

## Supporting the mental health of children living in out-of-home care



**Candice Butler**  
Child Protection, Qld

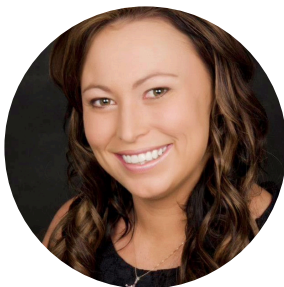
Candice Butler is a proud Aboriginal woman with strong family connections to Yarrabah in Far North Queensland. She is passionate about ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have true self-determination and authority over decisions that are made about their lives particularly in the area of Child Protection.

Candice is a thought leader that has been instrumental in the significant reforms that have occurred for Child Protection in Queensland and nationally and is currently the Deputy Chair of SNAICC, the National Peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

As the inaugural Director of the Centre of Excellence at the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak Ltd (QATSICPP), Candice has provided significant leadership in the design, delivery, management, and evaluation of projects to improve child and family wellbeing across Queensland. This has included co-author of research and leading of the evaluation and action research agenda.

At the heart of Candice's work is ensuring that the voice and choice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is heard and respected in child protection reform.

Candice is a Social Worker with over 15 years' experience working across government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs.



**Felicity Kime**  
Peer Worker/Child  
and Family Partner,  
NSW

Felicity Kime is a peer worker and parent advocate who has for some years been using her lived experience of the care system and of child removal to teach others, and to influence change in the child protection system. As well as being the first parent president of a parent led organisation in Australia called Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter, Felicity is also a parent partner with Emerging Minds. Felicity is on the Families Australia National Coalition Steering Group.



**Kate Headley**  
Speech Pathologist, NSW

Successful communication is key to our quality of life. It is a means through which we connect with others, understand our experiences and express our thinking. Across my career I have had a passion for assisting people to be heard. This always involves working with the person with communication support needs and with their communication partners across their everyday activities and environments.

As service providers working with children, we become one of the child's communication partners. This may require us to modify our own communication style, learn new communication skills and think about different ways to create shared meaning. I am looking forward to sharing and collaborating on ideas for how we can support children's communication in order to maximise their participation in therapeutic relationships.



**Facilitator:**  
**Nicole Rollbusch**  
Practice Development  
Officer, Emerging  
Minds, SA

Nicole is a Practice Development Officer with Emerging Minds. With a background in psychology and social work, Nicole has worked in both government and non-government organisations providing therapeutic support to children and families experiencing a variety of challenges.

Nicole's particular areas of work have been in child mental health, domestic violence and homelessness, and post-separation support for both children and parents. Moving into content development in child mental health has provided Nicole with a different perspective on the work and she enjoys the challenge of translating knowledge from research, practitioners, and the expertise of those with lived experience to support the learning of health and social services practitioners.