

FROM JULIAN POCOCK, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHILD CARE (SNAICC)

Ten years ago I joined SNAICC with a sense of excitement and apprehension. The opportunity to work for an organisation I had long respected was the exciting part whilst the apprehension stemmed from an acute sense that I was leaving the safety of the policy ground I'd stomped around in for years. My policy interests to that point had focused on young people, labour market policy, employment, vocational education and training, and student unionism. Finding myself in the early childhood, children's policy and child welfare field was daunting.

Taking lessons from life till that point, my instincts told me to spend lots of time talking to people, developing new networks, asking questions and reading. One of the first journals I picked up off the shelf at the SNAICC office was *Children Australia*. Colleagues at SNAICC highlighted *Children Australia* as a journal that had given expression to the views, interests and perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relation to their ways of raising and caring for children.

To have recently been asked to contribute to *Children Australia* through the editorial board creates similar feelings of excitement and apprehension. I still feel like a novice. My interests which are very intertwined with those of SNAICC

are focused on bringing to light the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in growing up their children. Journals such as *Children Australia* have a critical role to play in reminding and teaching us that not all is wrong with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The profoundly negative and distressing stories about the lives of some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children we hear through the mainstream media can blind us to the strengths in those same families and communities. When we fail to see those strengths and portray Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families as 'hopeless and hapless', we do them a great injury and miss the opportunity to respectfully support families in need.

I will endeavour to contribute to *Children Australia* in such a way that its standards and standing are maintained. And for those of you that want to know a little more about me personally, have a read of *Remember Me*, a recent SNAICC publication commemorating the 10th anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* report, which you can find on the SNAICC website under publications/reports <<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/publications>>.

---

FROM DR NICOLA TAYLOR, SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW  
CHILDREN'S ISSUES CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND

Dr Nicola Taylor is a Senior Research Fellow with the Children's Issues Centre at the University of Otago in New Zealand. She has a Bachelor of Social Work (Hons) degree from Massey University and a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) degree from the University of Otago. Her PhD thesis explored family members' experiences of Family Court dispute resolution processes. Nicola has worked at the Children's Issues Centre since its inception in 1995 and also has a part-appointment in the Faculty of Law at the

University of Otago. She has a particular interest in socio-legal research with children, parents and professionals concerning the impact of legal and welfare processes on family life; children's participation in family law proceedings; and children's perspectives on discipline, citizenship and rural childhood issues. Nicola is currently the principal investigator of a three-year study on relocation (domestic and international) following parental separation.

