

# Strengthening the Evaluation Capacity of Aboriginal Children & Community Services

Merridy Malin, Liz Orr, Debbie Moyle,  
Rebecca Kimlin, Vincent Bizzell, Ursula  
Montgomerie, Sonya Taylor Cassandra  
Taylor, Joelene Rankine



# Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

- We acknowledge the Noongar people as the traditional owners of the Perth area
- We honour their elders and their culture
- We also honour other Aboriginal elders here today
- Thank you for having us on your land

Welcome everyone

# Introductions to us

- Merridy Malin – Aboriginal Health Council of SA
- Liz Orr - SNAICC Resource Service, Melbourne
- Debbie Moyle – Department of Education & Children's Services, SA
- Rebecca Kimlin – Vincent Bizzell - Aboriginal Family Support Services, Adelaide
- Ursula Montgomerie – Minya Bunhii child care, Ceduna
- Sonya and Cassandra Taylor – Weena Mooga Gu Gudba Inc., after school hours care, Ceduna
- Joelene Rankine – Kura Yerlo Child Care, Adelaide

# Outline of the presentation

- Background to SNAICC Partners in Action Research and Evaluation PARE project - Liz
- South Australia PARE- the full story - Merridy
- Mentoring Aboriginal Way - Debbie
- Action Research & Evaluation projects
  - Bec and Vincent
  - Ursula, Sonya and Cassandra
  - Joelene
- Where to from here- PARE watch this space!

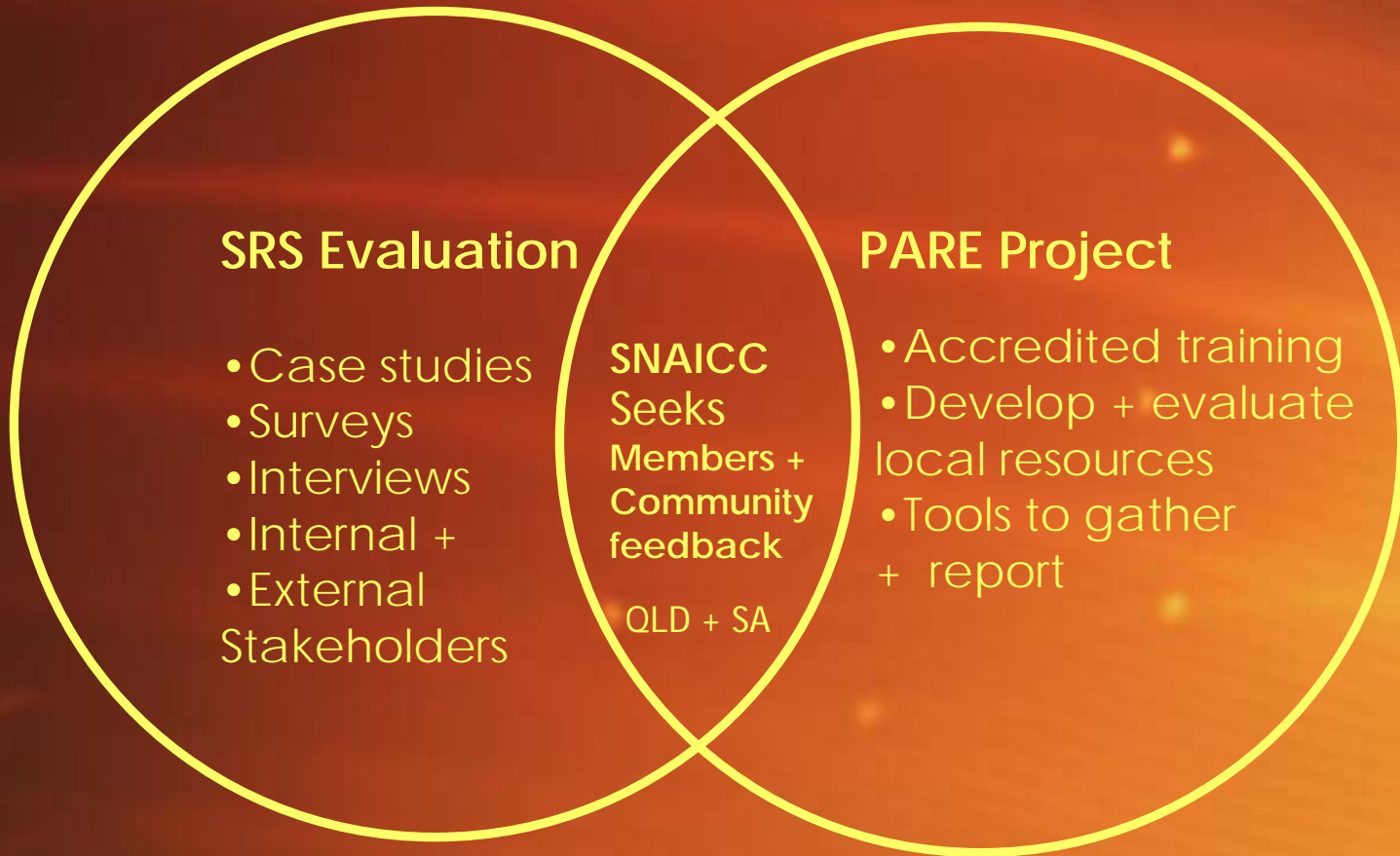
# Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

- The national peak organisation representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's and child and family welfare services.
- Represents and advocates for the interests of indigenous children
- Was formally established in 1981 and first received government funding in 1983.
- Is governed by a nationally elected executive of approximately 20 service representatives who also participate on a wide range of working groups and state and national committees.

# SNAICC Resource Service (SRS)

- Works across family and children's services
- Fill gaps in resources
- Promotes information sharing
- Evaluates resources

# Partners in Action Research Evaluation(PARE): Growing what works



# Partners in Action Research Evaluation (PARE) Aims

- deliver accredited community based evaluation training
- gather feedback about SRS resources and activities
- develop evaluation tools



# Why evaluate Aboriginal Early childhood and child and family well being resources and projects?

- Growing what works
- Cultural awareness
- Making and learning at the same time
- Capacity strengthening
- Identifying gaps
- Accountability



# Has PARE met its stated aims?

## 1. Deliver Accredited Training

Facilitated in Qld and SA, informed by state based reference groups and partnerships built with IPSU's

- 21 children's services workers & committee of management representatives + 4 child & family wellbeing workers in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services
- Completed 3 accredited modules at a Certificate 4 or Diploma level since the projects first workshop in July 2007.

# Has PARE met its stated aims?

## 2. Feedback about SRS resources and activities

Specific feedback about:

- Men and parenting posters
- Dreaming Resource
- National Aboriginal and Islander Childrens Day 2006 + 2007 activity kit
- Through Young Black Eyes (TYBE) community leaders guide and workshop kit

Informs the ongoing development and implementation of SRS projects + activities including :

- Local posters + calendars
- Men's parenting tip sheets + radio program
- National Aboriginal Islander Children's Day activities
- Partnership work with IPSU
- TYBE workshop kit
- Local story books
- Strength cards and Out of Home Care resources

# Has PARE met its stated aims?

## 3. Develop evaluation tools

SRS evaluation story **poster**

PARE Workshop evaluation **poster**

Evaluation training **workbooks** and **learners guides** + links to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander evaluation and research sites on SNAICC SRS website.

Sample evaluation plan guide + local example presentations+ case studies available on **SNAICC SRS website**

**Radio program** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait community radio

Further tools in development -**tip sheets, camp oven kit**

# QLD PARE Evaluation Poster

- Poster about action research evaluation created at first workshop in Cherbourg
- The word PICTURE -is used to explain why evaluation is important- this perspective was facilitated by Uncle Bill Thaiday from Woorabinda
- Aboriginal children's services value evaluation - words to describe this are included in smaller bars across the poster

# PARE Poster



Giving value and strength to our work and what we do for our children   Its about me, its about you..   Knowing if we are on the right track or not   Getting community people to have their say   Strengthening



## Partners in Action Research Evaluation (PARE)

**Evaluation:** a Picture and Story of the Cherbourg workshop July 2007



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PLACE  
MAGINATION  
COLOUR  
TEXTURE  
NITE  
REMEMBERING  
MOTION

Doing even better next time and knowing why and how   Its valuing what matters ...   Change, refine, learn, improve   Old and new ways to share our stories   Walk the talk   Valuing our ways - mine and yours



Queensland Partners in Action Research Evaluation: SNAICC Resource Service, the Indigenous Professional Support Unit of Queensland, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the Multifunctional Aboriginal Childrens Services in QLD, Gundoo Day Care Centre, Uindoonoo Child Care Centre and Gooddo Day Care Centre.



# South Australian Program





# SNAICC and AHCSA

- Aboriginal and Islander peak bodies for community control in
  - Child care and children and family well being at a national level
  - Health and Substance misuse services in SA and Registered Training Organisation
- A valuable partnership



# Aboriginal Health Council of SA

- AHCSA –Peak body representing
  - Aboriginal community controlled health services in SA
  - Substance misuse services
  - Aboriginal Health Advisory Committees in SA at a state and national levelAlso is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO)
- **Aim: Increase numbers of Aboriginal researchers & the research capacity of Aboriginal health organisations**

# Our consultations revealed

**Aboriginal health services each wanted a resident researcher who could:**

- do research in their own communities and services.
- assess the quality of research proposed by mainstream researchers working with their people
- write funding submissions
- use evaluation to strengthen the quality of practices in health services

# National search revealed

There was only one existing research course that:

- Was at the Vocational Education & Training level which
- **Was tailored to the needs of Aboriginal health and community services workers**
- Taught research and evaluation on the job within the community service
- Could be completed in a year

# The Certificate IV Indigenous Research Capacity Building



James Cook University

# Contributing to the Curriculum and delivery

- AHCSA curriculum development committee
  - Aboriginal researchers, health workers, educators
- PARE reference group:
  - Sharron Williams (AFSS), Debbie Bond (ARMSU), Debbie Moyle, Ursula Montgomerie, Liz and MM



## Collaboration


- SNAICC Resource Service
- SA Aboriginal Resource & Management Unit
- Network SA
- AHCSA

# Learner's guide

**SNAICC**

**Participatory Action Research  
Evaluation**

**Learner's Guide**



**Workshop 1 - Planning the evaluation**

Name: .....

Phone number: .....

PARE learner's Guide workshop 1 - 1 -

[http://srs.snaicc.asn.au/projects/default\\_gallery.cfm?loadref=68](http://srs.snaicc.asn.au/projects/default_gallery.cfm?loadref=68)

# PARE short course – Action Research and Evaluation

Undertaking - 3 subjects from Research Capacity Building course

- 19 students
- Partnership with SNAICC & ARMSU
- 2 block release workshops, 2.5days each
- 2 workbooks
- Evaluation of SNAICC resources in workplace
- Mentoring support by partners' staff

# Adding Value to children & community services by

- Professional Development of staff in evaluation and action research
  - Highlighting evaluation/research skills already have
  - Adding additional skills
- Strengthening the services by developing programs through action research and continuous improvement to practice



# Celebrating accredited training-photos here



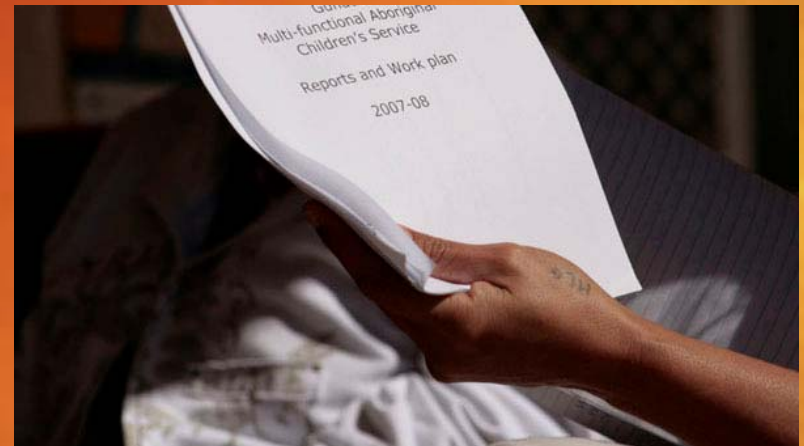
# What are we learning about community evaluation?

- Everyday evaluation
- One size doesn't fit all
- Yarning + dialogue + conventional methods
- Hands on evaluation of resources and activities grows additional resources
- Aboriginal mentors - more than value add



# Where to from here?

- Future evaluation work
- IPSU, SNAICC and services ongoing partnership work



# Websites

SNAICC Resource Service- project/ PARE for resources + links

[www.snaicc.asn.au](http://www.snaicc.asn.au)

Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia-

[www.ahcsa.org.au](http://www.ahcsa.org.au)

QCOSS/Indigenous Professional Support Unit IPSU

[www.ipsu.com.au](http://www.ipsu.com.au)

Co-operative research centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health

[www.crcah.org.au/research/researchtransfer.html#RT\\_tools](http://www.crcah.org.au/research/researchtransfer.html#RT_tools)

The communities and families clearinghouse Australia

[www.aifs.gov.au/cafca/index.html](http://www.aifs.gov.au/cafca/index.html) see action research

**Thank you**