



.....providing positive outcomes for children, parents & carers

## Vision

The vision of the foundation is to create a world where every child is loved, nurtured, safe and secure so that they can reach their full physical, emotional, social and spiritual potential.



## Mission

To provide inspirational parent and early childhood education, training and resources to socially and economically disadvantaged communities.

Established by the founders of Inspired Education in 2007 the **Spirit of Childhood Foundation** was created in response for a need for innovative approaches to education and learning together with the necessity to bring this education to socially and economically disadvantaged communities.



The Inspir=Ed Spirit of Childhood programs in the last year have assisted over 332 professionals, parent and carers and 3000 families to improve outcomes for children, parents and carers through the strengthening parent-child and family relationships.

2007/08 the successful programs were piloted in NSW, Queensland and remote Indigenous communities in the NT. The innovative and experiential learning approach of the programs have been extremely well received by the communities and participants. See comments.



Selina Ashley-Brown from Wugulurr, NT and Lindy O'Brien Spirit of Childhood 'train the facilitator' workshop, Mullumbimby, Northern NSW

## Spirit of Childhood Programs

The unique programs provide new skills and strategies for health and early childhood professionals to strengthen early parent child bonds, build parenting skills and support an understanding of the early childhood ages and stages.



Borroloola Community Consultation Oct 07

**transformative  
parent education  
empowering  
learning programs  
creating  
stronger parent  
-child bonds**

## Professional comment

*The children are now playing quietly and co-operatively with each other. In particular the change in behaviour of one the young children has been extraordinary. She used to scream at the door and throw tantrums and wouldn't participate in group activities. Now she looks to hold hands when we are singing songs and plays calmly and independently. You couldn't believe she was the same child. Pamela Simon, Indigenous Children's Program Co-Ordinator, Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation*

## Participants comment

*".. thank you again for the opportunity to participate in your program for the past 6 weeks. Having come from an Early Childhood background I found it very inspiring for not only myself as a new mother but also as a worker in the industry. We had a wonderful time and can't wait to do more activities. I would love to know what programs you have on offer that may extend my training as an Early Childhood Educator as I believe in what you are trying to do." Allana, Murwillumbah*

*"I found the course most enjoyable .. it gave me the opportunity to really think about the way I parent now and the way I want my family to head in the future. Thank you so much for the experience". Nicole, Nobbys Creek,*



Jemima & great grand daughter, Borroloola 07

### Specific Outcomes of Spirit of Childhood Programs

- Stronger parent-child bonds resulting in secure attachment for improved well-being
- Increased parent-child skills, confidence and self-esteem
- Increased capacity for joy and happiness in parent-child relationship which research shows is critical for emotional intelligence

- Development of imaginative play which research shows is important for children's social, emotional and psychological development
- Create basis for early literacy through storytelling, singing, circle, hand gesture and movement games
- Strengthens family and community bonds through reducing social isolation including intergenerational support
- Engagement of fathers in parenting

### Objectives of Foundation

- Enable the Spirit of Childhood professional development parent education training programs and resources to be made available and affordable to all health and early childhood professionals.
- Facilitate Spirit of Childhood parent education programs in socially and economic communities
- Train facilitators to deliver Inspir=Ed Spirit of Childhood programs into communities
- Empower parents to make informed choices regarding their children's social and emotional well-being and education

### Focus Areas of the Foundation

#### 1. Indigenous Focus - Case Study Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, Sydney

The Inspir=Ed Spirit of Childhood program at the Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation is successfully helping young Aboriginal mothers and children with parenting skills and strategies. The program has been so well received that Tharawal are looking at introducing it in their associated child care and pre-school centre.



Lizzie and Daughter, Borroloola Oct 07



Angela Rivas, Inspir=Ed facilitator Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation

The program provides a sensitive and culturally appropriate two hour parent child sensory integration weekly program. The Spirit of Childhood are also training and mentoring Indigenous women to deliver these much needed parent and early childhood education programs to their communities.



Indigenous women to deliver these much needed parent and early childhood education programs to their communities.

**strengthening  
parent-child bonds  
building  
parenting skills  
understanding  
early childhood stages**

### Participants comment

*"I found this workshop transformational. The two days I spent with Thanh and Jane totally revived my spirit and rekindled my passion for working in early childhood settings."*

Siobhann Loosmoor, Early Childhood Teacher,

*"...this delightfully refreshing project has great potential to impact positively on our people and communities. And indeed on all people and communities who are fortunate enough to experience its content."*

Holly Jenkins, Awabakal Aboriginal Co-operative, Hunter Valley

*"The training has given me inspiration to continue in my field of work. I would like to see the training and the kits made available to all Early Childhood staff."*

Ann Haritgan, Kyogle Family Support Service

*"I have no hesitation in recommending the Inspir=Ed workshops to any early education facilitator, health professional to allow our families to become healthy, capable and competent people..."*

Sharon Taylor, Indigenous Parent Educator, Port Stephens

*"The most transformative workshop I have ever done.".....  
"Making the dolls has been a remarkable experience."*

Michael Webb, Playgroup Co-Ordinator, Lismore



**2. Post Natal Depression/Support Focus  
Case Study: Bonding with Baby,  
Lismore, NSW, Oct - Dec 07**

The Spirit of Childhood "Bonding with Baby" post natal depression/support program was a great success. The confidence and self-esteem of the participants improved over the duration of the program. Participants felt that they had missed out on an important part of their child's life as a result of their depression and that the program provided them with an opportunity to create 'special memories' for their children, strengthening the parent child bond.

Lismore Post Natal Depression Program Participant

**3. Early Intervention Professional Development Focus**

**Case Study: Newcastle Workshop**

Fifteen health and early childhood professionals attended the two day training program in September 2007. Participants reported that the program increased their skills and strategies in respect to attachment and bonding. The program enabled them to engage with parents and children broader level and positively effect parenting knowledge and behaviour.



Therese with her 'babies'  
Newcastle Professional Development June 08

Participants called for the training and resources to be made available to all health and early childhood professionals.

**Programs delivered to date**

• **Five Day "Train the Facilitator" Spirit of Childhood Parent Education**

Mullumbimby, NSW March, 2008

• **Two Day Professional Parent Education**

Birra Li Aboriginal Birthing Service, Newcastle June 07

Newcastle September 07

YWCA, Lismore September 07

FaCSIA, Borroloola, NT October 07

Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, Campbelltown, Sydney, March 07

• **One Day Professional Parent Education**

Playgroups NSW/Blacktown, Sydney, Nov. 08

Save the Children, Lismore, March 07

Lismore Men and Family Centre, Murwillumbah, March 08

• **Parent and Child Education Programs**

Bonding with Baby 9 week Post Natal Depression Program, Lismore Oct - Dec 2007

Bonding with Baby 2 x 9 week Indigenous Young Mothers Support Program, Campbelltown, Sydney, Feb - May 2008

Tweed Shire Women's Service - 6 week Inspir=Ed Parent Education Program, Murwillumbah, April - June, 2008

Murwillumbah Community Health 6 week Inspir=Ed Parent Education Program, Murwillumbah, April - June 2008

Pre-schools Murwillumbah - 4 week Inspir=Ed Parent Education Program, Murwillumbah, April - June 2008

Playscheme Murwillumbah - 3 week Inspir=Ed Parent Education Program

**Testimonials**

*"I commend you on the creative work you are doing to strengthen early parent-child bonds. This is the single most important protective factor in relation to child abuse and neglect."*

Professor Dorothy Scott Director, Australian Centre for Child Protection

*"NAPCAN NT strongly endorses this program as a valuable means of reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect and increasing the protective factors within families and communities."*

Lesley Taylor, NT Executive Officer, NAPCAN Foundation

*"Your program brings a fresh new approach to the importance of strong families and communities. Your use of art, craft, songs, games and storytelling are a sound approach to attachment and bonding between parents and their children."*

Susan Boucher CEO, Australian Principals Associations Professional Development Council .

*"Playgroup Victoria ...feel that this program with its holistic approach will create many learning opportunities that will benefit family cohesiveness and each child's well being."*

Kaye Plowman Executive Officer Playgroup Victoria

# Spirit of Childhood forthcoming programs and projects

Meli at Spirit of Childhood Parent Education program, Murwillumbah July 08



imagine  
reflect  
inspire  
transform  
educate  
visualise  
dream

## Funding and assistance is required for the following

### Inspir=Ed Spirit of Childhood Programs Delivery -

- Evaluated pilot with Playgroups Victoria - social and emotional well being focus - urban
- Evaluated pilot with Bunjum Aboriginal Co-Op - regional/rural Indigenous focus
- Evaluated pilot Borroloola - Indigenous remote focus
- Evaluated pilot Barunga/Wugularr - Indigenous remote focus

### Programs Development -

- Program development - General program notes and specific Indigenous learning program
- Website development - ongoing support and mentoring for workshop participants
- Educational DVD to support professionals and parents

### Programs Evaluation-

External evaluation of programs to date University of Newcastle

### Foundation Administration

Administration and office costs



Spirit of Childhood Program Borroloola, October, 2007

**Thank you to all those who have made possible the important, timely, much needed work of the foundation including the participants and facilitators of the programs, FaHCSIA, Birra Li Aboriginal Birthing Service, Save the Children Save The Children YWCA Murwillumbah Communities for Children, Smith Family C4C Katherine, Family Support Inc, Lismore, Lismore Men and Family Centre, Chris and Linda Dean, Klaas and Lise Berkeley**

## FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

**Jane Hanckel**, co-founder, director and program facilitator has a background in communication, arts, education and early childhood.

**Derek Spice**, co-founder and director, is a philanthropist with business background in the U.K. He is an advocate for developmental education.

**Thanh Cherry**, director, and program facilitator, has 25 years experience of working with young children as a kindergarten teacher. Thanh established a school in the Southern Highlands.



Jane Hanckel



Thanh Cherry

## Participants comment

*"This lost art of nourishing young children must come to all parents and educators and this programme is very unique in addressing this big void in our communities."*  
Mimi Manzart Supported Playgroup Leader 5 day workshop

*"I will most definitely be referring clients to this program. It encourages positive play for parents/care givers and children."*  
Micheline Fabila, Brighter Futures Program, Campbelltown 2 day workshop

*"I would like to see the training more available for community workers to make them better skilled - every community centre should have the resources."*  
Melissa Sinclair, Indigenous Parent Educator, Thou-Walla Family Centre, Raymond Terrace

*"I will use the training and the kits in our Indigenous playgroup, in our town community events. I would like to do more training on Inspir=Ed so I can learn more and teach my children, so my children can teach their children..."*

Theresa Blair, Artist and Parent Educator, Thou-Walla Family Centre, Raymond Terrace

*"I have worked with children for over 30 years but here learnt so much that I never understood before."*

All new mothers (and old) should be able to have this experience."  
Marcia Browning, Teacher, Northern NSW