



# ABSEC ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

# Acknowledgement

AbSec would like to acknowledge that our work is conducted on the traditional lands of the Aboriginal nations of New South Wales. Our head office is on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, who like the other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, never ceded their sovereignty. This remains their land.

We pay our respects to Elders both past and present, and to those emerging leaders who will guide us into the future.

We also acknowledge survivors of the Stolen Generations whose connection to their country was interrupted, and whose search for belonging and identity has been long and difficult. We stand by them in their struggle.

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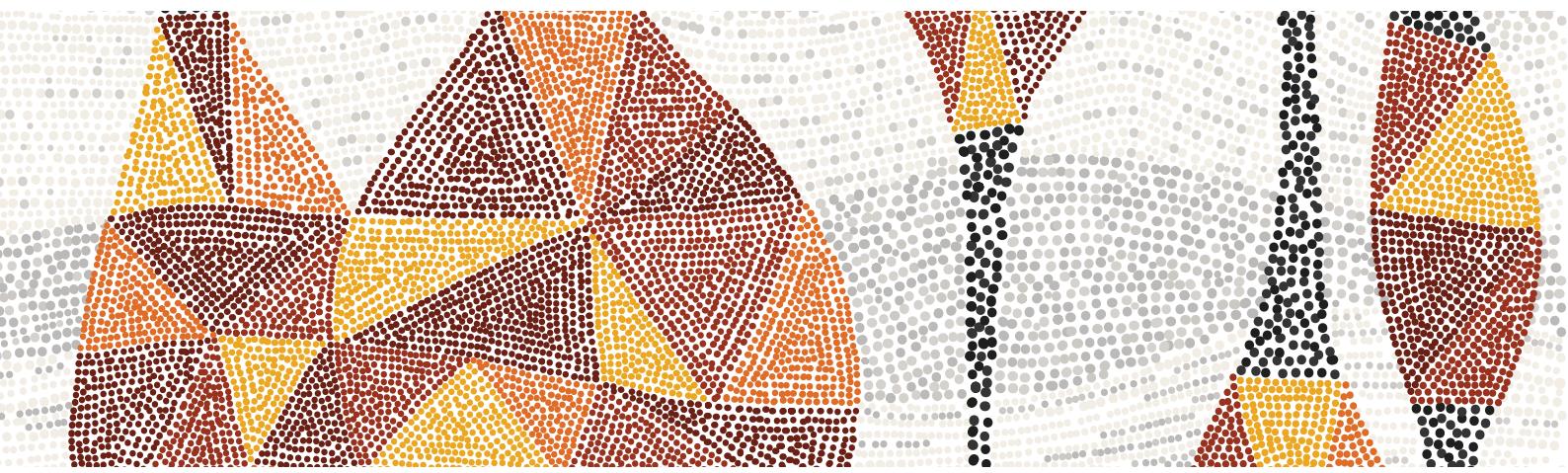
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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR Chairperson

The Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat has established itself as a strong and respected voice for Aboriginal children and young people, their families and communities. This is a reflection of the incredible commitment of the entire Aboriginal child and family sector in NSW, and the work that our members do every day, as individuals and in organisations, to stand up and advocate for the rights of our children and young people.

As Chairperson of AbSec, I know we are only as strong as the mandates identified by the members of our communities. This Annual Report shows how we have built on the foundations of previous years to further strengthen our engagement with Aboriginal peoples across NSW, advocating for substantive change that will mean better outcomes for our children, families and communities.

AbSec has seen out the final year of the current Strategic Planning cycle with an unwavering commitment to the strategic directions set by our members and stakeholders. We remain steadfast in our commitment to implement the 2015–2021 *Plan on a Page for Aboriginal Children and Young People* (the Plan), finalised in 2015, and continuing our focus on representing the interests of Aboriginal children, families, communities and organisations.

Building on this Roadmap, AbSec has developed our foundations by articulating

our strategic vision for the future in supporting vulnerable Aboriginal children and families. Complementing this, we have worked hard with our stakeholders, including government, to formulate a long term strategy to realise our safety net of Aboriginal child and family organisations across NSW. We have also taken a deeper look at ourselves as an Aboriginal peak organisation, and made the decision to change our incorporation recognising the launch of AbSec LDC in November 2017 — this will only strengthen AbSec into the future.

There remains challenges to embedding our strategic goals of Aboriginal self-determination. Similarly, the concern we have voiced around measures being pursued by government to enable adoption of Aboriginal children remain a priority for AbSec, and to that end, we remain firm in our view that solutions and challenges in this child protection, early intervention and out-of-home-care system must be driven by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal children and families.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership of AbSec and thank my fellow Board members and our Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tim Ireland, for their continued passion for, and commitment to, our children, families and communities. I am confident that with the next Strategic Planning cycle, and the work we have done to date, we are able to continue delivering above and beyond as the NSW Aboriginal child and family peak organisation for many years to come.

**Ms Dana Clarke**

CHAIRPERSON



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR Chief Executive Officer

Another exciting year has passed for the team at the Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care Secretariat (AbSec), ranging from structural changes to the organisation, growth, setting a new strategic footprint and continuing to advocate for our Aboriginal children, families, communities and organisations. This year, with the leadership of the AbSec Board, AbSec commenced significant work to change its incorporation from an Association to an Aboriginal Corporation, with changes to take effect in the 2018/19 financial year. This is in recognition of AbSec now managing AbSec LDC as a business arm to the organisation, but also in response to AbSec becoming a more contemporary organisation to meet the challenges of our members and stakeholders.

In 2017/18 we have finalised the Aboriginal Case Management policy and guidelines, based on state-wide conversations (and soon to be released by Family and Community Services (FACS) as policy), jointly with FACS finalised a long-term Aboriginal Child and Family Industry Development Strategy to build up our Aboriginal controlled sector, and continued our work in empowering our Aboriginal young people to speak on the issues impacting their lives. Building on the foundations set by the Board and membership, AbSec has continued to extend its representation of the interests of Aboriginal children, families, communities and organisations state-wide, ensuring that our voice as Aboriginal people is strengthened and heard for our vulnerable Aboriginal children and families.

The NSW statutory child system remains in a near-constant state of reform, and AbSec remains focused on embedding Aboriginal self-determination as a cornerstone of the statutory system. The NSW reform agenda has presented a range of opportunities as well as challenges, including some deeply concerning developments that suggest that the NSW system has not learnt from past practices and contemporary reviews about safeguarding our most vulnerable children and supporting them to thrive. AbSec continues to provide

a strong voice for Aboriginal children and young people, standing against regressive policies and practice while articulating a clear vision for a stronger system – from the perspective of Aboriginal people for our Aboriginal children and families.

As the Chief Executive Officer of AbSec, I am proud to be leading a dedicated and passionate team that continues to work together cohesively towards strengthening this system for Aboriginal children and families. We have a team that has actively contributed to reshaping our foundations, with our Board, to enable us to be more sustainable and articulate our purpose, and a team that has tirelessly continued to advocate on behalf of our Aboriginal children, families, communities and organisations to ensure we have the right supports to meet disadvantage in NSW.

The work we commenced in previous years has continued, with a greater focus on embedding what we know will work for our Aboriginal children and families. We have sought new ways of partnering with organisations to leverage their reach, under NSW Family Matters, as well as commenced our strategic planning, following the Board leadership, to diversify our organisation so we reach more supporters in the general community. Although there continues to be much to do, the next cycle of the strategic plan for AbSec will be an enormous opportunity to build on the success of the organisation, as well as learn from the challenges we have faced to date.

I'd like to acknowledge the leadership shown by the AbSec Board in the period, and the focus on priorities set by the Board to ensure we remain true to our foundations. I also acknowledge the dedication and passion shown by each AbSec staff member that continues to work towards our vision for Aboriginal children and families in NSW. The coming 12-months will bring new opportunities and challenges, and collectively, I am confident we are able to deliver for our Aboriginal children, families, communities and organisations in NSW.

**Mr Tim Ireland**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



# HIGHLIGHTS/ ACHIEVEMENTS

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More than **25** submissions, reports & papers to significant reviews, inquiries and strategic processes

Delivered more than **1,600 hours** of face-to-face and group support for Aboriginal organisations

More than **300** individuals and organisations participated in consultations in the development of the Aboriginal Case Management Policy

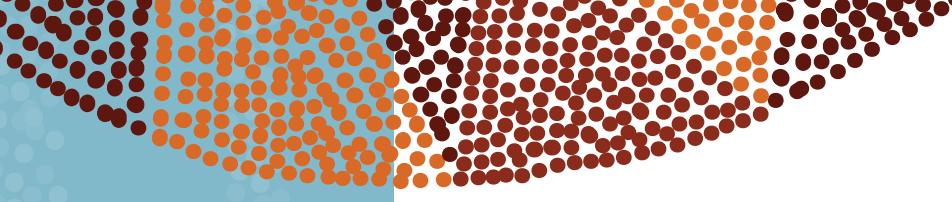
Over **\$110,000** provided to support Aboriginal initiatives, sporting teams and community cultural events across NSW

**13 NEW**  
Aboriginal young people in the Youth Ambassador Program

Over **320** practitioners and sector stakeholders participated in the Cultural Connections workshop over **18 sessions** across NSW

Covered more than **20,000 kms**, visiting **35** Aboriginal community organisations and attending some **20** Aboriginal community events across the state

More than **270** practitioners and organisations attended our biennial conference – ‘Keeping it Real: Empowering Aboriginal Children, Families and Communities’



# Who we are

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**AbSec (Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat) is the peak body for Aboriginal children, families, communities and organisations in NSW. We predominantly provide policy advice and undertake strategic initiatives to influence change and deliver better outcomes for Aboriginal children and families.**

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We are a not-for-profit, member-based organisation representing Aboriginal children and families, as well as the organisations there to support them across NSW. We work closely alongside these Aboriginal agencies to support them in providing the best services for our Aboriginal children and families.

We also work with the NSW Government to propose policies and ways of working that put the needs of Aboriginal children first, and respect the views and rights of Aboriginal communities.

We are committed to advocating on behalf of Aboriginal children, families, carers and communities. All of our work contributes to an overall goal to build a holistic Aboriginal child and family system, where Aboriginal people grow up safe and strong in identity, and have every opportunity for lifelong wellbeing.

## Our Board of governance

The AbSec Board determines our strategic direction, provides oversight over major objectives, and ensures the good governance of the organisation. Our Board consists of representatives from Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, and each member's organisation must be a member of AbSec. The Board aims to convene on a monthly basis; eight face-to-face meetings were held during the 2017/2018 financial year.

## Board members

All members of the AbSec Board as at 30 June 2018 are listed below.

### Dana Clarke

Dana Clarke is a proud Biripi and Worimi woman. Dana has been an active member on the Board since 2005 and holds the position of Chairperson of AbSec.

Dana has contributed to our communities through a range of roles in Aboriginal health, child protection, sexual assault and mental health for over 25 years. Currently Dana is the Chief Executive Officer of Burrin Dalai Aboriginal Corporation. Burrin Dalai delivers early intervention, family preservation, and out-of-home care services across the Nambucca, Macleay, Hastings and Manning Valleys as well as the Tamworth and Armidale Regions.

Dana's work reflects her deeply held belief that our kids and families are our future. Dana is committed to ensuring our communities are best supported to guarantee that our kids remain with family, rich in their culture and belonging. To Dana, "family is everything; it is our past and our future".

## **Petrice Manton**

Petrice Manton is a proud Aboriginal woman from the Gamipingal clan of the Worimi Nation. Petrice is the Deputy Chairperson at AbSec and is the current Chief Executive Officer of Muloobinba Aboriginal Corporation in Newcastle.

Petrice is passionate about advocating for Aboriginal families and making sure our people get a fair go. Petrice is committed to establishing culturally embedded, holistic Aboriginal services to support Aboriginal children and families to flourish, delivered by Aboriginal organisations that are accountable to our communities

## **Suzanne Naden**

Suzanne Naden is a proud Yuin woman from La Perouse. She has grown up on the Central Coast where she now lives and works. Suzanne has been the Chief Executive Officer of Bungree Aboriginal Association since 2014 and is currently the Treasurer for AbSec. Suzanne has over 20 years of experience working with a broad range of government, private and community organisations.

Suzanne describes her connection to family and community as the reason why she works to ensure that our children, young people, families and our aging and people with a disability receive access to quality services and programs that delivers better outcomes for their individual and family wellbeing and strive for social, cultural and community connections through our networks and partnerships.

## **Garry Matthews**

Garry Matthews is a proud Gadigal man of the Eora Nation. Garry is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Abcare, located in Coffs Harbour and is AbSec's longest-serving Board Member, having been a founding member of AbSec in 1999. In addition to this, Garry has served in a range of leadership positions in government and non-government organisations.

Garry strives for equity for Aboriginal children, families and communities and wants to continue to be a voice for Aboriginal children and young people.

## **Craig Ardler**

Craig Ardler is a proud Wodi Wodi man from the South Coast of NSW. He has been an active Board member of AbSec since 2014. Craig is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation in Nowra where he has worked for the past 19 years.

Craig has a wealth of experience with management and policy development with several organisations. He is passionate about improving outcomes for Aboriginal children, families and communities and promotes protecting cultural values.

## **Caine Raudino**

Caine Raudino is a proud Wemba Wemba man from Swan Hill. Caine is the current CEO of Woomera Aboriginal Corporation in Albury and has been a Board member of AbSec since 2017.

Caine enjoys spending time with his family and has a strong commitment to helping out our mob in any way he can, reflecting his deep belief that investing in our children is an investment in our future.

## **Tangerene Ingram**

Tangerene Ingram is a proud Wiradjuri woman and has connections to Tumut and Brungle. Tangerene joined the AbSec Board in 2016.

Tangerene is the Chief Executive Officer of Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed) in Wagga Wagga. She previously managed the Family Services Unit and the Family Health Team at RivMed and has also coordinated the Wanggaay Koori Out-of-Home Care Services at Anglicare.

## **Tina McGhie**

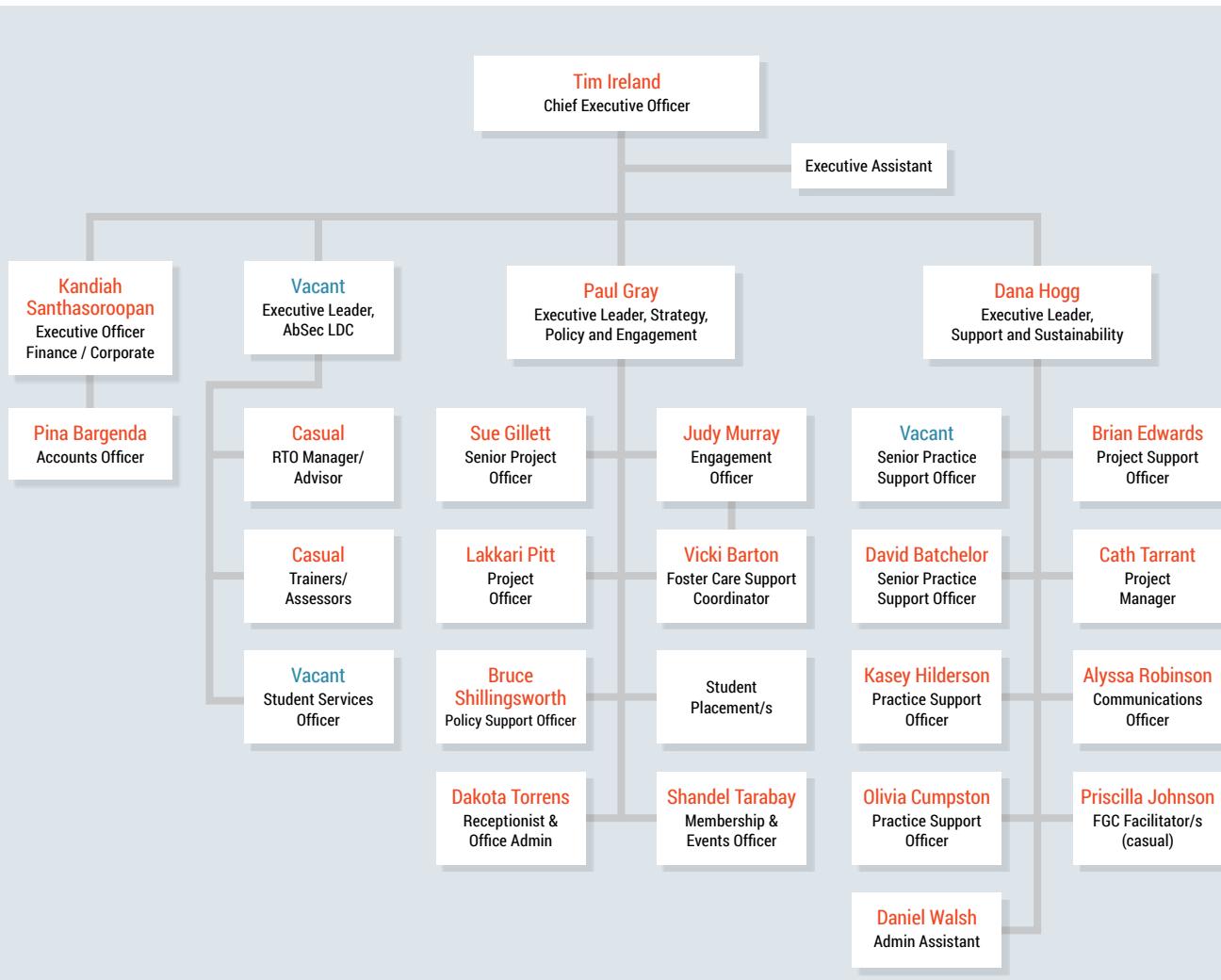
Tina McGhie is a proud Wiradjuri and Ngunnawal woman born and raised on Dharawal Country. Tina has been an active member of AbSec's Board since 2008 and is currently the manager of Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation's Aboriginal Family Support program, Myimbarr.

Tina is dedicated to supporting Aboriginal children to remain safely at home with their family, connected to community and culture.



# Our People

AbSec staff are a diverse group of people, united by their commitment to our goals and values. At 30 June 2018, we employed 20 members of staff, 15 of whom were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Our staff come from the Bundjalung, Paakantyi, Ngiyaampa, Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi, and other nations. Our structure is represented as follows:



## Our Chief Executive Officer

Mr Tim Ireland is AbSec's Chief Executive Officer reporting to the AbSec Board. He is also a member of the Board of SNAICC, the national peak body for Aboriginal children and families, as well as performs the role of Managing Director for AbSec Learning and Development Centre (AbSec LDC), our training and business arm of AbSec.

A proud Bundjalung man, Tim previously worked in several senior executive roles in the NSW Public Service, and in Aboriginal community development roles in local government. He is passionate and committed to the work of AbSec, the priorities set by the organisation and working to realise change for our Aboriginal

children, families and communities through a strong Aboriginal controlled child and family sector in NSW.

Tim holds a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Sydney, specialising in sociology, social policy, government and international relations. He is also a graduate of the NSW Public Service Commission's Executive Development Program, a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a practitioner of PRINCE2 Project Management, and a certified Change Management Practitioner (accredited through APMG International and the Change Management Institute).

# Our Work Streams

AbSec's structure is broadly grouped into three main streams, structured to serve our strategic goals and reporting to the Chief Executive Officer.

These teams are supported by a Finance and Corporate Support area.

## STRATEGY, POLICY AND ENGAGEMENT:

Headed up by Dr Paul Gray, a proud Wiradjuri man, builds policy perspectives for the Aboriginal child and family sector, along with strategies designed to put those policies into practice. The team engages with Aboriginal people and communities across NSW and aims to advocate on their behalf, and works with our partners to achieve the change we want to see for Aboriginal children, families and communities in NSW.



## SUPPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY:

Under the leadership of Ms Dana Hogg, a proud Paakantyi, Ngiyaampa woman, works hand-in-hand with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector in NSW, providing holistic support to build effective and sustainable services for Aboriginal people. Our staff help to build good practice and strong governance for local Aboriginal organisations across the state to deliver quality supports for Aboriginal children, families and communities.

## ABSEC LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE:

Launched in November 2017, this area of AbSec focuses on the delivery of nationally accredited training, supporting the education of social sector workers in NSW while also operating as a business arm for AbSec to meet the growing demand for skilled workers supporting Aboriginal children, families and communities.



# Our Strategy

Our priorities and direction are set out in the *Strategic Plan 2015–2018: Caring for our children, families and communities*. Building on AbSec's strong foundations, this plan seeks to encompass more areas related to the wellbeing of our Aboriginal children and families, ultimately providing more holistic responses for a safe and successful future.

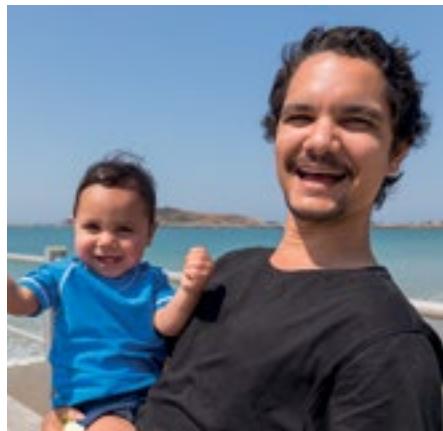
## Our vision

Our vision is that all Aboriginal children and young people are looked after in safe, thriving Aboriginal families and communities, and are raised strong in spirit and identity, with every opportunity for lifelong wellbeing and connection to culture, surrounded by holistic supports.

## Goals and objectives

In working towards our vision, we take the following everyday actions:

- ◎ Work towards achieving self-determination for Aboriginal people and communities, and building a safe, secure and caring environment for their children and young people that is surrounded by culture
- ◎ Support Aboriginal organisations in delivering quality holistic support for all Aboriginal children, young people, families, carers and communities
- ◎ Provide and support opportunities for continual improvement, learning, growth and change for organisations delivering for Aboriginal children, young people, families and their communities, upholding the principle of self-determination
- ◎ Represent and inform government and key stakeholders on the issues facing Aboriginal children, young people, families, carers and communities, particularly in accessing quality holistic support for lifelong wellbeing surrounded by culture
- ◎ Support Aboriginal workforce development to ensure a strong and capable workforce for supporting Aboriginal children, young people, families, disability and their communities.



# AN EVOLVING STRATEGY

For us, as an Aboriginal peak organisation advocating for our Aboriginal children, families, communities and organisations, our strategy must be fluid. We must be solutions focused, and we must not compromise on what we know to be true for our children, families, communities and organisations.

As AbSec moves towards a new Strategic Planning cycle, AbSec's organisational strategy continues to evolve. AbSec's next strategic plan will leverage the achievements of the past four years, including the *Plan on a Page for Aboriginal Children and Young People 2015–2021*, the *Aboriginal Case Management Policy*, the *Aboriginal Industry Development Strategy*, our partnerships, engagements and sector development work and other initiatives to further strengthen the systems responsiveness to the

needs of Aboriginal children and young people, their families and communities.

Similarly, AbSec's next strategic plan will also reflect the organisational changes initiated by the Board and membership and currently underway, including registration as an Aboriginal Corporation and changes to our organisational rules to reflect a broader mandate for Aboriginal children and families. AbSec's next four years will be characterised

by even greater engagement and representation across all levels of the organisation as we pursue strategic changes that will safeguard Aboriginal children and young people through the realisation of the vision we have articulated over the past four years. Importantly, the strategic setting work undertaken by AbSec in the past 12-months months to articulate our Theory of Change will be embedded in our focus for the future.

## Guiding principles

Throughout our work we embrace these values and principles:

- ◎ **Acknowledgement and respect** — we acknowledge the diversity of all Aboriginal nations and respect traditional owners of the land, constantly reminded by their Elders, and cultural knowledge of communities to inform our actions
- ◎ **Professionalism and integrity** — we act with the highest of professionalism for our communities, ensuring our integrity will not be compromised in striving for the provision of quality, culturally responsive and accessible supports
- ◎ **Self-determination** — we ensure that our focus is underpinned by the rights of Aboriginal people to make decisions that impact their lives, recognising the interests of Aboriginal children, young people, families and carers, and communities in all that we do
- ◎ **Independence and solutions focused** — we serve the interests of Aboriginal children, young people, families, people with disability, communities and the organisations that support them to deliver holistic approaches to issues impacting them
- ◎ **Transparency and commitment** — we remain committed to our people in everything we do, ensuring our actions are clear and promoted at every opportunity.

## Our strategic directions

AbSec's Strategic Plan 2015–2018 outlines the steps taken to achieve our vision and objective for Aboriginal children and young people, their families and communities. AbSec committed to the pursuit of four core Strategic Directions:

**Strategic direction A:** Our Aboriginal children, families, carers and communities are involved in decision-making, and participate in creating a future that is able to meet their needs within their local community.

**Strategic direction B:** Our Aboriginal sector is strong, sustainable and capable to cater for the needs of our children, families, carers, people with disability and communities; and is supported to provide more holistic responses.

**Strategic direction C:** Our partners work with us to ensure Aboriginal children, young people, families, carers and communities are supported in safe, thriving & holistic environments, providing the resources to meet cultural needs and lifelong wellbeing.

**Strategic direction D:** Our organisation is sustainable and capable of meeting and responding to the challenges of changing environments, ensuring good practices are modelled and represented to our stakeholders.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION A:

Our Aboriginal children, families, carers and communities are involved in decision-making, and participate in creating a future that is able to meet their needs within their local community.

## Aboriginal Youth Leadership and Empowerment

This year we have continued to strengthen the Youth Ambassador Program, reflecting our strong commitment to hearing the voices of Aboriginal young people in our policy design and advocacy. We commissioned a review of the Youth Ambassador Program, exploring how the program might better provide a platform for Aboriginal young people to participate in conversations across the sector, and have their voices heard. As a result of this review, and the ongoing engagement with the AbSec Youth Ambassadors, AbSec continues to invest in and improve the program.

In early 2018, AbSec completed an Expression of Interest process and commenced a renewed cohort of youth ambassadors. The current cohort, involving 13 Aboriginal young people aged 16–25, is our largest to date, and will serve a two-year term. So

far in their term they have participated in a range of conversations within the sector, and have been provided opportunities to strengthen their skills. Youth Ambassadors have engaged with Their Futures Matter to discuss reforms to leaving and after care services. They have also received an introduction to engaging with the media, and participated in CREATE's 'Speak Up' program, intended to support youth to be effective advocates.

The Ambassadors have also been establishing their Term Priorities, due to be released in a mid-term report in late 2018. AbSec will continue to support Aboriginal young people to participate at the policy and program level, and to have their voices heard. We are proud of the contribution of the Aboriginal young people in advocating for an improved child and family system.





## Aboriginal Case Management Policy

In our previous Annual Report, we noted the commencement of a project to develop an Aboriginal Case Management Policy, providing thorough guidance for the provision of supports to Aboriginal children and families across the continuum, due to be delivered in the 2017/18 financial year.

In the second half of 2017, AbSec completed a state-wide, multi-staged consultation process to hear from Aboriginal communities, young people, practitioners, carers, and sector partners (government and non-government), and included face-to-face, phone and online components to provide an opportunity for as many people as possible to participate. These consultations were book-ended by intensive 2-day workshops with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, to set the direction and to test the outcomes of the consultation process with our communities. In total, more than 300 individuals and organisations participated in the consultations. The reports from each step of this process are available on the AbSec website.

In brief, the summary of consultations included:

- ◎ That the Aboriginal Case Management Policy must empower Aboriginal children, families and communities, including family and community-led decision making processes, elevating the voices of Aboriginal children, families and communities and engaging early to achieve better outcomes
- ◎ That an effective Aboriginal Case Management Policy promotes service integration across the continuum of supports, delivering a holistic and culturally responsive service system for Aboriginal families

- ◎ That the Aboriginal Case Management Policy must focus on culturally-competent practice, working with Aboriginal families and communities in culturally embedded ways
- ◎ That services must be tailored, flexible and holistic to meet the needs of Aboriginal children, families and communities, building on their strengths, with a clear focus on prevention, preservation and restoration
- ◎ That there must be greater accountability for meeting the cultural needs of Aboriginal children and young people, including implementation of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principles and meaningful oversight and monitoring

AbSec has developed a comprehensive Aboriginal Case Management Policy, spanning from universal child and family supports, through targeted and intensive family preservation services, to out-of-home care and leaving care. It proposes structures and systems, and provides clear guidance to strengthen the implementation of the principles of self-determination and participation, and all five elements of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle, while seeking to strengthen the accountability of the system to our communities.

The Aboriginal Case Management Policy was provided to Family and Community Services in late 2017. In 2018, we have negotiated with FACS seeking endorsement of this policy, to be implemented by FACS and all FACS-funded service providers supporting Aboriginal children and families. AbSec is seeking final endorsement and implementation of the policy in the 2018/19 period.

## Advocacy and Influence

In 2017/18, AbSec has worked hard to elevate the voices of Aboriginal children and young people, families, communities and carers through our advocacy, providing a strong voice for Aboriginal communities in matters that affect our children and families. AbSec has participated in numerous consultation and submission processes over the past year, seeking to influence systems and processes to achieve a more responsive system for Aboriginal children and young people, their families and communities. Some examples include:

- ⑥ A brief submission to the NSW Government regarding civil litigation recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
- ⑥ A submission to the Committee on Children and Young People's inquiry focused on preventing youth suicide in NSW, emphasising the work of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project, and the need for a distinct, Aboriginal-led strategy to address Aboriginal youth suicide in a holistic way.
- ⑥ A submission in response to the FACS *Shaping a Better Child Protection System* proposed legislative reforms, many of which were deeply concerning to Aboriginal communities and proposed other changes that might support better outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people, their families and communities. AbSec also participated in consultations held by FACS during the brief window for submissions, and successfully lobbied FACS to host a specific consultation session for Aboriginal organisations, providing an opportunity for many of our members to speak directly to FACS about the proposed changes. AbSec's submission is available on the AbSec website.
- ⑥ A submission to the Committee on Community Services regarding their inquiry into supports for new parents and babies in NSW, emphasising the need for tailored, Aboriginal universal and targeted supports so that all families are supported for their children to thrive
- ⑥ A submission to the *Family is Culture: Independent Review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People in OOHC in NSW*, outlining our vision for an improved child and family system that places Aboriginal children and young people at the centre, driven by and for Aboriginal communities.
- ⑥ A submission to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety — Inquiry into the adequacy of youth diversion programs in NSW, calling for the development and implementation of a tailored youth diversionary strategy by and for Aboriginal communities.
- ⑥ A submission regarding the proposed focus and scope of the Fourth Action Plan (2018–2020) as part of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children, calling for a distinct outcomes framework for Aboriginal children and young people, led by Aboriginal communities, with various elements to monitor progress and drive accountability.
- ⑥ A submission to the national 'Closing the Gap' Refresh process, emphasising the need for the Closing the Gap strategy to reflect the foundational principle of Aboriginal self-determination, supporting local community-led solutions while driving accountability across all levels of government. We further recommended the inclusion of child and family welfare goals, addressing the unacceptable inequities of child protection systems nationally.
- ⑥ A submission to the Commonwealth's Inquiry into Local Adoption, ensuring that the overwhelming consensus view of our members and stakeholders was heard by the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs. We told them that adoption is not a solution to the crisis in out-of-home care, which requires greater investment in universal and targeted supports, and greater self-determination of Aboriginal peoples — that the best care for Aboriginal kids is community. In addition to our submission, the Committee has invited AbSec to give evidence in person, in August 2018.

We also showcased the work of Aboriginal practitioners and organisations in the provision of parenting supports, demonstrating the strong practice and innovation that is possible when Aboriginal people are empowered to develop local solutions. It was clear that to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal children, families and communities, systems must offer Aboriginal communities greater flexibility, rather than constraining innovation through contracting and procurement processes. Based on the insights and examples across our communities, we urged government to invest in an Aboriginal Parenting Framework, and to invest in Aboriginal parenting supports, strengthening our families through culturally-embedded approaches.

## Supporting Local Initiatives to Promote Change

AbSec provided a number of sponsorships and support to regional and metropolitan local Aboriginal groups across NSW- \$110,178 was provided to support Aboriginal initiatives, sporting teams and community cultural events across NSW. Our sponsorship program is a valuable way for our organisation to contribute back to community and is also a mechanism for AbSec to build our relationships with partners, which also provide an opportunity to continue to enhance our message and vision to local communities. We are always rewarded when we are given an opportunity to attend the event we have sponsored or supported and see the positive impact these have in the communities where they are held.

The activities we supported include:

- ◎ Foster Care Week 2018 — annual event recognising the role of carers for children and young people

- ◎ National Family Matters — significant national campaign promoting the importance of early intervention, prevention and Aboriginal-led solutions
- ◎ National Dreamtime Awards — national awards celebration promoting the key role our Aboriginal communities play in making a difference
- ◎ Menindee Yabbies Far West Knockout — regional far west sporting event bringing together communities to engage, participate, and contribute
- ◎ NSW Youth Work Awards — state awards celebrating the important role that youth workers play in the lives of young people across NSW

AbSec consider our sponsorship and support program as a vital way to reach local communities and to build support for the change we want to see that will deliver better outcomes for Aboriginal children, families, communities and organisations across NSW.



“ we know to be an effective Aboriginal peak that represents the interests of our children, communities and families, we must be accountable and provide a voice, an avenue, for our children, families, carers and communities to advocate and influence change – we have to provide this voice, even when others fail to listen

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION B:

Our Aboriginal sector is strong, sustainable and capable to cater for the needs of our children, families, carers and communities; and is supported to provide more holistic responses.

## Supporting Our Aboriginal Child and Family Organisations

In 2017/2018, we continued our objective for a strong Aboriginal controlled child and family sector to provide quality support for the Aboriginal children and young people across NSW. Despite continuing system capacity gaps in parts of NSW, AbSec has delivered more than 1,600 hours of face-to-face and group support for Aboriginal organisations to enhance their practice in working with Aboriginal children and families impacted by child protection and out-of-home-care. Examples of our work include:

- ◎ Reviewing and enhancing organisational policies in line with statutory standards
- ◎ Supporting carer engagement and support work from Aboriginal agencies
- ◎ Casework and case management practice support

Additionally, AbSec continues to work hard in addressing the system capacity gaps in NSW, where there are no Aboriginal child and family organisations delivering for Aboriginal children and families. The commitment from the NSW Government to ensure Aboriginal children are supported by Aboriginal organisations was the result of AbSec's ongoing advocacy and efforts to raise awareness of these gaps. The work we have undertaken is with Aboriginal community-controlled boards and their partnership with non-Aboriginal child and family organisations, to eventually have a standalone Aboriginal child and family organisation supporting our children and families. This goal is about our communities being empowered through organisations to support our children and families.

The work we undertake in this area is voluntary, and critical to ensuring an Aboriginal sector that is strong and has the capacity to support our vulnerable Aboriginal children and families. It remains a significant and important part of the work we do at AbSec.

“ Supporting our Aboriginal child and family sector to deliver for our children and families is critical to meeting our goal of Aboriginal self-determination... the work we do to support our Aboriginal community-controlled organisations is about strengthening what we know works for our communities





## Developing our NSW Aboriginal safety-net

In the reporting period, AbSec partnered with Family and Community Services to design and develop an Aboriginal Child and Family Industry Development Strategy. This Strategy would be a long-term roadmap to embedding an Aboriginal child and family sector that would act as a safety-net for Aboriginal children and families in need. The strategy identified more than 20 initiatives to be completed over a six year period that would lead the way in embedding Aboriginal self-determination, empowering our communities by developing our organisations.

The Strategy was endorsed by both AbSec and Family and Community Services as a way to address system issues for Aboriginal communities by taking an approach that empowered Aboriginal people and organisations to care for and support Aboriginal

children and families. This strategy remains a foundational objective to build on, and is partially funded in the 2018/19 financial year, allowing this important work to commence.

In the future, as this is an important and new initiative, AbSec will be continually updating our website to keep our valued stakeholders informed of this work. The Aboriginal Child and Family Industry Development Strategy is a key input to achieving the NSW Government's commitment of self-determination for Aboriginal people, and for realising the Government's commitment to all Aboriginal children involved with the child protection and out-of-home-care system being supported by Aboriginal organisations — a commitment made in 2011/2012.



## Enabling a Connected Aboriginal Sector For Aboriginal Children and Families

AbSec has enhanced our focus on supporting a connected Aboriginal child and family sector by providing the opportunity for our agencies to share information, engage with changes in the system and raise concerns regarding the supports offered for Aboriginal children and families in NSW. Our quarterly Aboriginal Child and Family Forums provide an opportunity for our Aboriginal organisations to engage with us, as the NSW Aboriginal child and family peak organisation, so we are more effective in targeting support and advocating for change. Some of the issues identified in the reporting period include:

- ◎ Concerns regarding adoption of Aboriginal children from the care system without proper and meaningful consultation with appropriate Aboriginal organisations and people
- ◎ The needs of Aboriginal young people in the care system and access to school or being marginalised within the education environment
- ◎ The transformation of our organisations to focus more on delivering prevention and early intervention, as well as supporting restoration opportunities for Aboriginal young people to return home to family
- ◎ Engaging with innovative ideas, research programs and AbSec policy papers to work towards a collective and unified voice in influencing the system to deliver better outcomes for Aboriginal children and families

In the reporting period, AbSec enhanced our quarterly Aboriginal Child and Family Forums by conducting six regional emerging issues forums that provided a practical, solutions-focus approach to address local concerns about system performance. These forums provided the opportunity for our Aboriginal child and family organisations to raise concerns or opportunities with other stakeholders to work towards vulnerable Aboriginal children and families getting access to the support they need.

AbSec's connected Aboriginal sector program is critical to ensure we are operating as a collective for the benefit of Aboriginal children and families. For AbSec, we see this as a vital program to voice our concerns, identify opportunities and drive implementation of solutions-focused initiatives that will deliver better outcomes for our Aboriginal children and families in NSW.

We will continue to support our Aboriginal child and family sector to realise our objective of Aboriginal self-determination in early intervention, child protection and out-of-home-care.





# STRATEGIC DIRECTION C:

Our partners work with us to ensure Aboriginal children, young people, families, carers and communities are supported in safe, thriving and holistic environments, providing the resources to meet cultural needs and lifelong wellbeing.

## Boosting Cultural Connections



This year AbSec developed and launched the *Creating Cultural Connections* workshop, a one-day intensive training program to help child protection practitioners, agency staff and carers support Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care to maintain and strengthen their cultural connections. This program builds on our previous work clarifying the expectations around cultural planning for Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care, by providing practitioners and other sector stakeholders with the skills and understanding they need to deliver comprehensive and effective cultural plans and cultural supports.

After launching the workshops in March 2018, more than 320 practitioners and sector stakeholders have participated in the training delivered through

18 sessions across NSW. Participants have come from FACS and non-government organisations, and have engaged with us to ensure that cultural planning is meaningful and upholds our children's cultural rights. Feedback from participants has been consistently positive, praising the quality of the program and the skills of the AbSec facilitators.



AbSec plans to continue delivering the *Creating Cultural Connections* workshop, engaging with our partners across the sector to improve cultural planning practice for Aboriginal children and young people. In the future, we will focus on embedding this foundational work with clear practice guidance on creating and maintaining cultural connections for Aboriginal children and young people in NSW.



## Relationships Through Events

AbSec continues to grow from strength to strength in engaging with communities and sector partners through events and other initiatives.



Our annual NAIDOC celebration moved to Steele Park in Marrickville, where we joined with our friends at ACSA to host a Family Fun day. An estimated 500 people joined us, including plenty of children, for a great day of fun and activities for children and young people.

In August, we marked National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day by visiting Oorunga Wandarrah and our friends at Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, with a number of activities for the children. The children and staff enjoyed getting up close with a range of reptiles and animals, testing their footy skills and making crafts and pictures to take home.

In November 2017, we hosted our biannual conference, with more than 270 practitioners and organisations coming together to discuss practice and sector issues, aligned to the theme 'Keeping it Real: Empowering Aboriginal Children, Families and Communities'.

The full agenda included sessions on a range of critical issues, including the cultural support and community engagement. It also provided an important platform to hear from young people, including a special keynote address from our First Nations Canadian colleagues, and a powerful presentation by AbSec Youth Ambassador Isaiah Dawe.

Again, we were a presence at one of Australia's largest Aboriginal events, Yabun, talking about our work and hearing from our communities. It was a great pleasure to look out across the hundreds of people in attendance and see a sea of brightly coloured AbSec hats on kids and adults alike.

We also made it our priority to get out into the regions and attend local events and community gatherings. Our engagement team covered more than 20,000kms, visiting 35 Aboriginal community organisations and attending some 20 Aboriginal community events across the state. We hope to see many of you again in 2018/19 as we continue our work across the state.



## Partnerships for Impact

AbSec also focused on our partnerships for impact, seizing on opportunities for collaboration and partnerships to achieve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people, their families, and communities.

After presenting at our Conference in November, we partnered with KidsXpress to adapt their therapeutic program alongside an Aboriginal community service as part of a universal healing program to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people. The approach was built on the principles of community control and reciprocity, with KidsXpress being led by our community partner about the scope of the service and other program parameters, while also supporting the cultural insights of KidsXpress practitioners. The program was a hit, with many young people thoroughly enjoying the opportunity presented, and Aboriginal staff building their skills in trauma-informed care. AbSec thanks the Cages Foundation for supporting us in this work, and we hope to be able to build on this success in the future.



**securing partners and resources that we can leverage for our Aboriginal children, families and communities will only take us further towards achieving our goals, upholding the best interests of Aboriginal children and young people**

AbSec developed a strong partnership with our Māori colleagues at Te Pou Matakanā (the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency for the North Island, Aotearoa, New Zealand), and Te Whānau o Waipareira, a Māori service provider in West Auckland. We had Chief Executive John Tamihere share insights and perspectives from New Zealand at our conference in November 2017, and were pleased to discuss their approach to commissioning services for whānau. In early 2018, we were pleased to accept an invitation from Te Pou Matakanā and Te Whānau o Waipareira

to visit their organisations, where we were able to learn in much greater detail about their commissioning for outcomes framework, and the Whānau Tahi system that supports their services to measure and report on impact and their achievements for their families and communities.

These insights have informed AbSec's *Aboriginal Commissioning approach to Aboriginal child and family services in NSW: A conceptual design paper*, and are reflected in AbSec's *Delivering Better Outcomes for Aboriginal Children and Families in NSW*, outlining the systems and reforms needed to support such an approach. In 2018/19, AbSec will continue exploring these approaches, including the data infrastructure needed to strengthen the capacity of the Aboriginal sector to measure outcomes and impact of the work we do for children and families every day.

AbSec has also developed local partnerships across the sector to inform and improve outcomes for Aboriginal children, families and communities. AbSec has strengthened relationships with the Children's Court Clinic, supporting efforts to improve practice for Court Clinicians in their work with Aboriginal families. We've also worked more closely with our non-government colleagues, through the NSW Family Matters Collective, to strengthen advocacy efforts. We joined with our partners across a number of submissions, clearly articulating the position of Aboriginal communities which was then taken up and reflected in the submissions of our partner organisations. We also collectively exerted pressure to achieve the release of the Independent Review of Out-of-Home Care, known as the Tune Report. This was an important step in empowering Aboriginal communities to fully participate in the ongoing reform agenda, given that the Tune Report provided the impetus for the government's current reform agenda, *Their Futures Matter*.



## Providing Thoughtful Leadership

In 2017/18, AbSec also launched our Roundtable series, hosting in-depth discussions of key issues for our communities and sector partners, strengthening their understanding of issues impacting on Aboriginal children, families and communities. In September 2017, we hosted Dr Sarah Kastelic, Executive Director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association, who shared her insights, and lessons from the *Indian Child Welfare Act*, and developments in the United States. We heard about the importance of strong legislative protections to empower communities to drive the care and protection of their children, and the importance of vigilantly upholding and protecting these rights. Dr Kastelic also reinforced the importance of accountability, ensuring that there is transparency, backed by meaningful data, about the outcomes state authorities are achieving for our families and communities.

Also from the United States, AbSec has hosted a roundtable with Prof Marcia Zug, an academic from the University of South Carolina, who led a thoughtful discussion about the role of sovereignty in Indigenous child protection. This discussion examined the

potential for an Australian version of the *Indian Child Welfare Act*, to uphold the rights of Aboriginal children, families and communities. Prof Zug spoke about the importance of devolving decision making to Indigenous peoples themselves to overcome the biases and inequities that persist within child protection systems.

In March, we hosted Pallawah academic Dr Kyllie Cripps from the Indigenous Law Centre at the University of NSW, who shared her reflections on permanent care orders and some of the concerns that are associated with such approaches. This conversation explored the implications of the Permanency Support Program, and reinforced the need to focus on active supports and investment in prevention, preservation and restoration services, as well as safeguarding the rights of Aboriginal children following statutory intervention, regardless of the type of order pursued.

Our policy roundtables remain to be an exercise in AbSec working with our partners to explore the future, and how our ideas of the future may be embedded in the work we do now collectively. AbSec will continue its roundtable series to provide this thought leadership from an Aboriginal perspective to our key partners.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION D:

Our organisation is sustainable and capable of meeting and responding to the challenges of changing environments, ensuring good practices are modelled and represented to our stakeholders.

## Strategic Setting for AbSec

Building on the plans established by the AbSec Board and management in 2016/17, we have taken it further in the 2017/18 period by articulating our Theory of Change and strategic setting for how AbSec works to achieve its vision. This work was undertaken to form our logic for delivering better outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people. AbSec's Theory of Change is represented as follows:



For AbSec, our Theory of Change means that we see Aboriginal children and young people culturally strong, thriving and fulfilling their potential. That AbSec adopts a holistic approach to ensure Aboriginal children are raised strong in spirit and identity, with every opportunity for lifelong wellbeing and connection to culture.

For this to occur, evidence shows that Aboriginal children must be connected and supported in their families, kinship groups and communities, and that families and communities must be empowered to keep their children safe. Self-determination is at the base of fostering sustainable change. AbSec advocates for Aboriginal-led services and social systems, with Aboriginal agencies that are capable and resourced.

To reach this outcome, Aboriginal voices must be heard and represented in society, leading to broad community awareness and government policy that is based on Aboriginal-led decision-making about what works best for Aboriginal children, young people and families.

AbSec's Theory of Change captures the organisation's vision, and sets the foundation for the change we want to see as the NSW Aboriginal child and family peak organisation. It establishes the framework to understand our work and how it contributes to the final goal we want for Aboriginal children and young people in NSW. AbSec will be embedding this Theory in its next strategic planning cycle.



## AbSec Learning and Development Centre

In November 2017, following an 18-month process of development, AbSec launched the AbSec Learning and Development Centre (AbSec LDC) as a direct response to upskilling and developing our Aboriginal workforce in the Aboriginal child and family sector. This has been a long term commitment and objective of the AbSec Board to establish a training arm of the NSW Aboriginal child and family peak to cater for Aboriginal practitioners in the sector.

The AbSec Board has made the decision to establish AbSec LDC as a separate, subsidiary entity to AbSec, allowing for a level of autonomy to establish new and creative business to address workforce demands in the system. In the 2017/18 period, slow growth has occurred, with the support of Family and Community Services, to offer nationally accredited training, and to articulate AbSec LDC as a contender in NSW to deliver for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal practitioners. Overtime, AbSec is planning to embed AbSec LDC as a core element to workforce development for practitioners supporting Aboriginal children and families.

## Foundational Changes to AbSec for the Future

Recognising the future demands on AbSec, and the foundations to effectively support AbSec LDC, the AbSec Board commenced a process of change in the 2017/18 period that has meant a change to the organisation's incorporation. The AbSec Board, along with the Chief Executive Officer, participated in a number of strategic planning workshops in response to AbSec's launch of AbSec LDC and AbSec's Theory of Change to determine the future governing requirements of the organisation.

This process was about AbSec determining its long term impact, and resulted in a decision put to the AbSec membership to change incorporation from an Association to an Aboriginal Corporation. This will mean in 2018/19, alignment of AbSec's systems will be undertaken once the changes have been finalised by the Office of Registrar for Indigenous Corporations. This reflects the commitment and objectives set by AbSec to future proof the organisation so it is responsive to future demand and change, and followed the careful strategic leadership and management by the AbSec Board — providing more opportunity for AbSec's future to deliver for Aboriginal children, families, communities and organisations in NSW.

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for us to have organisational strength and sustainability, we must look at innovative ways to diversify what we are doing to have the greatest impact for those we are here to represent and advocate for... Aboriginal children, families, communities and organisations

# Financials



## A MESSAGE FROM THE Treasurer

**A**s the Treasurer, I am pleased to confirm the financial position of the Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat (AbSec) for 2017/2018 financial year remains sound, providing a stable and sustainable base from which to pursue our objectives. At the end of 2017/18, AbSec reported a total equity of over \$2m, down approximately \$246,000 from 2016/17 as unspent funds accrued from previous years are resolved.

The independent audit of AbSec's accounts has been completed by A F Walls and Co Chartered Accountants, issuing an unqualified report. The full auditor's report complements this annual report. AbSec is continuing in its efforts to diversify revenue streams, engaging external expertise to achieve this important organisational goal. In line with this, AbSec continues to focus on developing its business arm through AbSec LDC as another source of revenue for the organisation, which also delivers needed training supports for workers within the Aboriginal child and family sector.

The reserves of the organisation provide a sound financial position to continue pursuing its objectives. The 2017/2018 financial year saw the organisation continue to utilise funds received in previous financial years to achieve committed plans and objectives, while still maintaining a strong operating position.

AbSec remains in a sound financial position to advocate for the rights of Aboriginal children, families and communities in NSW into the future, with clear plans and strategies to continue growth and expansion to ensure sustainability within the organisation into the future. I would like to recognise the hard work and dedication by those involved with AbSec.

**Ms Suzanne Naden**  
TREASURER

# BALANCE SHEET

CONSOLIDATED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2018

	ECONOMIC ENTITY		CHIEF ENTITY	
	2018 \$	2017 \$	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash Assets	2,309,212	1,278,789	2,287,932	1,278,788
Receivables	25,956	206,364	46,409	206,364
Other Assets	3,820	12,871	3,820	12,871
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2,338,988</b>	<b>1,498,024</b>	<b>2,338,161</b>	<b>1,498,023</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,206,766	1,282,529	1,206,766	1,282,529
Investments	-	-	70,000	70,000
Intangibles	69,999	69,999	-	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,276,765</b>	<b>1,352,528</b>	<b>1,276,766</b>	<b>1,352,529</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,615,753</b>	<b>2,850,552</b>	<b>3,614,927</b>	<b>2,850,552</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Payables	58,643	214,102	58,643	214,102
Current Tax Liabilities	181,449	98,872	182,121	98,872
Provisions	116,151	137,930	116,151	137,930
Other Liabilities	1,153,408	65,572	1,153,408	65,572
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,509,651</b>	<b>516,476</b>	<b>1,510,323</b>	<b>516,476</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Provisions	23,268	6,252	23,268	6,252
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>23,268</b>	<b>6,252</b>	<b>23,268</b>	<b>6,252</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,532,919</b>	<b>522,728</b>	<b>1,533,591</b>	<b>522,728</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,082,834</b>	<b>2,327,824</b>	<b>2,081,336</b>	<b>2,327,824</b>
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>				
Opening Balance	2,327,824	2,635,782	2,327,824	2,635,782
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)	(244,990)	(307,958)	(246,488)	
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>2,082,834</b>	<b>2,327,824</b>	<b>2,081,336</b>	<b>2,327,824</b>

Our Audited Financial Statements (Report) for the year ended 30 June 2018 is available on our website, and upon request. The Report provides an account of the management of the organisations and its subsidiary company, AbSec Learning and Development Centre. It also provides details in respect of the Financial Performance and Financial Position, among other things. The Report demonstrates that AbSec is in good financial health with a strong cash position to meet any of its obligations in the future.



Adoption is not the answer  
The best care for kids is COMMUNITY

# Get involved in our work

There are many ways to support the important work being done by AbSec for Aboriginal children, families and communities. No matter who you are or the size of your contribution, we appreciate all who bring us closer towards our goals.

## JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY

Like and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to stay up-to-date and share your thoughts.

-  @AbSecNSW & @AbSecLDC
-  @AbSecNSW
-  @AbSec (Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care Secretariat) & @AbSec Learning and Development Centre

## JOIN ABSEC AS A MEMBER

AbSec membership is for individuals, organisations and corporations that are supportive of our goals and dedicated to improving the lives of Aboriginal children, families and communities.

We offer a variety of membership categories to suit different types of organisations, as well as those in the community, such as carers and other interested parties, who want to join our mission.

Find out more at [absec.org.au/membership](http://absec.org.au/membership) or contact us on **(02) 9559 5299**.

## JOIN THE FAMILY MATTERS CAMPAIGN

Family Matters is Australia's national campaign to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture. Led by national peak body SNAICC, Family Matters is supported by a strategic alliance of more than 150 organisations, academics and prominent educational institutions.

AbSec coordinates the NSW Family Matters Collective, made up of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations. We welcome organisations to sign up as members, and individuals to join our mailing list to keep up-to-date on campaign initiatives. Visit [absec.org.au/familymatters.php](http://absec.org.au/familymatters.php) to find out more.

## PARTNER WITH US

Partnering with AbSec is a rewarding way to fulfil your business' corporate social responsibility goals while boosting team morale and engagement. We can work with you to design a partnership model that meets your needs and provides mutual benefits, or you can join our monthly giving program for a simple but powerful way to make a difference. AbSec values each and every partner. Please get in touch by calling **(02) 9559 5299** or emailing [admin@absec.org.au](mailto:admin@absec.org.au).

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

As a peak body, AbSec advocates for local Aboriginal community-controlled organisations across NSW, many who do impressive work for their communities with very little funding. Get in touch with Aboriginal organisations in your area to start a discussion about how you can provide meaningful support.

# ABSEC

NSW CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PEAK ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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TWITTER: [@ABSECNSW](http://@ABSECNSW)