

Member profile: Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

ARACY recognises the work of SNAICC during this National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week, and National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NAICD) on August 4.



Established in 1981, SNAICC is the national non-government peak body representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

SNAICC's membership is drawn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based services in early childhood, out-of-home care, link up, youth and family support and includes a network of more than 2000 organisations. The SNAICC National Executive, representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities Australia-wide, became an ARACY member in 2003.

SNAICC Chair and Executive Officer of Hunter Aboriginal Children's Services, Steve Larkins is a member of the Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support (CAARS) Taskforce co-convened by ARACY and the Federal Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The [CAARS Taskforce](#) is a group of representatives from government, non-government and research sectors, which have come together to promote a shared responsibility for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.



"The CAARS inaugural meeting was a really good start to addressing the issues of child protection," said Steve. "It was especially pleasing to see that in all aspects of discussion, everyone was aware of cultural implications of the proposed assessment tool."

Steve is a proud Worimi man from the NSW Great Lakes with a long experience, both practical and in policy, with Aboriginal youth and children in out-of-home care. Steve welcomes the recent appointment of Frank Hytten as new SNAICC Executive Officer, stepping in after the resignation of Julian Pocock, after 11 years with SNAICC. Frank Hytten has a long career in community development work, including the last 10 years with Reconciliation Victoria.

SNAICC wishes ARACY Update readers a happy NAIDOC Day and NAICD children's day.

For all the news and SNAICC resources, visit the [SNAICC website](#).