



As we await the final outcome of the Federal Election it is clear that a majority Coalition Government will have to be adept at negotiating with the Crossbench Senators in the Upper House. We are told that the final results for the Senate may still not be known for a week or two but it will be interesting to see how the crossbenchers will utilise their positions to bring about change. Only today it is being reported that Nick Xenophon and Andrew Wilkie are joining up again in efforts to tackle problem gambling (reviving work they began in 2010).

It will also be interesting to see the new Coalition Ministry. There is speculation it will not change all that much. We have had three Ministers of Social Services in the last two years so we look forward to hearing news of the decisions taken.

Also in the media today was news that one of the recent Ministers for Social Services, the Hon. Kevin Andrews, was handed the mantle of "Father of the House" from outgoing MP, the Hon. Phillip Ruddock (who retired at the last election following almost 43 years of service). The informal title is bestowed on the MP with the longest, unbroken record of Service in the House of Representatives and is seen as a 'wise elder' role. Kevin Andrews has been a sitting member in the House of Reps

for 25 years and sees the role as an opportunity to mentor new Members.

On another note, AGD is starting up its consultations with Family Law Services providers again (re: the KPMG Report) and will be in Brisbane on 28 and 29 July. The Department is also accepting written input, comments, feedback on the KPMG report that can be directed to Ms Tamsyn Harvey, Assistant Secretary Family Law Branch, Attorney-General's Department, 3-5 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600.

In this edition you will find information about:

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Best regards,  
Jackie Brady

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## **Movement in the sector**

There have been a number of leadership changes and organisational mergers in our sector over the last few weeks.

Many of you would be aware that Judith Cross, CEO from Relationships Australia SA for 15 years had announced her intention to step down from her position this year committing to stay on whilst a new CEO was recruited. Judith has been a sector leader, as well as a member of the FRSA Board, who will certainly be missed in this role when she leaves. Last week I learnt that Dr Claire Ralfs has been appointed as the new CEO. This is very exciting news for RASA and for the sector more

broadly. Claire has a long history of working with RASA, most recently as Deputy CEO, and will no doubt bring her own vision and leadership to the organisation when she takes up the role of CEO in October.

Kim O'Neill has moved on as CEO at FMC Mediation and taken up an exciting new role as CEO of "The Line", a national mental health organisation that provides 24/7 professional telephone, video and online chat counselling services, including Suicide Line and Men's Line. I know that Kim will excel in this dynamic area and look forward to seeing her influence shine through. Graeme Westaway will be Acting CEO at FMC while the Board recruits a new CEO.

I have also learnt that Marcelle Mogg, CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia, is moving on to a new role. She will leave CSSA at the end of October to take on the role of Group Director of Mission Integration at St John of God Health Care. She will no doubt continue to be a strong leader in the Catholic health and welfare sectors.

There have also been some significant organisational moves for a couple of FRSA's members.

Ngala and Geraldton Regional Community Education Centre (GRC) are finalising a merger following a long discussion between the two organisations about various forms of collaboration. Ngala's CEO, Ashley Reid, is committed to continuing to meet the service needs of the region in a way that honours the standing of each organisation within a framework that will deliver greater efficiency and effectiveness, especially regarding back office and support functions.

Anglicare Sydney and Anglican Retirement Villages have also merged to form a new organisation (yet to be named). Together, Anglicare Sydney and ARV reach about 50,000 people every year and it is anticipated that the merger will enable them to achieve better economies in scale and extend their ability to offer high quality social, welfare and aged care services.



## **FRSA National Conference Update**

As planning continues for the FRSA National Conference 2016, we would now like to remind those interested in Sponsorship opportunities at our Conference, that our Conference Sponsorship Prospectus is available.

Sponsorship of the FRSA Conference is a great way to promote your organisation/business to the Family and Relationship Service sector. Benefits to sponsoring FRSA conference include; brand exposure, variety of sponsorship packages available, complimentary registrations and tickets and networking opportunities with leaders in the sector and conference delegates.

Prospective sponsors can view the sponsorship opportunities for the FRSA Conference in the Sponsorship Prospectus, [available here](#). If you wish for a hard copy version, please contact [Roslyn](#).

We are currently finishing off the Abstract review process and anticipate we will be communicating with those who have submitted abstracts by the end of next week.

The program will be released shortly thereafter.

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FRSA held a competition at the FRSA Booth at the recent Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) Conference 2016 in Melbourne encouraging attendees to sign up to the FRSA Conference newsletter to go into the draw to win 1x free Conference registration.

We are very excited to announce the winner is Mal Galbraith from FAST NT! We look forward to seeing you at the Conference Mall!

To those who are interested in registering to attend the FRSA Conference, please click [here](#). For any other information, visit our [website](#).

Congratulations to Anne Hollonds on her first, very successful AIFS Conference, if you weren't there, I encourage you to check out the presentations and slides as they become available on the [AIFS website](#).



## Celebrating milestones for Family Relationship Centres and Communities for Children programmes

On 1 July 2006, the first 15 Family Relationship Centres opened their doors in Australia. 65 centres down the track, FRSA will be marking the 10 year milestone at the National Conference later in the year. We will also be looking to celebrate the 10 year milestone for the Communities for Children programme (which was actually last year).

To help prepare for celebrations, FRSA is calling out to all those in the sector who have photos, particular memories and stories that they would like to share about the development of Family Relationship Centres and CFC programmes over the years.

Please send them through to us [here](#) or call Roslyn Mertin on (02) 6162 1811 who can interview you and take down some notes to craft a story capturing your memories.

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## **Social Innovation Schemes**

### **Westpac Social Change Fellowships**

Westpac Bicentennial Foundation will be giving away ten Westpac Social Change Fellowships valued at \$50,000 each. The fellowships are aimed at those who have ideas to bring positive social change to Australians.

Applications for the fellowship close **19 August 2016**. Please see [here](#) for more detail.

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### **David Clarke Social Innovation Fellowships**

David Clarke Social Innovation Fellowships recognise, promote and reward innovative ideas that address social needs, and encourage lateral thinking on community issues.

Recipients of the 2016 Fellowships will receive a grant payable to their non-profit organisation of \$20,000 to cover airfares, accommodation and other costs associated with an international trip/s (proposed by each applicant) to visit and research best practice social innovation in their field.

Applications close on **9 September 2016**.

Eligibility criteria is detailed in the [Application Form](#). Visit the [website](#) for more information.



### **Census 2016 will be conducted online**

The next Census is on August 9 and for the first time, it is available online!

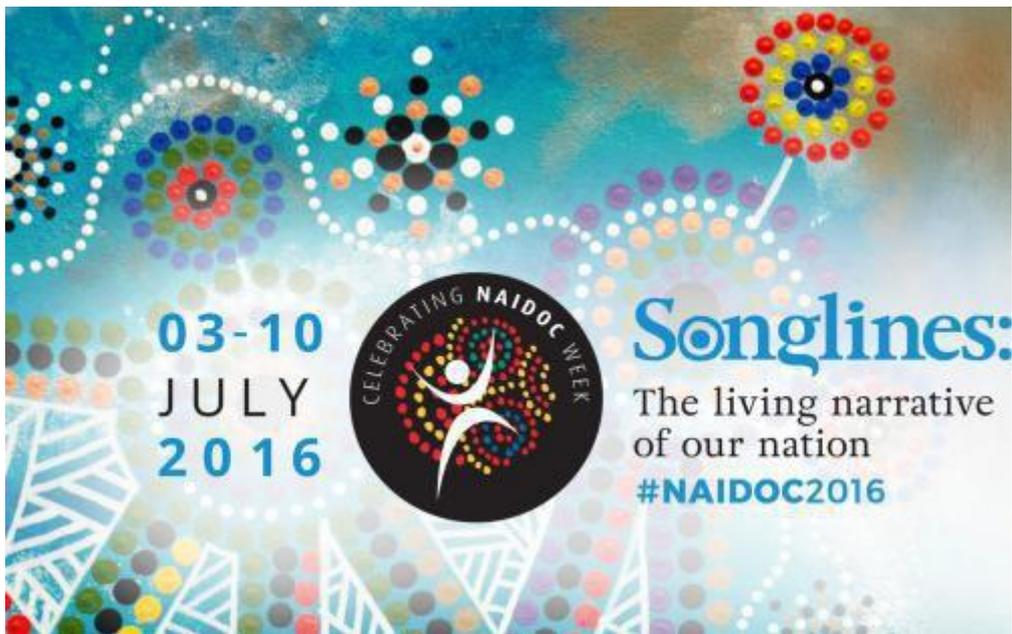
From August 1, most households will receive a letter from the ABS, addressed 'To the Resident'. The letter will include the household's unique Census Login and instructions on how to complete the Census online, as well as directions on how to order a paper form.

For those within your service that may require language and literacy support when completing the Census, ABS has put out a variety of videos to help explain how it works in 2016, why Australia has a Census, privacy and step by step info on how to complete the Census. You can view the videos [here](#).

The aim of the Census is to accurately collect data on the key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night and the dwellings in which they live. In 2016, the Census will count close to 10 million dwellings and approximately 24 million people, the largest number counted to date.

For more information about the census visit the [website](#).

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NAIDOC Week was celebrated from 3 to 10 July. 'National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee', (NAIDOC) has evolved into an annual, week-long celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The 2016 theme is '*Songlines: the living narrative of our nation*'.

To share some of the events and stories from the week, I followed up with some of FRSA's Members, and although I cannot share all the stories from all our members, below are a few of the events that were held throughout Australia.



#### ACT

On Tuesday 5th of July, Marymead Child & Family Centre, in collaboration with other Canberra based services, held a NAIDOC event, holding a smoking ceremony, entertaining crowds with talented Indigenous musicians, a opportunity for children to get creative creating Indigenous inspired artwork and view the talented Torres Strait Islander dancers.

## **WA**

UnitingCare West located in WA, held a number of activities across all their services. In particular at UCW's Tranby Centre, which held a week-long series of NAIDOC events including Aboriginal art classes, traditional dances and a cook up featuring kangaroo stew and damper.



## **WA**

Relationships Australia WA participated in a variety of NAIDOC celebrations, but the main celebration was a co-hosted sausage sizzle with Rotary Wanneroo for the NAIDOC Perth opening ceremony at Elizabeth Quay.

Djinda staff attended the NAIDOC Peth Ball, RA also sponsored the Kwinana Little Peeps NAIDOC Ball for children aged 0-11 years. Shannon, an Aboriginal Resource Worker, performed some smoking ceremonies and dances at various school events and the Champion Centre.

## **QLD**

Bundaberg and District Neighbourhood Centre located in South Queensland held a flag raising ceremony, with BNC staff participating as judges for the 'Tiny Tots' pageant (3 to 6 years). The children were judged on their milestones, general knowledge and presentation.



## **NT**

Catholic Care NT Katherine celebrated NAIDOC with a morning tea on 4 July at Community Garden (Food Ladder) with the help of staff volunteers.

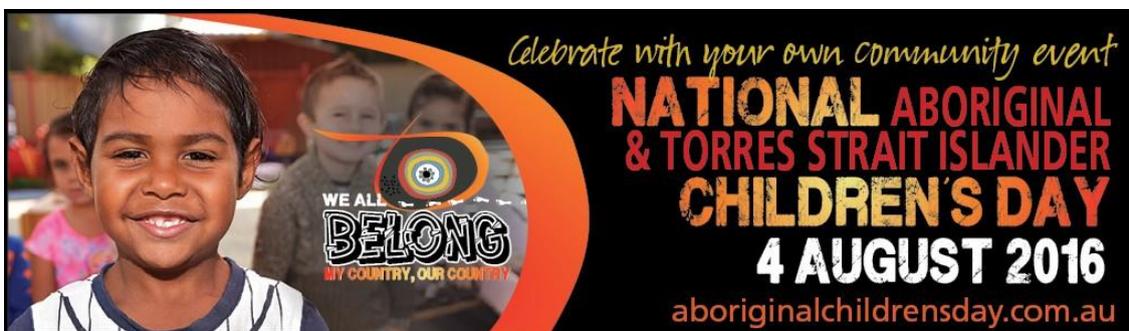
CCNT also hosted ASCI's Indigenous outreach program at CCNT Katherine office on 6 July. Following a welcome to country

by CCNT, staff took a part in NAIDOC March (8 July), starting from Town Centre and ending in Mimi art Centre.

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FRSA's e-bulletin is distributed nationally to a range of stakeholders within the sector. If your organisation has an upcoming event, we would love to help spread the word and promote it to our wide e-bulletin audience and promote it via our [Events & Training Calendar](#) on the new FRSA website. Submissions can be made to [Roslyn](#).

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### **Celebrate Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day 2016!**

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day (Children's Day) is a time to for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. The day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal children, as well as learn about the crucial impact that community, culture and family play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

Children's Day is held on 4 August each year and is coordinated by SNAICC. Children's Day was first observed in 1988, with 2016 being the 29th celebration. Each year SNAICC produces and distributes resources to help organisations, services, schools, and communities celebrate.

The theme for Children's Day 2016 is *My Country, Our Country, We All Belong*. This year Children's Day is about helping our kids feel connected and proud in culture. It's all about ensuring all our kids feel like they belong.

To register your event, please [click here](#), and for more information, visit the official website [here](#).

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# ANTI-POVERTY 16 - 22 October 2016 WEEK

Anti-Poverty Week in 2016 starts on Sunday 16 October and ends on Saturday 22 October. The UN's International Anti-Poverty Day is Saturday 17 October.

The Week focuses on poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries such as Australia.

The main aims of the week are to:

- strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and within Australia; and
- encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

To share your event plans or get further information, contact 1300 797 290 or via email: [apw@antipovertyweek.org.au](mailto:apw@antipovertyweek.org.au).

To learn more, visit the website.

**To view more, please visit the FRSA Events & Training Calendar by clicking here.**



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## **Nominations are now open for the HESTA Community Sector Awards**

The HESTA Community Sector Awards are presented in partnership with the ACOSS National Conference and acknowledge

outstanding contributors to the community sector in the categories of Unsung Hero, Outstanding Organisation and Social Impact.

For more information, or to nominate, visit the HESTA Awards website.

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**Are there people in your office missing out on the FRSA eBulletin?**

Are there staff members in your office who would benefit from receiving the FRSA newsletter?

Subscription to the newsletter is simple. Just forward this email to the relevant individuals and ask them to click on the link here. Please contact us if you have any queries.



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