

Letter from the Editor

Hello All,

What a year so far! The Covid-19 pandemic has changed just about every aspect of daily life – individuals, to small and medium businesses, to the very systems on which our country and government rely, have all been effected by social distancing policies, to combat the spread of this invisible enemy. Then, not a few weeks ago, the death of African American, George Floyd, sparked the global Black Lives Matter movement, which has once again taught us the significance and power of standing beside one another in the midst of chaos and the unknown.

Here at the SA office, we've had to adjust to some major changes – we've stopped seeing clients face-to-face while the virus is still active and restrictions are ongoing, instead we've been hearing client's stories over the phone and conducting team meetings via Zoom. We've also welcomed 3 new Caseworkers, juggling the change in normal duties with training new staff and providing assistance to our clients who are beginning their journey to reconnect with family. Our staff are all back working in the office now, but as a community health organisation, Nunkuwarrin Yunti are sensitive to the very real risk that Covid-19 presents to our community, especially to Elders and those with existing health conditions.

As you sit and read this edition of the National Link-Up Newsletter, we hope you take time to reflect on the challenges, but also on the good things that have come out of this pandemic – it has highlighted the power of kindness, patience, caring and belonging and reminded us that we are all in this together. As we look to recovery in a post-Covid world, may we not forget that life is essentially about the connections we have with one another – family, friendship and community. We at Link-Up work at the very heart of connection and belonging, and it is for this reason that we continue to do the work that we do. It is essential to our survival and to our capacity to move forward.

Emma Heidenreich

Link-Up SA Community Engagement Officer



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With thanks to Link-Up teams and other organisations for their editorial contributions. This newsletter may contain photographs of people who have passed away. Front Cover photograph courtesy of Yorgum Healing Services: Maureen Farmer and Helen Casey on the property at Moondyne Country Convention Centre for the Women's Healing Circle.

The article 'Tips for Staying Healthy and Strong in the Coronavirus Outbreak', is provided by Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia. The new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing, mental health and suicide prevention national leadership body are based in Canberra. Visit them at: www.gayaadhuwi.org.au



Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia acknowledges and pays respect to Elders, both past and present and all generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples now and into the future as the Traditional Owners of this land.

Tips for staying healthy and strong during the coronavirus outbreak

For further resources and reliable information, including how to get mental health support, see the longer version of this tip sheet at gayaadhuwi.org.au/coronavirus

We are all feeling worried and stressed about the coronavirus. Our lives are going to change in many ways, and we have to prepare ourselves now. To stay mentally strong, here are some tips:

- 1. Be informed the right way We need to know what the health experts are saying and follow their advice. Knowing what to do is important not just to stay physically healthy, but to help bring peace of mind. However, do limit how much time you spend on news for your own wellbeing.
- 2. **Be practical and prepared as things change** It's good to think ahead more than usual at this time. There's no need to hoard things, but have some back-up food, supplies and medication in storage. Keep a 'things to do' calendar and a list of important phone numbers or contacts.
- 3. It's OK to be stressed and worried about the virus. What's not so good is to bottle it up. Talk about your fears and worries with family and friends and get it off your chest.
- 4. Have hope This won't last forever At some time, the virus will come under control and life will return to something like normal. It's important to remember this and have hope, even as we prepare to cope with what is ahead.
- 5. Our culture keeps us strong We have faced many battles before and survived. Think about our ancestors' strengths and where we have come from. Focus on what makes you strong for the journey ahead. Remember, our ancestors are always with us.
- 6. Take time away from the news and social media It's important to stay informed, but if the news or TV is stressing you out turn it off for a while. And make sure what you're reading and watching is reliable, so you don't waste time worrying about things that aren't true.

Coronavirus Emergency Contact Numbers

If you feel unwell, have a fever or sore throat, PLEASE do not go to the medical centre/family clinic or the hospital. Instead, contact the following for instructions:

- ACT Health: 02 6205 2155
- NSW Health: 1300 066 055
- SA Health: 1300 232 272
- TAS Health: 1800 671 738
- QLD Health: 13 432 584
- VIC Health: 1300 651 160
- WA Health: 08 922 8588
- Northern Territory helpline:1800 008 002
- National helpline: 1800 020 080
- 7. Keep in touch with friends and family When you are outside, you need to keep two big steps away from other people to stop the virus spreading, and you shouldn't visit other people. But you can still yarn on the phone or by social media. Keep in touch that way don't visit!

- 8. Get some fresh air and exercise If permitted, go for a walk but remember to keep at least two big steps from anyone outside. If you've got a garden or balcony use it. Exercise as much as you can without going out it will help with stress.
- 9. Eat well Think about what you're eating and try and eat well plenty of fruit and vegetables, can make a big difference to how you feel. Some foods also help to boost your immune system so try some new foods or recipes.
- 10. Be creative or learn something new Get into playing music, singing, storytelling, dancing and creativity to reduce your stress and raise your spirits. Being creative takes our mind away from our worries and give us joy in difficult times. This is important for children too.
- **11. Chill out** You might find yoga, meditation and mindfulness helpful, and there's also dadirri the deep, spiritual reflection that our mob have been doing for thousands of years. Some people find it easier to do something active first and then chill.
- **12. Keep the kids happy** Check in with your kids to see if they're OK, especially if they are behaving differently. Give them some space to explore and be creative, but also spend good time together to and give them reassurance.
- 13. Keep Elders happy It's important we protect our Elders and make sure they don't get the virus. It's tough, but for most of us that means staying away, and keeping the kids away, until the virus is under control and speaking on the phone or by internet.
- **14. Keep yourself happy** Our people are good at looking after everyone else but not so good at looking after ourselves. Do things that make you feel good and build your strength. If you are strong and happy, this will help others to do the same, especially kids.
- **15.** Be kind to others Everyone will be stressed at a time like this. We're all sharing the worry and dealing with the virus in our own way. It's important to put yourself in the place of others at this time, to keep as calm as we can, and be as kind as we can.
- **16. Find and give space and respect** Wherever you can, make some part of where you live your own space —a small corner, a chair, or a room. Add a plant, a cushion, whatever makes you calm and happier. Create your own space and respect other people's need for space as well.
- 17. Create a Stay Strong Plan Think about all the things that keep you and your family strong and what you might need to help. Learn some new ways to talk about what is going on with the family. Make sure you check in with everyone and see how they are going.
- **18.** Don't let money worries get on top of you You may have new or additional money worries until the virus is under control. Its ok to get some support, many people will be in the same boat.
- 19. Cut back on smoking It's important to keep your lungs strong and healthy because the lungs are particularly vulnerable to virus infection. Despite the added stress, aim to cut back or quit if you can. It is also important to not smoke inside or around kids and family to keep them and their lungs healthy.
- 20. Think before you drink In times of stress, it might feel normal to reach for a drink. But think first How might my drinking affect others in the house? Is drinking becoming the main way I am coping with the coronavirus? Talk to your doctor or health service if this is the case.

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Artwork © Roma Winmar.



An Update from Link-Up Victoria during the Covid-19 Crisis

These are unprecedented times for all of us. As we enter into the second week of working at home, further restrictions placed on our freedom make everyone question "when will this be over?".

No one knows the answer, so all we can do now is manage as best we can. All staff of Link-Up Victoria are now working from home. Our best tool, other than our laptops and mobiles, is the online program called Zoom – it allows us to meet as a group, see one another and catch up with the latest news.

Link-Up Victoria's current staff:

Program Manager: Bev Murray
Reunions Officer: Angela North
Reunions Officer: Anita Singh
Client Support Officer: Narelle Carter
Client Support Officer: Ricky Baxter
Client Support Officer: Mirriki Love
Administration Officer: Deseree Corlett

We are still in the recruitment stage for our Team Leader, which remains vacant.

Our program is located within the Victorian Aboriginal Childcare Agency, which is the largest Aboriginal community organization in Victoria. We are so lucky to have been supported throughout this crisis with excellent leadership, that has ensured we are kept up to date with critical information and good decision making on the best way to move forward.

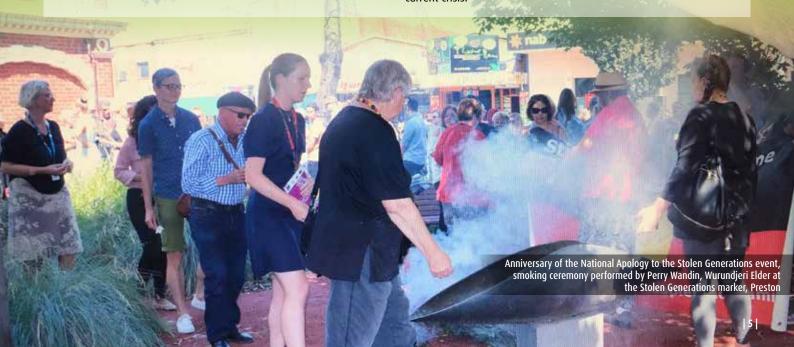
Our first and most important task, under our current regime, was to contact all existing clients to check in on them and provide comfort and reassurance. We also decided to offer a Stolen Generations Support payment of \$100, that could be paid direct into client's bank accounts. Clients were thankful for the contact and for the support. It is our intention to maintain weekly catch ups with all of them.

Before our world changed, the first event on our calendar for the 2020 year was the Anniversary of the National Apology. In partnership with City of Hume and Connecting Home (a state-funded service for the Stolen Generations, that provides practical and other support), we organized an event to mark the occasion. This is now an annual event which Link-Up Victoria staff attend. As in previous years, the key speakers are our CEO, Muriel Bamblett, the Chair of Connecting Home, Ian Hamm and the Mayor of Darebin, Sue Rennie, all of whom made inspiring and heartfelt speeches on this very reverent day. Our event was chaired by Eva Jo Edwards, who is a Stolen Generation Survivor and an amazing woman, who bravely shared her story about what happened to her and how it impacted her life. The event was held at the Darebin Shire Hall. Every year its packed out with community and others who want to commemorate the day in honour of the Stolen Generations. We had two Stolen Generations performers – Brian Morley and Christine Harms. Both are singer-songwriters and musicians who left the crowd spellbound with their performances. At the end of our event, we all walked around to the Stolen Generations marker.

This year, the Laying of the White Flowers Ceremony began with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by Perry Wandin, Wurundjeri Traditional Owner. A whisper of smoke drifted over all of us, as Stolen Generations Survivors placed their flowers inside the coolomon, followed by everyone else. The event felt very poignant.

The biggest and most welcome news we received in Victoria, was the announcement by the State Government that there will be a redress scheme for Victorian Stolen Generations. Finally! There was no big ceremony, no gatherings held to celebrate this historical announcement, but we are all so happy for our Stolen Generations. We were also sad for those who passed before they could hear those words.

Take care everyone, stay safe and see you all on the other side of our current crisis.



South Australia

Nunkuwarrin Yunti join forces with Reconciliation SA for the Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations

In late 2019, Shona Reid the Executive Director for Reconciliation SA, approached Link-Up SA to ask if Nunkuwarrin Yunti would like to have a representation at Reconciliation SA's annual Apology Day Breakfast. Here is what Shona had to say about the event, and why the Link-Up program plays a vital national role in reconciling Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Australia.

Reconciliation SA are a not-for-profit based in South Australia whose strategic focus is based on the dimensions of reconciliation developed by Reconciliation Australia. Their aim is to guide us to a reconciled Australia, in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, heritage and history are recognised, valued and form part of a shared identity.

Shona, why does Reconciliation SA hold this breakfast each year and why is February 13 so important?

The Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generation Breakfast is held each year to commemorate the day, 13th of February that Kevin Rudd, on behalf of the Australian people, apologised to persons of the Stolen Generation and their families.

Reconciliation SA feels it is very important that this breakfast be held every year for a number of reasons. Firstly, it is important that we never forget the Apology, nor should we forget the very true facts of our nation's history of removing Aboriginal children from their mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents and communities. Remembering means that we remain conscious and alert so this era and that we acknowledge these practices cannot happen again. Secondly it is important that we hold this event, because it provides an opportunity for the wider South Australian community to come together to pay their own respects, to show their support for First Nations peoples, to acknowledge and learn the true history of our past and to play their part in ensuring that this is to never happen again. Thirdly, this event also provides a unique opportunity for the Aboriginal community in South Australia to receive respect, to see the support that exists across the South Australian community and to know that the wider community remain aware and cognisant of the unjust, unfair and inhumane practices associated with the Stolen Generation era.

How many people attended the breakfast this year?

This year, we had 1,768 people attend from across all sectors of the South Australian community – government departments, private enterprises, the defence sector, schools, churches, local council

representatives, politicians and of course there were individuals (private citizens) that came along to show their support. We also had a record number of Stolen Generation Survivors who attended, with approximately 80 sponsored seats and many other Stolen Generation Survivors who attended at their workplace tables.

Was there anything unique or different about this year? Who were the key performers?

Each year is unique in its own right. The Welcome to Country was performed by Uncle Frank Wanganeen and his grandson Joseph. This was Joseph's first time in front of a large audience, and it was very special to see both Joseph and Uncle Frank stand together. Yellaka came and performed their dance piece Circles and Squares, an interpretation of a poem of the same name that was written by a Stolen Generations Survivor, Ally Cobby-Eckermann. This was a powerful piece. Tony Minniecon and Ada Parker-Minniecon sang their own songs, this was very special and continued on with the theme of the old and the new generations coming together, which was really evident throughout the morning.

We were also very privileged to have Link-Up SA come along and hold the stage as the keynote. This year, Link-Up SA celebrates its 20th Anniversary of being funded by the State and Federal Government to reunite individuals separated by post policies of the Australian Government, with their families and communities. This was always going to be special to get their message and history across to the room.

Why did you want Link-Up SA to play such a role in the breakfast?

It was very important to have Link-Up SA there at our event, the 20th Anniversary is an important milestone that needs to be acknowledge and celebrated.

Link-Up SA has played such an integral role in reconnecting and finding families who were a part of the Stolen Generations era. This is a really difficult and hard job and I don't think that many people across South Australia, or Australia for that fact, would really know about the work of Link-Up SA. There is an enormous amount of work that goes into finding and tracing people, as well as emotions that are attached to reuniting families and the ongoing impact the removal of children has had on entire families and communities.

Our job at Reconciliation SA is to bring awareness to the non-Aboriginal community about this. To share that not everything is a fairytale and that despite the Apology, people are still hurting. This area is hard to work in and is hard to be a part of.

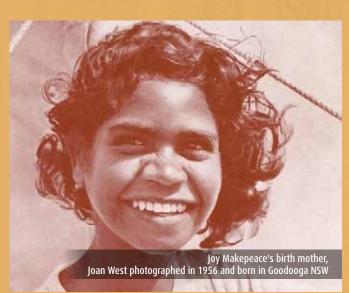
Reconciliation SA believes that it is really important that Link-Up SA is acknowledged, appreciated and respected for their work. This has not always been the case. Having Link-Up SA as keynote for the breakfast helped the audience understand and appreciate the complexities that go with working in this area. Thank you so much to Vicki Holmes, Nunkuwarrin Yunti CEO and Rose Highfold, Christopher Howland, Vickie Dodd, Joy Makepeace and Karen George

From a reconciliation perspective, why is the work of Link-Up SA so important to the community?

at Link-Up SA for coming and being a very special part of this event.

In terms of reconciliation in general. The reconciliation movement is about the building of purposeful and positive relationships, it is about enabling a society that respects and cherishes the role we all have in living and working within our shared community. The work of Link-Up SA is so critical in this. There are some significant wrongs from the past that need to be addressed. The removal of children and the suffering of individuals and families can never be erased from people's memories or experiences, but healing can begin. For some, the work of Link-Up SA is one step in the healing process.

The non-Aboriginal community and the reconciliation movement needs to be a part of supporting and encouraging this. It is the non-Aboriginal community's responsibility to be there to ask the Aboriginal community – what is it we can do to support this healing journey and the work of Link-Up SA?













South Australia

Link-Up SA Welcomes Three New Caseworkers, Sherry, Tyra and Sherilee

Full name: Tyra Wanganeen

Official start date: I started on the 25th of March 2020 **Your official role:** I am a Caseworker for Link-Up SA

What is your professional background? After completing my Year 12 education, I completed a traineeship with the Department of Premier and Cabinet as an ICT Administration Officer and continued to work there for a period of 3 years. After my time in the DPC, I was successful in gaining a position with the South Australian Police (SAPOL) as a Customer Service Officer, and now I am currently employed as a Caseworker for Link-Up SA.

What initially drew you to this role with Link-Up? It gives me an opportunity to assist and support my people and the Torres Strait Islander people.

Are you Aboriginal? If so, what nation do you identify with? I am a proud Aboriginal woman. On my mother's side I am from Point Pearce (Narungga) and Raukkan (Ngarrindjeri). On my father's side, I am from the Tiwi Islands.

What do you hope to achieve in the role? Within this role, I hope to reconnect as many Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people back to their families, communities and culture who were previously forcibly removed, as I can.

What is something you would like to say to future clients? To my future clients, I just want to say I admire how strong you all are, and I will do my best to fulfil the duties of my role and to the best of my ability.

Have you enjoyed working with Nunkuwarrin Yunti so far? Working within Nunkuwarrin Yunti has been wonderful so far. Everyone has been so kind and welcoming. I look forward to seeing what my future holds here working as part of Nunkuwarrin Yunti in the Link-Up SA team.

Full name: Sherry Baxter

Your official start date: Wednesday 25th March 2020

Your official role: Link-Up Caseworker

What is your professional background? I have a Diploma in Counselling and a bachelor's degree in human services, majoring in counselling. I have just spent the past 18 months working for the Adelaide Hills Council running a Community Centre at Norton Summit. Prior to this, I worked as a Senior Practitioner in Foster Care, an Enhanced Perinatal Youth Worker working with young Aboriginal women who are pregnant and under Guardianship of the Minister. I've also worked as a Counsellor with SA Health and TAFESA.

What initially drew you this role with Link-Up? I was drawn to this position because of the diversity of the role. The role involves research, case management, travel, family tracing and working with Aboriginal people and community. I feel the role will be unique and challenging, but also very rewarding.

Are you Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? Do you have much experience working with the Community before? I am not Aboriginal. I have worked with Aboriginal families in both Gawler and Murraylands areas as a Youth Worker and Senior Practitioner.

What do you hope to achieve in the role? What is something you would like to say to future clients? I hope that by reuniting the Stolen Generation with their families, communities and Country, I can help, even in a small way, to begin the healing process and improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in South Australia.

To future clients I would like to say this,

'Thank you for trusting me to come along on this reunion journey with you. It will take time, but I will keep you updated along the way, and we will work together throughout the process.'

Have you enjoyed working with Nunkuwarrin Yunti so far? I have really enjoyed my first week at Nunkuwarrin Yunti. It has been a challenging time to start a new role with the coronavirus situation, however, everyone has been very welcoming and I'm settling in well.







Full name: Sherilee Kartinyeri **Office Start date:** 17th May 2020 **Your official role:** Link-Up Caseworker

What is your professional background? I started my career in the Aboriginal sector with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement as a Receptionist and then later in Native Title. I've had a traineeship through the SA Department working for the State Library of SA. I have had a variety of roles in the non-profit, NGO and State and Commonwealth Government sectors in South Australia and the Northern Territory. I have worked as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer in Ceduna at the Area School, Housing SA and the Commonwealth Employment Service. For 14 years I worked for Centacare Catholic Family Services, in a variety of Aboriginal and mainstream programmes for women, children and families, in homelessness, suicide prevention and early intervention. I was elected to the South Australian Aboriginal Women's Gathering and was a member for 2 years, helping to give voice to the issues facing Aboriginal women in the community. More recently, I've undertaken a Bachelor of Social Work and am excited to start my new role with Link-Up SA.

Are you Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? I am a proud Aboriginal woman from South Australia. My cultural ties are Point Peace (Narungga), Kaurna, Nadjuri and Nunkunu. I also have ties to Buckskins and Grahams, from my biological parents.

What do you hope to achieve in this role? I feel I have something special to bring to this role. I have understanding and empathy for our clients and what they've been through and the journey that is ahead of them. I want to give back to the community and to bring my wealth of experience to this role.

What is something you would like to say to future clients? Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of your journey. I can see your strength and resilience. I will continue to learn from you and listen to you, as we walk this journey together. Your story is safe with me.

How have you enjoyed working with Nunkuwarrin Yunti so far? Thank you everyone for being so welcoming and professional, it's been wonderful to see how much Nunkuwarrin Yunti has grown from the early years. It's amazing to see all the programmes that function within and how the whole system works.

South Australia

Accessing Records During Covid-19

The Covid-19 Pandemic has affected almost every aspect of daily life and this is no different for our partner institutions that play a vital role in accessing the records that help us piece together our client's journeys. The following messages are from our key record holders regarding the implications Covid-19 has on records access. Link-Up and the work we do is a priority for our partners and staff are doing the best they can to ensure delays are kept to a minimum.

The State Library of South Australia

The State Library of South Australia is temporarily closed to the public, and staff have been directed to work from home. Librarians are still available to respond to customer queries but are unable to access onsite collections at this time.

See www.slsa.sa.gov.au/ask-us for more information.

South Australia Museum – Aboriginal Family History Unit

As part of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Aboriginal Family History Service has been disrupted. As of 23 March 2020, the following has been implemented for Family History Services:

- Family History Appointments have been suspended
- · Family History Requests are by Email only
- Requests by Phone will go to message bank and will be checked weekly

We are experiencing a large amount of backlog and requests may take longer to process. We apologise for any inconvenience.

familyhistory@samuseum.sa.gov.au

(08) 8207 7500

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies – Family History Unit

The AIATSIS Family History Unit continues to remain open for business with records access for the most part not impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The AIATSIS Family History Unit maintains their vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to know their family, history, culture and where they are from. It is with this spirit in mind that we encourage you to reach out for assistance and be patient as we work through this period together.

Contactable at: familyhistory@aiatsis.gov.au

Department of Child Protection – Freedom of Information

While there have been changes internally following the advice of the SA Government, there have been no disruptions or service changes in relation to accessing information held by DCP through Freedom of Information, Provision of Information to Care Leavers or Access to Adoption Information. If these circumstances were to change, we will do our best to keep stakeholders and applicants up to date.

Visit www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/department/freedom-information for more information.

National Archives of Australia

All National Archives of Australia research centres were closed to the public on 23 March. However, we are continuing to respond to enquiries and services to Link-Up SA clients should be unaffected.

Contactable on archives@naa.gov.au or +61 2 6212 3600

Lutheran Archives

Although Lutheran Archives is closed to the public, staff are still responding to records requests. There may be a slight delay as staff are predominantly working offsite.

lutheran.archives@lca.org.au

(08) 8340 4009

New South Wales

An Update from Link-Up NSW during Covid-19

Link-Up NSW have been combatting Covid-19 in an array of ways. Our ethos during the Pandemic has been to stay connected, safe and healthy. We have reflected this in a number of new initiatives for Community.

Reunification Counsellor, Mary-Anne Frail and Reunification Team Leader, Gene Kelaher, have successfully developed a Cultural Puzzle Book. The idea stemmed from Mary-Anne calling one her clients who was battling with Covid-19 and its restrictions. The 66-page booklet includes hotline numbers to call if you need to have a yarn, as well as Aboriginal Dreamtime stories from various nations across Australia, followed by a Word Search, Sudoku and some colouring-in exercises. This was mailed to 100 clients throughout Australia. Thus far, feedback from members is positive – they love the Cultural Puzzle Book and it is much appreciated. There is a strong likelihood that more content will be added to the puzzle book soon.

We are also currently working on a Zoom Yarning Circle, which encompasses some of the work we do at face-to-face Reunions. These will comprise 3, 1-hour sessions that include a yarning circle, Aboriginal mindfulness exercises and a game of trivia. These will be trialled with board members initially, then the opportunity will be extended to clients and their families.



Queensland Company of the Company of

35 Years, 35 Stories



BOOK LAUNCH

Our dedicated team spent months of committed work to complete our wonderful publication *35 years 35 Stories*, a culmination of a large project and months of committed work, identifying and locating clients, conducting interviews, writing stories, collating photographs and coordinating the book design, of Link-Up Qld's beginning in 1984.

35 years 35 Stories is a celebration of Link-Up Qld's important work and a celebration of the tenacity, power and resilience of our Stolen Generations people.

The book launch was held in November 2019 at the State Library of Queensland. There was a wonderful turnout of our Stolen Generations and their families and friends, to celebrate this important publication which provides a glimpse into our clients' journeys.

The program was special. Ricky Guivarra from Mapoon speaks 3 languages fluently, and he reflected on his grandmother's removal from Lawn Hill over 100 years ago. We were also joined by the Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce, Deputy CEO Fiona Petersen of the Healing Foundation, Kathy Frankland, Manager at Community and Personal Histories at the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Michael Ramalli, acting CEO at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

Guests were spellbound by the powerful voice of Archie Roach as he sang *Took the Children Away*, and the very talented violinist and composer Eric Avery.

YARNING CIRCLE

A Yarning Circle was held earlier in the Kuril Dhagun Centre, a welcoming place for Indigenous people within the State Library of Queensland. This allowed clients, whose stories featured in the book, to meet each other and introduce their families and support workers to one another.

Well known Professor of Midwifery and Nursing, Gracelyn Smallwood, facilitated the Yarning Circle and was assisted by Link-Up Qld's Social and Emotional Well Being counsellors and case workers.

Gallang Place Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counselling Services also provided support with an extra three counsellors.

Approximately 70 people participated, connecting with each other, sharing openly and finding common ground.

Photos of Book launch and Yarning Circle by Bradley Kanaris Photography























Western Australia, KSGAC

KSGAC Commemorates Apology Day

The Kimberley National Apology Day event had a huge turnout, with 230 people passing through the Broome Convention centre to acknowledge the Stolen Generation Survivors of the Kimberley region.

12 years ago, Former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd gave a momentous Apology to the Survivors of the Stolen Generations and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the nation. His speech also outlined the need to address myriad issues impacting Aboriginal communities and to help Stolen Generation Survivors and their descendants.

Across Australia, it is estimated that 1 in 3 Aboriginal children were removed from their families, Culture and Country; then placed in institutions or adopted out to white families. According to the Healing Foundation data, 33 percent of Stolen Generation Survivors have problems accessing services, 1 in 7 live with a profound disability and more than 66 percent are now over the age of 50.

Taking into account the impacts of past Government policies, KSGAC encouraged 13 service providers to set up information stalls and with them art, social and emotional wellbeing and physical health activities to enjoy. This project resulted in the Kimberley National Apology Day event. Each year on 13 February, the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation commemorates the Australian Government's National Apology.

"Despite losing many [First Stolen Generations] due to time and age, we exist because of them. Our mandate and philosophy continue into the future to remind Governments, institutions and authorities of this crime against our people. KSGAC endeavours to continue as the voice and advocates for the recognition of Stolen Generation's story. This is reflected in the programs that KSGAC manage, such as the Link-Up Service, helping people to reconnect to family and country; the Redress program, which represents the sexual abuse of children in institutions and now recently, a contract to assist in the Disabilities Royal Commission Counselling Support Services for our mob across the Kimberley."

"We also hold to heart the many children of the Stolen Generation people who also have inherited and carry the burden of those laws that controlled their Elders and which through these, carry transgenerational trauma. We continue to be a beacon for the Stolen Generation people that are still with us. We cherish them and their contributions to our existence and stay true to our Credo", Said KSGAC Chairperson, Dr Bin Bakar.

KSGAC gives a special thanks to all of the attendees, the Healing Foundation and the Kimberley media for helping to recognise Stolen Generation Survivors during National Apology Day.

Jawun Participants Visit KSGAC

Jawun's Indigenous Partnership Program is again underway in the Kimberley. The Jawun group consists of professionals from Corporate and Private sectors, who apply through the program to work in not-for-profit organisations. The placement aims to give participants an opportunity to share skills and support community achievement outcomes.

For those securing placements in the West Kimberley, the induction process includes a visit to the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation. The visit provides an opportunity to learn about KSCAG's key roles and Credo. During the visit, Stolen Generation information and Healing Foundation films are shared. The aim is to give participants an awareness of Australia's recent history, government policies and the ongoing impact felt by Kimberley Stolen Generation members and descendants.

KSGAC supports Jawun's ethos and commitment to the Kimberley region.



Celebrating Annual Ochre Ribbon Day

Don't silence the violence

February marks the annual Ochre Ribbon Day, a campaign to reduce family violence and its devastating impacts on men, women and children living in Aboriginal Communities.

The Aboriginal Family Law Services event in Broome included food, entertainment, speeches and activities for children. Two survivors showed tremendous courage, sharing their stories of breaking the cycle of violence in their own families.

The KSGAC staff and clients supported the event which saw more than 60 people attend.

A special cake with the message 'Don't Silence the Violence', reminded people to reach out when they need help to reduce and prevent domestic violence.

If you, your family or community have or continue to experience family violence, please contact AFLS for support on: (08) 9193 5455

A Very Special Visit from the Freemantle Football Club

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A visit to the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation was high on the list for the Fremantle Football Club. During the recent Dockers' Kimberley Camp, Stolen Generation Survivors were delighted to meet a number of new players over morning tea and gifts of signed memorabilia.

KSGAC CEO, Tania Bin Bakar, welcomed the Dockers' new recruits and talked about the KSGAC'S role to assist Stolen Generation Survivors and their descendants through Link-Up, Redress and other key services.

KSGAC's ongoing ties with the Dockers were discussed and players were delighted to see a permanent display of Dockers' Indigenous round guernseys hung in the office. Each has the Stolen Generation flower taking pride of place on the front, showing support to Survivors of the Stolen Generation.

The Dockers' Kimberley camp included a visit to more than 30 schools, to encourage youth to get into Australian Rules and consider pathways to the professional league.





Western Australia, KSGAC

The Cox Family Reunion

In honour of Grandmother Alice Derby, her son Joseph Paul and her Grandfather, Dudley Cox.

The Cox Family Reunion booklet details the search for loved ones – Alice Derby and her son Joseph Paul, may they rest in peace.

As young children, Alice and her brother Dudley lived with their parents, Freddy Cox and Nellie Derby, on the Kimberley Moongardie Community Station, near Halls Creek. The Government policies in place at that time resulted in the forced removal of mixed heritage children, such as Alice and Dudley, from their family. Alice and Dudley are children of the Stolen Generation. The siblings were taken away to the Moore River Native Settlement north of Perth.

During Alice's short life, she was not able to return to her family, home and Country. Alice's family will forever keep Alice in their hearts. Alice's brother Dudley, however, eventually did – his daughter, Dora Cox, signed up with the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation's Link-Up Team.

For the next three years, KSGAC's Link-Up Team researched the history of the Cox Family. The family provided as much information as they could but sadly discovered that on 16 September 1932, Alice had passed away aged 17-years-old, at the Moore River Native Settlement.

Further research revealed that Alice had one known child, Joseph Paul, born on 11 May 1932. The little boy had died aged just two-years-old, shortly after his beloved mother, on 18 July 1934. Joseph Paul is buried at Karrakatta in Perth.

By 2020, enough information had come to light and KSGAC supported Alice's family to proceed with a graveside and mission reunion. Dora Cox nominated her daughter, Elizabeth Gilligan Cox and niece Alison Cox, to represent their family on the reunion journey.

In January 2020, KSGAC's William Pollock, assisted the ladies with transportation from Fitzroy Crossing to Broome. Team Leader Pauline McKenzie and Caseworker Suzette Edgar, who had organised the trip with the family, then stepped in to accompany the ladies with the journey south.



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The group flew into Perth and paid a visit to Yorgum, where the ladies were offered support and morning tea, before setting out on the drive to the Moore River Native Settlement's (Mogumber) Wall of Names. There, KSGAC helped Elizabeth and Alison find Alice's name plaque located at Mogumber. "Once we located their Juby's (grandmother) name on the plaque, Elizabeth and Alison laid flowers and [the team] stepped back, giving the ladies space to grieve. It was very emotional – the family spoke in language to let her know that they finally found her.

"The clients felt a sense of relief but also a bit angry – why was Alice taken to another man's Country? After the drive through the mission, we followed the trail back to the highway. As we drove out, we stopped again at the plaque so goodbyes could be said," said Link-Up Caseworker, Suzette Edgar.

"As part of the reunion, it was very important to the family to visit Joseph Paul's gravesite. So, the next day, the group set off to Karrakatta," says Suzette. "We were met by Kerry Langan, who is a Client services Officer at Metro Cemetery Board. Kerry took us to visit the plaque of their Uncle Joseph Paul, which was another emotional day for Elizabeth and Alison. Kerry showed us the plaque, but also Joseph Paul's actual burial site 10 metres away. We returned to Kerry's office and were given maps of where both the plaque and the actual graveside were."

In reflecting on the Cox Family Reunion, Suzette said debriefing the ladies and offering them ongoing support is an important part of the healing process. "The ladies were so relieved that they got to do this. They couldn't express how grateful they are to KSGAC for finding their lost family members. The clients were very happy and told staff that if they ever come back to Perth with family, they will know where to go.

After the reunion and flights back to Broome, KSGAC assisted Elizabeth and Alison to return home to Fitzroy Crossing.

KSGAC Link-Up Team Leader Pauline McKenzie said the family never forgot Alice, "they have found her now and her son Joseph Paul. We hope this can help them to find some peace. It was very emotional and meaningful. We as KSGAC are honoured to have assisted the Cox family with their reunion journey."





Western Australia, Yorgum

Women's Healing Camp at Chittering Valley

In November 2019, a group of our Elders attended a Women's Healing Camp at Moondyne Country Convention Centre in Chittering Valley, Perth. The group of five ladies where taken on a healing journey, facilitated by Link-Up staff. The camp went for three beautiful days. During this time, Link-Up staff organised for the group to participate in a range of activities. One such activity was conducted by cultural adivisor, Marissa Verma, founder of Bindi Bindi Dreaming. Marissa shared with the ladies her knowledge of local and national native herbs and spices that we could use in our every day cooking. The ladies then went on to make some lemon myrtle pancakes, a fruit salad mixed with Wattle seeds and an aray of dips using sea parsley and pepperberry leaf. The ladies where then treated to a cleansing meditation session, using native oils from plants and berries.



Moondyne Country Convention Centre is an absolute gem. Set in the picturesque valley of the Avon River, this was our backdrop for our healing circles, facilitated by Link-Up staff. This allowed the ladies to share their stories of their past and discuss their future prosperities for themselves and their families, and what they hope will happen for Aboriginal people within their communities. "I am so thankful for this opportunity that Yorgum has given me," said one Elder. "It has really made me appreciate myself more which will help my family."

Throughout these discussions, the ladies expressed that Yorgum had given them a platform to meet Mission Brothers and Sisters that they had not seen in many years and given them strategies to assist them through their own healing. Through this journey, their families have been able to take part in some form of healing too. "Camps like these is what our people need, to get connected with country and family," said one of the ladies. "Coming on this camp has allowed me to be refreshed and now I feel I can go home a new woman."





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Mulberry Trees and Memories, the Cheryl Whitby Reunion



Yorgum Link-Up kicked off the new year by conducting a Family Reunion for Cheryl Whitby. Cheryl was accompanied by her brother and daughter, back to Geraldton and surrounding areas. On arriving at Geraldton, Cheryl was able to reconnect with family members she had not seen in many years. There were also family members that she had never met which was very emotional for both sides.

Our accommodation was based in the center of Geraldton, which gave us beautiful views of the ocean. We all would soak up the tranquility of it every morning as we sat and enjoyed our breakfast.

On our first day we headed out to the small country town of Nabawa and Oakajee, where Cheryl's family had settled and grown up. When arriving at Oakajee, Cheryl's niece Donna Ronan, shared a wonderful speech in their local Wilunyu language and told us some stories that her father had shared with her as a child growing up.

Family barbeque at Bundiyarra Aboriginal Centre in Geraldton

From here we headed out to Nabawa, where the Ronan family had settled on some land, which housed 3 huge mulberry trees. It was amazing to be a part of the group sharing their stories as kids – how they would climb the mulberry trees and get into trouble if they stained their clothes. Nostalgia had taken over – some members made their way over to the trees and began picking handfuls of mulberries, it was really a touching sight.

On our final day together, the group had organized a family gathering for extended family members, of young and old, that wanted to come to meet Cheryl. There was a wonderful turn out, we enjoyed a barbeque, laughter, precious memories and stories. Overall, Cheryl and her family members were very appreciative of Yorgum Link-Up's service and thanked us for bringing them all together again.

"On behalf of myself, Averard and family that attended, we would like to thank you for all your help and support with organizing the reunion. Your warm presence, sharing plenty of yarns and laughter has made this trip extra special"- A thank you card from Cheryl



Western Australia, Yorgum

Yorgum Healing Services attend Annual Ochre Ribbon Day Event held by Family Law Services

On 26 February 2020, Yorgum Healing Services attended the Annual Ochre Ribbon Day Event, held by Family Law Services at Lotteries House in South Hedland.

The Ochre Ribbon Day is a day of national awareness of Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities.

Yorgum Healing Services – South Hedland, assisted 8 elderly clients who were invited to engage as community leaders, along with several other community members and organizations, including:

- · The South Hedland Police
- · Community Engagement Officers
- · The Town of Port Hedland Shire
- · The Department of Children Protective Services
- · The Women's Refuge
- · Pilbara Legal Services
- · Lotteries House

There were a few young men who attended this event, who were acknowledged by the Elders for supporting awareness, safety and wellbeing and a future vision of our children surviving in our culture

The food was enjoyed by all and a lot of positive yarning was had.

Yorgum Healing Services - South Hedland





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Cheryl Augustsson on her role with Yorgum Link-Up

Over the last few months, the Link-Up Team have been busy with further training, reunions, outreach, workshops and promotion of our Link-Up Service. Our Case Team have been working with our clients in family-tracing, reunions and post-reunion contact. We have also been part of the National Monitoring and Evaluation Plan with Link-Up services across the nation.

Our promotional tasks these last few months have been numerous. We have produced a promotional video about our Link-Up Service, attended multiple national workshops and meetings, and have visited a variety of remote communities to promote our service.

NTSGAC staff have also undertaken a variety of different trainings, such as the Training Advisory Reference Group for the Certificate IV in Stolen Generations Family History and Case Management. We also meet every six months with the Aboriginal Advisory Group of the NT Archives Service and the National Australian Archives. Staff have also participated in Trauma-Informed Care and Practice and Managing Vicarious Trauma, which has made it possible for our Case Team to work more effectively with our clients. It has been great to have a Counsellor in our team, as they are on hand if our clients need someone to talk to. She is also able to assist our Caseworkers on Reunions.



12th Anniversary for the National Apology to The Stolen Generations - Yorgum

On Thursday 13th February 2020, over 50 Yorgum Link-Up clients and stakeholders gathered at the river side venue of Burswood on the Swan River, to commemorate the 12th Anniversary of the National Apology to The Stolen Generations.

Uncle Brett Collard started the day's proceedings with a smoking ceremony on the foreshore of the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River), followed by a minute's silence to remember those we have lost. Aunty Marie Taylor gave a lovely Welcome to Country and shared her family's story.

The honor of cutting the Apology cake went to Uncle Warren Yorkshire, while a scrumptious morning tea was served to the Elders.

The event's guest speaker, Aunty Janetia Knapp, spoke about her experiences. As a child, she was stolen from her family, but has come a long way since her youth.

Clients were able tell us what the National Apology meant to them on cut out hands.

The overall feedback from the event was positive and encouraging. It was inspiring to see so many people there and so much conversation and laughter echoing throughout the room, giving the event a real sense of community and togetherness.

Canberra, AIATSIS

AIATSIS Family History Unit - Canberra



The Family History Unit of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) provides resources, services and training for Indigenous family history research. AIATSIS staff are on hand, to provide support to national Link-Ups services, assist Link-Ups across Australia in additional research and to access archival material from the AIATSIS collection, partner with other national agencies in Canberra and gather other significant records collections from across Australia.

AIATSIS advocates better access to records for members and family members of the Stolen Generations, including those seeking reparation for the injustices they have suffered.

In 2015, AIATSIS began working with the archive of Pallottine Fathers and Brothers (also known as the Society of the Catholic Apostolate) in Rossmoyne, Perth, to preserve and document a collection of material relating to the Pallottines Mission and Hostel at Tardun in Western Australia. This work culminated in AIATSIS receiving a donation from the archive which has a wide range of materials, photos, film and archive documents that included student files that had been kept and maintained in relation to Aboriginal children who attended the Tardun School.

AIATSIS set about preparing the materials and records for use and to establish best practice in arranging and describing the collection, assigning access and creating a right of reply for the subjects in the records. It was a significant scope of work and AIATSIS consulted and engaged a diversity of expertise including the Mackillop Family Services, National Archives and the National Library, Care Leavers Australasia Network and the National Redress Scheme.

In mid-2019, the Family History Unit met with Aboriginal people who attended Tardun School, representatives from Kinchela Boys Home, Cootamundra Girls and Find and Connect Services. All were invited to visit Geraldton because a large community of former students from Tardun School lived in Geraldton. The Family History Unit saw the visit as an opportunity to continue talking with the very people contained in the records and to return copies of the school records and photographs to their owners.

In March, 2020, AIATSIS' Family History Unit, alongside the Collection Access team and a Senior Archivist, set up a welcoming space in Geraldton. Community members were able to experience the services AIATSIS offer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when they visit the organisation in Canberra.

Visitors were able access the vast AIATSIS photographic database, which contains more than 700,000 images and samples of material from the AIATSIS Collection specific to Geraldton and surrounding regions. AIATSIS staff also assisted visitors searching MURA – the online AIATSIS Collection Database.

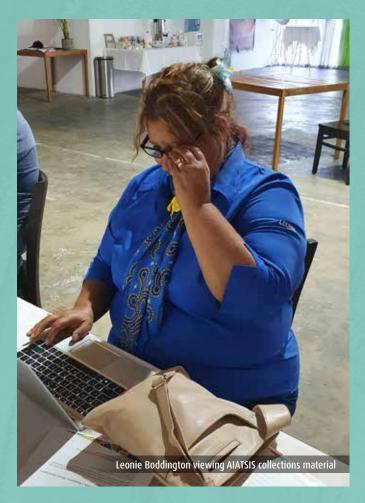
With cultural understanding of the impact of the Tardun School records, AIATSIS set up a designated area for the return of the Tardun Collection to former students. The Senior Archivist spoke to community members, informing them about the meaning of the 'right of reply' in records, for those who wanted to correct or provide their perspective about the records.

Many of the former students often chose to provide additional information on photographs such as names of people who featured in the image, enabling future ease of accessibility to the images for others and generations to come.

AIATSIS Family History staff were on hand to provide research assistance and resources and were prepared to support those who were impacted by access to the collection.

Over two days more than 70 community members visited 'AIATSIS in Geraldton', many of the visitors were former Tardun School students and their family members or friends. There was great appreciation and interest from the community with a request for a possible follow up visit.

For AIATSIS staff it was a humbling and worthy experience, who recognise the cultural value of the records and materials it safe-keeps for and with Indigenous people.





Contacts & Resources



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National

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National Archives of Australia

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National Library of Australia

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