



AUSTRALIA'S OUTBACK
NORTHERN TERRITORY

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE 2005

Friday 29th July - Sunday 31st July 2005

Alice Springs Convention Centre
Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia

***Living and Learning Together:
A Celebration and
Appreciation of Diversity***



**NT FOSTER CARERS
ASSOCIATION INC**



Welcome



I am delighted to be the Patron of the 2005 National Foster Care Conference, the theme of which is **Living and Learning Together: A Celebration and Appreciation of Diversity**.

The variety of speakers and workshops this program offers reflects the diversity of needs and issues currently impacting upon foster care. As the conference is being held in Alice Springs, it is fitting that the program raises issues pertinent to Indigenous children and their families. Participants are encouraged to capture all of the learning experiences that the conference provides. Learn from the presenters but learn from each other too. Share your personal success stories, and in doing so, unite together to celebrate the many positive initiatives and developments in foster care. Most importantly, use the conference to build and maintain your networks. Explore better ways of working together, as effective and practical partnerships are the basis upon which lasting changes for children and young people in foster care are created. The company of friends, the experience and wisdom of colleagues, and the opportunity to explore the beauty of the heart of Australia will surely make this the most memorable conference yet.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Marion Scrymgour MLA

Northern Territory Minister for Family and Community Services



OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER, MAGISTRATE SUE GORDON, AM

Magistrate Gordon was removed from her mother at four years of age. In the early 1970s Magistrate Gordon commenced a long association with the Pilbara region, working mostly in Aboriginal Affairs with both urban and traditional people. In 1986 Magistrate Gordon was appointed as Commissioner for Aboriginal Planning becoming the first Aboriginal person to head a government department in Western Australia. In 1988 she was appointed to the Perth Children's Court becoming the first full-time and first Aboriginal Magistrate in Western Australia and continues in the position. In 1990 she became one of the first of five appointed Commissioners to run the newly established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission for a period of one year. In 1993, Magistrate Gordon was awarded an Order of Australia - Australia Medal - for commitment to Aboriginal people and community affairs. In 2000, Magistrate Gordon was appointed as Chairperson of the 'Inquiry into the Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities' known as the 'Gordon Inquiry'. Magistrate Gordon has a Bachelor of Laws and in 2003 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Western Australia in recognition of her contribution to the community.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER, CHRIS BURKE

Director, Gracie Productions

Many delegates will remember from previous National Foster Care Conferences, how Chris and Billy (the puppet) have had us rolling on the floors with laughter by their stories about children, families and out of home care. Chris has 30 years experience as a counsellor, educator and puppeteer and is also the Creative Director of the national award winning Jannawi Kids puppets.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, LORIAN HAYS and SUE MIERS

Lorian Hays, an Indigenous Australian, is a descendant of the Bidjerra people of Central Western Queensland's Carnarvon Gorge.

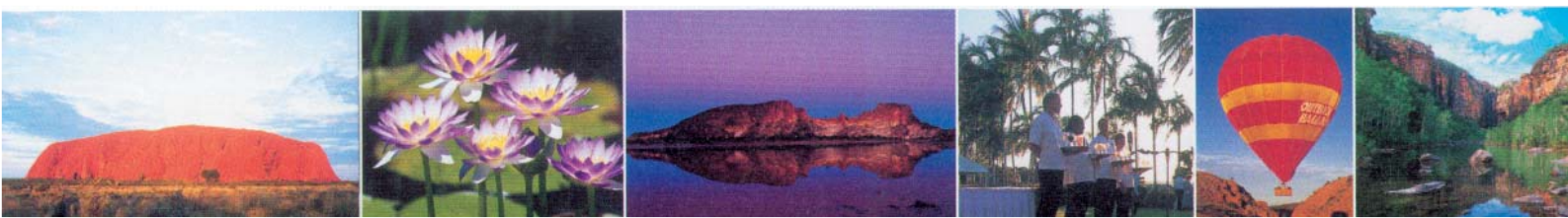
Lorian was a mature-age student and now holds an undergraduate degree in Applied Health Science and a Master's degree in Epidemiology. Lorian has been actively researching and initiating community-based fetal alcohol syndrome disorder (FASD) education programs with the Indigenous population of Queensland's Cape York Peninsula. She has recently returned from Canada where she presented at the 2005 FASD National Conference in British Columbia.

Sue Miers is a long term foster parent (over 20 years) of a 24 year old daughter who has partial fetal alcohol syndrome (pFAS). She has lobbied extensively on both a state and national level to raise awareness about FAS issues and is a founding member of Australia's first and only FAS support group - NOFASARD (National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Related Disorders).

Thank you to our Sponsors



➔ Download a registration form and book your travel at www.fostercare.org.au



Who should attend?

- Foster Carers
- Indigenous Carers
- Kin and Family Carers
- Government Workers and Managers
- Non-Government Workers and Managers
- Key stakeholders in the Sector
- Social Work Students
- Academics/Lecturers
- Researchers

Conference Venue - Alice Springs

In the heart of Central Australia lies the famous outback town of Alice Springs, a welcome oasis for travellers since the 1870s. Alice Springs is home to about 24,000 people and to the local Aboriginal people, the Arrernte, Alice Springs is called Mparntwe. It is linked to the sacred places where the Caterpillar people, the original Aboriginal Dreamtime inhabitants, came from in the nearby MacDonnell Ranges. Today, in less than three hours by air from Sydney, travellers can set off on a camel, quad bike, hot-air balloon or bicycle and live the life of a modern adventurer. Start a journey into the real outback at Alice Springs, 450 kms from Uluru/Ayers Rock. Nestled between the East and West MacDonnell Ranges, it's a town full of surprises. The Todd River winds through the town but rarely sees water. The famous Royal Flying Doctor Service is based here and provides an aerial medical service to outback residents. The School of the Air broadcasts lessons over the radio to students living in remote areas of the Northern Territory. This 'classroom' covers an area bigger than several European countries. Alice Springs is the hub for a variety of professional Central Australian touring options. There are backpacking tours, specialised four-wheel-drive treks, comfortable coach tours and luxurious small plane charters. It's well worth adding additional days to an itinerary to explore this outback location.

Conference Program

Friday, 29 July 2005

From - 2.00pm	Registration
3.00pm - 4.00pm	Afternoon Tea / Welcome reception
4.00pm - 5.00pm	Traditional welcome and Official Opening
5.00pm - 7.30pm	Conference Overview
	National and State Review
	National Foster Care Plan Update and report
7.30 pm	Optional dinner at the Overlanders Steakhouse

Saturday, 30 July 2005

9.00am	Traditional Welcome
9.10am - 10.15am	Opening Keynote - Magistrate Sue Gordon, AM (WA)
10.15am - 10.45am	Snapshots
10.45am - 11.15am	Morning tea
11.15am - 12.45pm	Workshops (Group A)
12.45pm - 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm - 2.45pm	Keynote 2 - Sue Miers (SA) and Lorian Hays (Qld) - Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
2.45pm - 3.00pm	Snapshots
3.00pm - 3.30pm	Afternoon tea
3.30pm - 5.00pm	Workshops (Group B)
7.30pm - 11.00pm	Conference Dinner, Alice Springs Convention Centre Tribute to Kid's Champions and sector achievers Presentation of National Recognition Awards

Sunday, 31 July 2005

9.00am - 10.30am	Workshops (Group C)
10.30am - 11.00am	Morning tea
11.00am - 11.30am	Snapshots
11.30am - 11.45am	2006 Conference Preview Presentation
11.45am - 12.30pm	Motivational keynote - Chris Burke, Billie and kids
12.30pm - 1.30pm	Conference Reflection - Professor Dorothy Scott, AFCA Future Directions, Evaluation and Close Lunch
1.30pm	

Program Highlights

FRIDAY 29th JULY 2005 - OPTIONAL DINNER - OVERLANDERS STEAKHOUSE

Get a group together and join us on Friday night for a real Territorian experience. The 'Drover's Blowout' is a 4 course meal including soup, platters of crocodile, emu, kangaroo & camel, main of barramundi or steak, dessert, tea & coffee. Wear (or bring) your jeans, hats or belts and get 'branded' with the STH brand.

SATURDAY 30th JULY 2005 - NATIONAL RECOGNITION AWARDS - CONFERENCE DINNER

The inaugural National Foster Care Recognition Awards presentation was part of the 2004 conference program with certificates recognising the sustained and significant service of carers being presented at the conference dinner. This initiative has now become a national event to celebrate the commitment and value of foster carers.

➔ Download a registration form and book your travel at www.fostercare.org.au



Workshops

Workshop options - Group A – Saturday morning

1. Providing a secure and healthy emotional environment and secure attachments in out of home care - **Susan Von Leonhardi**
2. Cross Cultural Fostering - **Jodie Satour and Robyn Donnelly** and Kinship care - Mapping our progress in Central Australia - **Anne Williams, David Ross and Colleen Hays**
3. Your stories - Arts intervention models for Life Story work facilitation - **CREATE (Rob Ball and others)**
4. Is anyone listening to me? Effective Support systems - What they are and what they definitely are not? - **Heather Lovatt** and What makes for best practice in foster carers working with birth families - Views from a research study - **Ros Thorpe and Chris Klease**
5. Domestic Violence - **Chris Burke**
6. Aboriginal foster care policy and issues - **Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)** and Foster Care policy issues - **Australian Foster Care Association**

Workshop options - Group B – Saturday afternoon

1. Training and assessment of Indigenous carers - **SNAICC, Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFFS) and Yourganup panel** and You make the difference - Recruiting foster carers in SA - **Karyn Webb and Alisa Marshall**
2. Interpreting behaviour through a Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder lens - Childhood growth and development & neurological aspects of FASD and how that impacts on behaviour including strategies for success - **Sue Miers and Lorian Hays**
3. Indigenous Communities and out of home care: Models of Best Practice - **Daryl Higgins, Nicholas Richardson and Leah Bromfield, National Child Protection Clearing House**
4. Support in Kith and Kin - **Cas O'Neill** and Learning from each other - Kinship care - It's all relative - **Susie and Chelsea Edwards**
5. Failure to thrive as an issue in Child Protection in Central Australia - **Nettie Flaherty** and Shout it Loud - Child sexual abuse in remote areas - **Sandra McElligot and Julie Wright**
6. Outstation Placement - Towards a solution? - **Jackie Walsh and Trish Thomas**

Workshop options - Group C – Sunday morning

1. Working toward better outcomes for Indigenous children in out of home care - The experience of LAC in the Hunter Aboriginal Children's Services - **Steve Larkin** and Exploring the cultural appropriateness of NSW foster care training and assessment packages - **Mhairi Barnes**
2. Creating Hope - Together lets find a solution for FAS children and young people - **Sue Miers and Lorian Hays**
3. Cultural maintenance panel - **SNAICC, AFSS and Yourganup panel**
4. Growing up our kids safe and strong - An Indigenous and Kin Care training package used in Western Australia - **Susan Von Leonhardi**
5. Toward better outcomes for young people leaving care - **Badal Moslehuddin and Philip Mendes** and Take 2 - Developments in trauma and attachment theories and therapeutic responses - **Laurel Downey**
6. Autism and associated disorders - **(Speaker to be confirmed)**

Additional information on presenters and workshop options is available from the conference website

Children / Young Peoples' Program

Children/young peoples' program

Local provider "Lil' Antz" is offering a weekend program for children between 0 - 12yrs. A minimum number of 10 children is required, and a maximum number of 30 places is available. "Lil' Antz" will provide all meals and nappies as part of the cost.

An all inclusive weekend rate of \$310.00 is available. Delegates may also register for child care on a sessional basis.

Friday 4.30pm - 7.30pm	\$45.00
Saturday night 7.30 pm - 1.00pm	\$50.00
Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm & Sunday 9.00am - 1.30pm	\$185.00

"Lil' Antz" are happy to consider the care of children with special needs and evening care can be provided on site in hotel rooms if preferred. Transport to child care for interstate and intra-state visitors is available. Delegates may be eligible for the child care rebate and "Lil' Antz" are able to assist you with your enquiries regarding this. **Please liaise directly with "Lil' Antz" on (08) 8953 0015 regarding your child care needs and registration.**

