National Association of Mobile Services for Rural and Remote Families & Children Inc.
Vision

• Community, government and non government organisations working together to provide support and assistance for rural, remote and isolated services and the families they serve.
Mission

• The purpose of NAMS is to represent and support culturally Mobile and other atypical services fostering and promoting the well being, welfare and care for families with children living in rural and remote regions of Australia.
Guiding Principles

• **Collaboration** – we value an open team environment where we can learn from each other and share knowledge through consultation and collaboration.

• **Professional and Caring** – we provide a link to other mobile services – providing a ‘sense of belonging’

• **Community Governance** – we are committed to providing robust governance for the association that is inclusive and representative of all our community & service members.
Strategic Result Areas

1. Increasing Awareness

2. Sustainable Organisational Governance
Objectives:

1. Increasing Awareness
   The objective is to enhance NAMS organisational image, promote mobile children’s services and influence childcare policy for rural & remote areas.

Strategies are:

- Act as a forum to influence government policy on issues that effect children 0-5 in rural & remote areas.
- Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and advice amongst mobiles services and an update of relevant information.
- Facilitate networking and training
- The outcome will be a well recognised and respected organisation that maintains a professional profile within our communities, communicating strongly with funding bodies and policy makers.
Objectives:

2. Sustainable Organisational Governance

The objective is to ensure a team approach to governance.

Strategies are: Provide opportunities for the services & community to learn more about organisational aspects of NAMS.

The outcome will be a cohesive and effective governance team with open communication, undertaking their roles with enthusiasm to encourage new committee into the future.
What is “Mobile”?

• Mobile Children's Services provide flexible, responsive and innovative services to children and families experiencing social, geographical, cultural or economic isolation.

• Mobile children's services visit rural & remote areas to provide occasional care, long day-care, school holiday care, playgroups, crèches, and story telling, games and toy library services.

• Equipment (which can include, cots, activities and administration needs) are housed in containers that fit comfortably in a commuter van, trailer, troop carrier…

• Our mobile services operate out of purpose built venues as well as town halls, sporting complexes, CWA or RSL halls, parks & open spaces!
The NAMS family

NAMS
National Association of Mobile Services for Rural and Remote Families & Children Inc.
CCOWS (Child Care on Wheels Service)  
The Limestone Coast, South Australia

- CCOWS (Child Care on Wheels Service) offers long day care in Robe 3 days a week and at Beachport and Kangaroo Inn on the other 2 days. We have 2 qualified permanent carers, 1 permanent part-time and numerous casual staff members.

- Robe is a seaside town near the Coorong in the southeast of SA. It’s known for its Village Fair, crayfish, wineries, Atlantic salmon farming and more recently for its innovative mobile child care! This town swells from 1200 to 10,000 in summer. The busy locals really appreciate child care then.
West Pilbara Mobile Children’s Service

South Hedland, Western Australia

• We run a Multicultural play group weekly in a local park

• The communities that we visit are: Wakathuni, Belary Springs, Youngaleena, Hedland, Marblebar, Warralong, Strelly, Woodstock, & the stations we visit are Sherlock & Yandiyarra.
Our two Mobile Child Care services provide seven hours of occasional day-care for one day each week at eight venues throughout the Great Southern Region.

We are proud to be involved with the care of some **180 families** in the Great Southern region.

The services cover an area of 450sq km.
Gawooleng Yawoodeng
Mobile Playgroup:
East Kimberley’s, Western Australia
The mobile playgroup was developed to support the remote communities in the Fitzroy Valley.
The idea first began when parents in the Fitzroy Valley Childcare, recognised that the communities in the Fitzroy Valley had little or no access to child care facilities. This led to Marninwarntikura Women’s Resource Centre being approached to house the mobile playgroup.
Regional Mobile Children’s Service Unit for Jalygurr-Guwan Aboriginal Corporation

Broome, Western Australia

• We provide a mobile playgroup, toy library, support for communities running their own child care services, consultations with communities addressing needs regarding child care, providing resources and information on parenting, healthcare, training, and childcare funding.

• We use a Toyota troop carrier (2005) & travel 500-1000kms per week

• The communities that we visit are: Millya Rumurra, Bidyadanga, Lombadina, Djaridjin, One Arm Point, Beagle Bay, Jarndi Yuwaru, Ngamakoon and other communities which show interest in our service as we meet them. These communities are remote Aboriginal communities and are only accessible via 4WD. During the wet season some of these communities are inaccessible as the unsealed roads become flooded and impossible to drive through therefore services are limited.
The Katherine Isolated Children's Service (KICS)  
Northern Territory

- KICS provides the NT station children with a chance to socialise through the mobile playgroup.
- The service was created more than a decade ago by the ICPA and the Salvation Army, & services 400 children a year across an area which stretches from the WA border to the Gulf country, and south to Newcastle Waters.
- It travels an area of 600,000 square kilometres.
Smile A Mile Fun Bus & Toy Library
Humpty Doo, Northern Territory

Smile-A-Mile Fun Bus currently visits a number of rural and isolated communities, covering an approximate area of 28,000 kilometres within the Northern Territory.

All Fun Bus Venues are free to attend.

Venues are based on the needs of rural families and we are always ready to investigate new areas where our Services are needed.
The St George Mobile Children’s Service, which was set up in response to the needs of families in the remote communities surrounding St George, is funded by the Commonwealth Government. It aims to support geographically isolated families and children, and to facilitate and network with communities to promote child development. The service operates from a specially equipped vehicle which visits local communities and sets up in local venues such as community halls.

The St George Mobile Children’s Service provides childcare and kindergarten at a different location each day of the week. The locations include Surat, Teelba, Thallon, Bollon and Dirranbandi.
Corangamite Shire Mobile Child Care service

Victoria

- Corangamite Shire Mobile Child Care service provides five hours of day care for one day each week at nine venues throughout the Corangamite Region.
The innovative mobile playgroup vehicle is used to provide a playgroup service to Town Camps around Alice Springs. In conjunction with Tangentyere Council playgroups currently operate on 4 town camps. An outdoor setting on the town camp is used with Toy Library staff bringing along toys and working with Tangentyere staff to encourage involvement of parents and children. Participation by Aboriginal families is high in the outreach playgroups conducted on the town camp.
The Bogan Bush Mobile provides play sessions for rural and remote children from birth to school age, small toy library, parent book library.

Our Mobile covers a total area of 160 sq kilometres over 5 shires.

We provide services for 180 families.
Mobile Crèche
Bega Garnbirringu’s Mission is to provide a holistic and culturally appropriate health care service to the Aboriginal people of the Goldfields. One of the services we provide is a free mobile crèche service for Indigenous families (Monday, Tuesday, 9.30am-2.30pm) attending HIPSTAR (Helping Indigenous Families Support Talent and Reading) at Curtin Uni in Kalgoorlie. Then on Wednesdays we run Nintari Yingka, 10.30am-12.30pm at local parks. Other irregular activities include providing Crèche for training at communities such as Coonana or Wiluna. Also, when community events are held (Naidoc Week, Children’s Week etc.) we are usually quite involved. We do a lot of work in collaboration with staff from Eastern Goldfields YMCA and the Dept. for Communities, which helps with the workload. At the moment, we are looking at how we can increase our storage space for equipment, re-paint our trailers and increase our staffing allocation.
Mallee Mobile Childcare Service is designed to meet the needs of small, rural communities in the Southern Mallee of S.A. where a commercial childcare centre is not viable because of low, unpredictable and fluctuating usage rates.

COGS shares existing kindergarten facilities in each town, providing 2 days per week long day care from 8.30am to 5.15pm for children 3 months to 5 years, and After School Care if places are available. Community crèches are provided on a needs basis. The premises have been modified to comply with SA Licensing & Standards requirements.

The service is a community funded Rural Project, sponsored by the Southern Mallee District Council and is based in Lameroo.

During the first years of operation, all equipment for the childcare day was transported from base to site in a trailer, but now equipment is stored at each site and toys are changed over frequently from base.

There is a staff team of approximately 20, comprising Qualified and Unqualified workers and 4 School Based Apprentices.
The Remote & Isolated Children’s Exercise Inc (RICE) & Outback Childcare SA

Port Augusta, South Australia

- Serving remote and isolated families living on stations and in small communities in outback South Australian

- Covering an area of 650,000 square km, staff travel by 4WD to visit families

- The multi-disciplinary team includes a child health nurse, social worker, pre-school teacher, toy librarian, child care staff

- Health checks, family support and information, kindy on the air, remote playgroups, toy library

- Childcare in the home, remote creches for community meetings, Activity Days at gymkhanas & Field Days, weekly creches in small towns
The Little Green Frog

• The Little Green Frog was launched in March 2007 and delivers “Mobile Child Care and Early childhood Resources” for the whole of East Gippsland covering 21,800 Square kilometers via the purpose built vehicle.
• The “Little Green Frog” offers:
  On-site child care, Toy library and Parent resources in areas where there are no or limited available child care services
  The on-site child care operates while the parents are on the same premises attending educational/ training sessions.
• The purpose of the little Green Frog was to reach all families in East Gippsland including the:
  17% of families that need some extra support
  3% of families that need intensive support/services
• By reaching these families the Little Green Frog would improve early childhood health, development and well being. The isolation of families was diminished by the ability to give support via various programs. The Little Green Frog set up highlighted the importance of a parent just being around to share with the children’s experiences and life skills.
• The innovative format for the “Little Green Frog” has not only strengthened local capacity but the innovative format is now being used by several other Regional areas that offer child Care in Victoria