



## Newsletter June 2012

**"This is all about our kids as they are our future !"**  
**Aunty Sue Blacklock**

Things have been very busy in the last few months since our successful launch, as we negotiate the roll out of the existing resources and begin work on our next projects. We feel like busy but very excited worker bees! **In a nutshell...**

### WINANGAY have begun implementation!

#### Rolling out the Resources

- 👉 Discussions have been occurring with representatives of the Queensland peak body (QATSSIPP), and the SA, WA and NT governments to consider implementation strategies for the roll out of these resources. Conversation has begun with other states and locations about how it fits with other initiatives.
- 👉 In NSW we have been talking with departmental representatives and working with services to provide customised training. We have also had positive meetings with both the Children's Guardian and Ombudsman.
- 👉 Winangay met with representatives from the Aboriginal References Group in the FACS it was great to hear their response to the tools
- 👉 We have also been talking with SNAICC about the best way of training and supporting Aboriginal workers to access and use these tools.

#### Training underway in assessment tools

Quality training and equipping of workers is essential to any rollout process. Agencies have begun training their staff in the new approach and resources. If you want to book in for training ring 0421912757. Our training costs are very reasonable and we give priority to Aboriginal agencies.

#### FAHCSIA Support!

Winangay are delighted that FAHCSIA have agreed to print the first round of the resources. This is a wonderful initiative as we will be able to provide the resource to organisations undertaking the training.

Training is essential and the cost is negotiated with each agency. The FAHCSIA initiative means that at present we don't have to charge for printing of the main Aboriginal assessment resource which is a considerable saving for services.

**If you want to know more** about the tools or training then ring us or come to our presentations at the ACWA conference in Sydney in August or the national Foster and Kinship Care conference in Melbourne in October.

**WINANGAY** in Gamilaraay (Kamilaroi) means: to know, to think, to love, to understand.

The **WINANGAY** Kinship Care Resources are informed by research, practice wisdom, Aboriginal Elders, carers, academics and service providers.

#### Winangay tools are:

**Culturally appropriate, respectful collaborative, flexible and empowering yarning and visual tools that are easy to use, support families and develop relationships**

#### Current tools

- 👉 **Aboriginal Kinship Carer Assessment tool** (for new carers)
- 👉 **Aboriginal Kinship Carer Assessment tool** (for existing carers)
- 👉 **Kinship Carer Assessment tool** (for new carers)
- 👉 **Kinship Carer Assessment tool** (for existing carers)

#### New developments

- 👉 We have developed an Aboriginal Kinship Carer Review tool (for ongoing carers) this tool is being trialled currently with both kinship and foster carers.

#### Under development (in draft)

- 👉 Aboriginal Carer Training Resources
- 👉 Social Emotional Wellbeing cards for case planning and support
- 👉 Aboriginal Young people's rights cards
- 👉 Kids say and carers say card - triggers for ongoing participation and conversations

#### On the drawing board

- 👉 Aboriginal disability cards and support

**WINANGAY Resources** is a small not-for-profit Aboriginal controlled non government organisation established to develop resources.

## Community Cabinet Meeting in Parramatta

On the 4th April Karen Menzies (Vice Chair of Winangay) and Paula Hayden (Public Officer) attended the Parramatta meeting to meet with Minister Jenny Macklin (FAHCSIA). However when she was unexpectedly unable to attend, Karen and Paula had the opportunity to meet with Minister Brendan O'Connor and to discuss Winangay's work, tools and future directions with him. Minister O'Connell commented on the value of the resources and their significance. He offered to discuss this further with Minister Macklin and convey to her the importance of Aboriginal workers being provided with training and culturally appropriate tools like the Winangay Aboriginal Kinship Care Assessment Tools. Karen and Paula also spoke briefly with the Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who expressed her interest in hearing about Winangay Resources.



Following the community cabinet meeting at Parramatta Winangay

received a letter from Minister Jenny Macklin to let us know that: "The Community Housing and Disability Services Ministers agreed in March that Winangay Aboriginal Kinship Care Tool should be incorporated into practice in all states and territories as a culturally appropriate good practice guide". The letter went on to say...

**"I anticipate this resource will support Aboriginal Kinship Carers, leading to improved outcomes for carers and children in care, and ultimately for the broader Aboriginal population"**

## Winangay Thought for the Week

"Quality outcomes come with quality support, .....working together is the pathway to change"

## New Review Tool is under pilot

After requests from a number of services, Winangay Resources have developed a new review tool to allow workers to conduct annual reviews of placements and carers. The tool has been derived from the main assessment resource. Like all the Winangay resources it involves a collaborative process with workers and carers working together to identify strengths and concerns, then creating an action plan to meet any identified unmet needs.

The review tool covers key aspects of care including:

### Session 1: with carers

- Adjusting to kids, (impact of caring on carer's family)
- Quality of placement issues
- Growing Kids Strong (explores connections, education, emotional needs, health & other needs)
- Staying Strong as a Carer (self care, community involvement, support, mental health and AOD issues)



### Session 2: with carers

- Safety, rules and discipline, contact,
- Working with others

### Kids session

A **KID's Say** session ensures that kids have the opportunity to be heard and participate in decision making

The tool comes complete with a workers guide, a series of questions put together in a conversational format and template for completing Action Plans and a Final Report Summary.

Initial feedback has been very positive, particularly from carers. We look forward to further results.

"An easy to use, collaborative and engaging tool it provides the foundation for an effective case planning process."

## Thanks for the support along the way.....

We appreciate all the encouragement and feedback we have been receiving from around Australia. We are delighted that so many people have been as excited as we are by the Winangay vision and are showing this by helping in really practical ways like proof reading or admin assistance. Thank you all! We particularly want to thank Michael Shepherd who has generously offered to find time in his busy practice to provide Winangay with pro bono legal services. What a diamond he is and we really appreciate his wisdom, support and input.

**WINANGAY Resources – Stronger Ways with Aboriginal Children and Families**

**NSW INC9895090**

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