



ATSIECSAG MONTHLY BULLETIN

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Welcome to our January/February Bulletin

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The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.

Robert M. Hutchins
1899-1977

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Hi my name is Christine Foreshew. I am a Wiradjuri woman raised in Sydney but was lucky enough to be born at a little place called Peak Hill outside Dubbo where I thoroughly enjoyed my formative years. Both my parents are Koori, Dad being Mervyn Towney (mad shearer) and my mother, Dorothy May Kilby (mad dancer).

I am a very proud mother of five and grandmother of 10. I have a history of over twenty years in Education and only just recently in Transition to School which led me to coming into ATSIECSAG in October last year to complete some work on the PSPI Project - mainly Resource Development, Parent Workshops and distribution of the great NIPPA packs.

The project finished last month and now I'm on board as the Conference Coordinator for our up and coming NSW Annual Aboriginal Early Childhood Conference in April 29 to 1 May, and no I can't take the credit for the stunning venue - Crowne Plaza Terrigal - as Damita did all the groundwork before I came on board.

On that note, I look forward to seeing you all there!

www.4allfree.com



The other kids say I'm adopted.



ANNUAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE 2009

This year's conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Terrigal. It is straight opposite the Terrigal Beach.

Registrations have now been sent and online registrations are also available on our website www.atsiecsag.org.au.

The hotel is currently undergoing renovations so some people may be accommodated at the Star Of The Sea Luxury Apartments. This is within walking distance of the Crowne Plaza. Delegates staying at the Star Of The Sea will still come to the Crowne Plaza for breakfast and dinner. Registrations must be received by April 10, 2009.

Please remember that it is up to participants to get themselves to Terrigal. Sydney Airport has a shuttle service that goes as far as Newcastle. Please ring 1300 888 445 for more details.

All forms pertaining to the conference are available to download from our website (www.atsiecsag.org.au)

UPDATES FROM THE 2008 EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

The Jo Pender Scholarship

The Jo Pender Scholarship was awarded to Rhondalene Paulsen, studying Aboriginal Early Childhood Studies at Macquarie University.

Youth Speaker

Congratulations to Maiquilla Brown who was awarded the NSW Board of Studies President's Award for being the highest Indigenous student in her HSC Aboriginal Studies. She was also presented with the Queens Guide at Government House in August. The Queens Guide is the peak achievement for the Girl Guides.

ATSIECSAG AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 April 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Terrigal. Full and Associate members are encouraged to attend, however only full members are able to vote. This year all positions except the MACS Representative, are up for nominations including President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary plus three other vacancies for members to be part of the Management Committee. You would have by now received nomination and membership renewal forms, so get involved, re-join and nominate! Your membership must be paid prior to the AGM.

WELCOME!

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new MACS Representative, Mary Chatfield to the ATSIECSAG Management Committee.

A NOTE FROM CATHERINE'S DESK

Happy New Year to all and hope 2009 will be a great year for all of you.

Just to let you know that if your bookkeeper requires training in finance, budgeting or MYOB, please do not hesitate to contact myself direct on my mobile - 0412 231 723 or the office (02)9516 4473 to book in as it is first in best dressed.

I cannot stress the importance of having a budget and utilising the budget to make informed decisions. The only way you can do this is to track the actual spending against your budget. If you wish to know more... I am only a phone call away!

AGM for most preschools is also around the corner. If you require governance training for your new committee we are able to provide that too. All this training we provide at no cost to the preschool.

Catherine Chen

REGIONAL PRESCHOOL DIRECTORS WORKSHOPS

Throughout 2008, ATSIECSAG in partnership with Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) delivered five (5) workshops to Preschool Directors from services supported by ATSIECSAG.

Once again DEEWR has demonstrated their commitment in supporting the education of Aboriginal early childhood students by providing funding to conduct the workshops. Acknowledgement and gratitude must go to DEEWR for their ongoing and continued support.

Further partnerships were established by key stakeholders and government departments, in particular the Department of Community Services (DoCS), Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA), and Indigenous Co-ordinating Centres (ICC) and the Department of Education and Training (DET). Acknowledgement and thanks must also be given to them for their contribution to the successful delivery of the workshops.

Workshops were conducted in the following DEEWR regions: Coffs Harbour held in Ballina, Newcastle held in Port Macquarie, Tamworth held in Tamworth, Dubbo held in Dubbo and Queanbeyan and Sydney held in Mollmook.

The evaluation of the workshops provided data that indicated the workshops to be very successful with positive feedback being received. There was a variety of workshops delivered including, *Rights of the Director*, *Cultural Inclusive Curriculum*, *Key Issues in Early Childhood Services*, *Making the Preschool Profile User Friendly*, *Is Your Child School Ready* and *Transition-Better Relationships with DET Local Schools*.

With the undertaking of the workshops, it was anticipated that through the Directors participation, their knowledge and skills would be enhanced. This would result in more beneficial outcomes being achieved by all Indigenous preschool children and their families attending the preschool services throughout New South Wales whom ATSIECSAG provide support to.

Thanks must go to the many presenters who provided their time to the successful delivery of the workshops.

IMPORTANT!

This is a reprint of the email dated 10th February 2009, sent by Delma Davison to all of our preschools relating to Gunnawirra.

It has come to the attention of the Management Committee of ATSIECSAG Inc. that an organisation named Gunnawirra is claiming that ATSIECSAG endorses programmes offered by them. Please be informed that ATSIECSAG Inc. has no association with Gunnawirra, its workers and the work being conducted by this group within the Preschool services. Quite simply the programmes offered by Gunnawirra are not supported by ATSIECSAG Inc.

None of the programs being delivered by Gunnawirra have been presented to ATSIECSAG Inc. for our consideration whether these programmes are beneficial to Indigenous children, families or communities. Further, ATSIECSAG has not had the opportunity to consider whether such programmes would be in accordance with ATSIECSAG's protocols or philosophy. Therefore ATSIECSAG cannot support nor respect the programs offered by Gunnawirra.

Please be advised it is not the role of ATSIECSAG Inc. to endorse or not endorse private community agencies in the Early Childhood Sector. As an advisory group in the Early Childhood Sector, it must be noted that when we are approached by private practice/organisations we would encourage them to seek our advice and guidance however we do not and cannot mandate this process.

ATSIECSAG Inc. has not given any of the members of Gunnawirra permission or authorisation to be involved with your service. This is a function that ATSIECSAG Inc. does not have.

ATSIECSAG Inc. doesn't endorse any of the work Gunnawirra is undertaking and if your service chooses to participate it is at your individual service decision.

**Ethnic Child Care, Family and Community
Services Co-operative Limited**

BICULTURAL SUPPORT POOL



Indigenous Childcare Workers Required

The Ethnic Child Care Family & Community Services Co-operative is the Professional Support Service Provider (PSSP), of the Bicultural Support Pool for Children's Services Central.

The Bicultural Support Pool (formerly known as the Casual Ethnic Workers Pool), was established to support children from Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and Indigenous backgrounds in childcare across NSW.

The role of the Bicultural Support Workers is to:

- assist in the initial settling in period of children from CALD, refugee or Indigenous backgrounds for a limited period;
- provide initial language assistance to children, parents & staff, in order to help families and the service better communicate;
- introduce the child's culture to the service by providing culturally appropriate activities;
- promote children's self esteem about their cultural heritage;
- encourage maintenance of, and support the development of, the child's home language.

At present, we have a shortfall of Indigenous childcare workers to provide this much needed support to Indigenous children in care and are requiring assistance and support from organisations such as yours to circulate the information provided and promote the program.

Your involvement and support in assisting to recruit Casual Indigenous childcare workers would be very much appreciated. I have enclosed a brochure on the Bicultural Support Program, along with an A3 poster and A4 leaflets to be displayed and handed out to any interested applicants.

If you have any further enquiries regarding the Bicultural Support Pool, please do not hesitate to contact Pam or Meni on 9569 1288.

We look forward to hearing from any interested applicants.

Thanking you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Meni Trambouniaris

Bicultural Support Pool Co-ordinator

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MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204 AUSTRALIA

Tel: (02) 9569 1288
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Fax: (02) 9564 2772
Website: www.ecfsc.org

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Mobile Intensive Supported Playgroup

Awabakal co-op is currently recruiting 3 motivated and experienced team members for a mobile Supported Playgroup. The positions are currently funded until June 2010 and will be based at Awabakal Pre-School, Glendale.

Family Worker

35 hr p/w Qualifications desirable

The family worker will help to facilitate the playgroups, network with community and support and advocate on behalf of the families. The family worker will also be responsible for providing information to, and referrals for children and families to external support services. Strong record keeping skills are necessary.

2 Qualified and/or experienced child care workers (approx 24hr/week) are required to facilitate Supported playgroups. Role will include providing quality developmentally appropriate activities, modeling positive interactions with children, keeping accurate detailed records, and to pass on developmental information to parents when necessary.

Awabakal MACS Child Care Centre.

Two positions are currently available

Authorised Supervisor / Centre co-ordinator
Early childhood qualifications and a minimum 2 years experience in the industry is essential. Applicants must have a sound understanding of Children's Services regulations, knowledge of the administrative requirements of a child care centre, excellent communication, team work, motivational and leadership skills, as well as demonstrated ability to work with Aboriginal children and their families.

A genuine interest in working with Aboriginal children and their families is beneficial as is rostering and payroll.

Child Care Worker 38 hr/week

A motivated person is required to work with children aged 0 – 5. First aid certificate essential. Incumbent will have genuine interest in working with children, ability to relate well to children, good team member skills, communication, can take directions, and show initiative.

All positions are subject to a Working with Children's Check.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

Please let us know if your postal
address, email address,
phone and fax numbers change.

YARNIN' UP

The next edition of Yarnin Up
will be in June, please let us
know if you would like to
contribute to Yarnin Up or
the Monthly Bulletin.