porter**  
Conference Co-ordinator

### Keep Them Safe & Communities

**David Tierney**  
Senior Manager KTS & Communities

**Brad Delaney**  
PACT Program Manager

**Paul Dutton**  
Family Group Conferencing Officer

**Noel Walker**  
Workforce Development Officer

### Transition

**Nick Corrigan**  
Senior Manager Transition

**Barry Lenihan**  
Capacity Building Manager

**Peter Jones**  
Accreditation Officer

**Wendy Hermeston**  
Senior Research and Policy Officer

**Julie Power**  
Practice Accreditation Officer

**Greg Bennet**  
Agency Support Officer

**Noeleen Timbery**  
Agency Support Officer

### Foster

**Tracey Keevers-Keller**  
Senior Manager Training & Support

**Vicki Barton**  
Manager Foster Care Support

**Matthew Simpson**  
Project Manager

**Debbie Skinner**  
Regional Care Support Worker  
North Western Region

**Julie O'Brien**  
Regional Care Support Worker  
North Western Region

**Vacant**  
Regional Carer Support Worker  
Southern Region

**Barry Duroux**  
Regional Carer Support Worker  
Northern Region

### Finance

**Lyn Gall**  
Senior Manager Finance

**Pina Bargenda**  
Accounts Officer

**Brian Edwards**  
Reception

**Jessie Longbottom**  
Administrative Assistant

### Bringing Them Home Coordina- tor for The Stolen Generations NSW/ACT Inc.- Auspice by Absec

**June Christian**  
Bringing Them Home Coordinator,  
Stolen Generations Council NSW/ACT Inc.

## AbSec Board Members

**Dana Clarke**—Chairperson,  
Executive Officer - Burrun Dalai Out of Home Care &  
Family Support Service

**Amanda Bridge**—Vice Chairperson  
Manager of Child & Family Services, Biripi Aboriginal Medical  
Corporation

**Garry Matthews**—Treasurer  
Chief Executive Officer—Abcare, Coffs Harbour Aboriginal  
Family Community Care Centre

**Wayne Carroll**—Secretary  
Anglicare/Miyagan Out of Home Care

**Craig Ardler**—Board member  
Chief Executive Officer—South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal  
Corporation

**Lenore Marlowe**—Board member  
General Manager - Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Child and Family  
Network

**Tina McGhie**—Board member  
Coordinator - Myimbar, Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation

**Ernest Lovelock**—Board Member  
Director—Wundarra Services

**Barbara Kelly**—Board Member  
General Manager - Wandiyali ATSI

