

National Link-Up News

National Link-Up News Edition 15 November 2010

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Issue 15, November 2010. Produced by Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc., SA Link-Up Program on behalf of the National Link-Up Network. Managed by Kay Goodman-Dodd, SA Link-Up. Coordination, Editing, Design & Print: Dreamtime Public Relations, tel: (08) 8463 1904, email: info@dreamtimepr.com With thanks to Link-Up teams and other organisations for their editorial contributions. This newsletter may contain photographs of people who have passed away. Cover image: Women's Healing Camp participants, courtesy of the Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation.



Northern Territory - 16 Family Reunions in Six Months

Story page 10



New Foundation Supports Healing Initiatives

For many years, there have been strong calls from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and others about the need for healing. The Bringing Them Home Report (1997) estimated that between one in ten and one in three Indigenous children were removed from their families. Other policies and practices such as forced dislocation and interference in marriage, wages and citizenship, continue to have effects on health and family life.

Evidence from Australia and internationally shows that healing is needed to overcome the trauma of removal, the impact of colonisation and associated intergenerational effects. Healing can result in positive changes in peoples' lives if practices have strong roots in Indigenous traditions, values and culture, while also incorporating western and mainstream practices.

The Australian Government recognised this need and on October 9, 2009 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation was established to support communities and individuals to address trauma, grief and healing needs, particularly the Stolen Generations and their families.

The Healing Foundation is a national, Indigenous-controlled, not-for-profit organisation which aims to facilitate the healing process by providing opportunities and resources for healing initiatives, promoting awareness of healing issues and needs, and by fostering a supportive public environment. While they acknowledge that responsibility for healing rests primarily with the individual, they also recognise the importance and inter-relatedness of the community through relationships of mutual care, reciprocity and responsibility.

It will seek to support holistic and innovative healing through funding, community education and documenting what practices work. In working towards this, the Foundation will focus its interests on the following three areas:

Capacity Building

Identifying and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healing initiatives at the community level and in response to community needs, by providing funding and capacity development.

Healing Promotion, Education and Training

Facilitating the promotion and education of healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities including skills training in the prevention and treatment of trauma, and fostering a supportive public environment for healing.

Research and Evaluation

Contributing to an evidence base for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healing through community-driven and culturally appropriate research and evaluation.

The approach of the Healing Foundation is holistic and encompasses spirit, culture and people. The Foundation is committed to addressing the legacy of abuse in all its forms and manifestations – direct, indirect and intergenerational – by building on the strengths and resiliency of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Chairperson of the Healing Foundation Florence Onus said, "The Foundation is a grass-roots movement about healing our people who suffer intergenerational trauma and pain inflicted upon us from past generations to the present. Healing has the capacity to restore our people to strong spirit, strong culture – a strong people."

For more information visit www.healingfoundation.org.au

Photos: The inaugural Healing Foundation Gathering was held in June 2010. For copies of the publication please call (02) 6273 0722.



Disclaimer:

This publication has been produced by Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc., SA Link-Up Program on behalf of the National Link-Up network, with funding support from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, to encourage the public availability and free exchange of information and opinion. The Australian Government does not necessarily agree with or endorse all of the statements, information, advice, views and opinions contained in this publication, and it does not accept any responsibility for such statements, information, advice, views and opinions or for any upset or offence that they may cause. The inclusion in this publication of any statement, information, advice, view or opinion does not indicate the Australian Government's commitment to a particular course of action.

Western Australia

Yorgum Hosts Community Forums

and More Reunions

Yorgum Link-Up have held a number of Community Forums to provide awareness to the general public on Link-Up services and their working relationships with other services such as Birth, Deaths and Marriages; Department of Child Protection; and the Family Information Bureau.

The first Community Forum was held in Geraldton on 29 March which followed with Kellerberrin on 25 May, Kalgoorlie on 28 April, Boulder on 30 April, Perth Metro on 3 June and the final forum in Bunbury on 15 June.

The forums were a huge success with more than 50 participants attending each event. They were a great opportunity for clients to understand how Link-Up works closely with government and non-government agencies to meet their needs and result in a possible reunion.

Reunions

Cundeelee Mission Reunion was held over two days and encompassed the early life of the Mission with a moving speech by Mr Brian Hadfield who was one of the original Missionaries who started the Mission in the early 1950s.

The Mission, situated about 300kms north east of Kalgoorlie, is the home of the Spinifex people of the south west desert tribes. The two days were packed with fun activities and everyone enjoyed the Reunion.

Another client from Perth was partnered by Mary Nannup to the St Mary's reunion hosted by the Central Australian Stolen Generation & Families Aboriginal Corporation.

Yorgum Link-Up has also participated in:

- River's Reunion to Port Hedland
- Sambo and Woods Reunion in Kalgoorlie
- Raven Reunion held in Geraldton



Photos: 1. Woods Reunion
2. Metro Forum
3. Cundeelee Mission Reunion

3.



Western Australia

Redress Still an Issue

Redress is still an issue in the Kimberley with clients still waiting to hear about their case or still waiting for some compensation. This is not to say that the compensation will make up for the hurt and the heartache that clients have been through.

Teek/Sibosado Reunion

The Kimberley Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation (KSGAC) have been involved in assisting clients with family tracing enquiries and a number of reunions including Back to Country and a Family Reunion.

In August this year, KSGAC held the Teek/Sibosado Family Reunion in Broome which brought together two sisters who have the same father but different mothers.

Their father, who is non-Indigenous, worked in the pearling industry in Broome. Jean had been told by her father that he had a child in Broome that he had never met and had always wondered about her. From this

information, Jean contacted KSGAC to ask for help to find her sister. Her sister was sent to Broome Orphanage in 1944-1946.

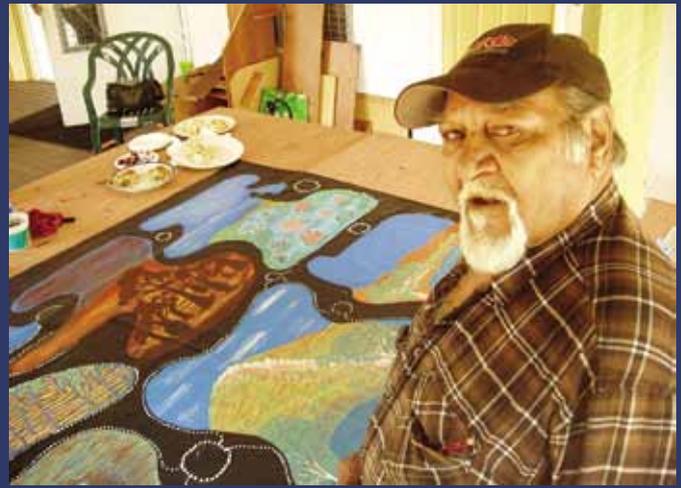
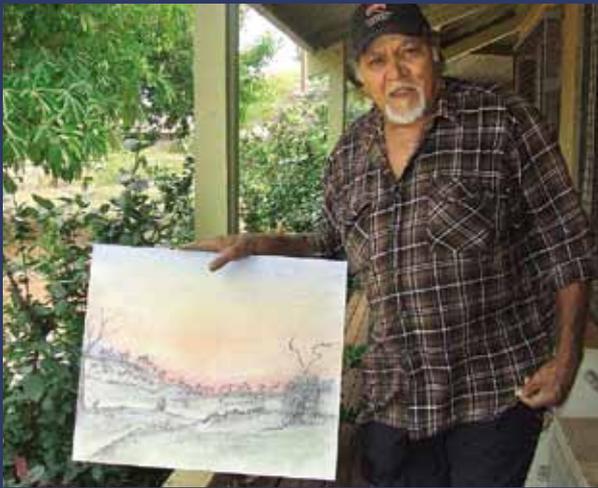
KSGAC were able to piece together information and Jean caught up with Bernadet and her family whilst in Broome for the reunion.

Activities and visits were organised for a week as well as a planned trip for Bernadet to take her sister Jean to Lombadina and other places where she had grown up and had fond memories.

Family members provided positive comments about the reunion and all were very happy to finally meet Jean and her husband Colin. Jean mentioned that she and Colin will travel back to Broome and bring with them members of their family.



Teek/Sibosado Family Reunion L-R: Bernadet's brother Raymond, Colin Teek (Jean's husband), Bernadet's brother Kenny, Bernadet Haji Ah Mad (nee Sibosado), Jean Teek (Bernadet's sister), and Bernadet's sister Valerie. Kneeling is Bernadet's husband Mohamad Haji Ah Mad.



▲ Buddy Morrison with one of his artworks; and in the process of creating another...



▲ Healing Art Workshop participants

Some of the beautiful results of the workshop ►

Healing Workshop *Extended*

KSGAC supported a Healing Art Workshop over a ten week period where clients came together each Wednesday with Art Teacher Sally Bin Denham. The program was so successful that it has been extended.

The group commenced with paintings and progressed to silk screening. Whilst they were hesitant to begin with as they said they were not artists, all became very confident and enjoyed themselves and each other's company.

The Healing Workshop became a hot topic in the community and others asked to join the program.



Service Update

KSGAC have sadly farewelled Senior Link-Up Caseworker Frank Parkes who went back to South Australia for family reasons. Also missed are Link-Up Counsellor Tim Keane and Link-Up Caseworker Jason Sahanna who have also left the service.

Central Australia

100 St Mary's Residents from across Australia come Back Home



From as far as Tasmania, Kununurra, Far North Queensland and South Western Australia, nearly 100 former St Mary's residents came home from 20-25 June. For some, it was the first time they had caught up in over 50 years and two close cousins who hadn't seen each other for over 35 years were reunited.

Numerous activities were planned for participants including tours in and around Alice Springs, a Journey of Healing service at the St Mary's Chapel, luncheons,

fireside sing alongs, lots of chances for catching up, recording of oral histories and a 60s theme dinner dance. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive and the hardest part for everybody was saying goodbye with one saying, "This has been the best week of my life!".

As a memento, participants are each receiving a DVD of the event.

Walter Norway Reunited After 80 Years

In 1926, a baby was born in the Barrow Creek Telegraph Station and as a toddler he was caught by authorities in the creek nearby and taken to the bungalow in Alice Springs for schooling. Sent later to work on stations in the Barkly area, Walter Norway started his own droving plant and worked the Georgina River for many years. Eventually, he met a Murri woman and settled down, raising a family in Queensland.

Eighty years after his removal, the Central Australian Stolen Generations and Families Aboriginal Corporation (CASG&FAC) held a family reunion, bringing home Walter's children to meet with their Katetye family members. Six siblings came from Queensland and met at Wycliffe Well which was the base for most of the reunion.

In the following days, they met with relatives from Ali Curang, Willora, Tennant Creek and Tara. On the final day, a gravesite reunion for the grandmother was held at the Tennant Creek cemetery. All relatives were welcoming to the Norway family and they now have a strong base from which to continue their journey of coming home.

Unmarked Graves

CASG&FAC have now installed 18 crosses on previously unmarked graves at the Alice Springs Memorial Cemetery. A commemorative plaque will soon be installed and family members invited to attend a dedication event at the cemetery.

Garden of Reflection

A number of trees have now been planted by Stolen Generations members and their families. As remembrance of who planted them and to welcome everyone to go back and check on their trees, two permanent plaques will be placed in the garden.

Oral Histories

CASG&FAC now have professional quality video and audio equipment and are wishing to record as many people's stories as possible. Clients are invited to contact CASG&FAC and arrange a time to come into the office or arrange a home visit to tell their story. Everyone who participates will receive a copy of their story on DVD to share with their family.

Service Update

Senior Caseworker Charlie Ward has left CASG&FAC after more than two and a half years of service. On leaving, he said "I want to thank CASG&FAC for the huge opportunities, personal and professional, that I have had by working with the Stolen Generations in the Centre. In the last two and a half years, I have been able to assist some great people on their journey of discovery and healing. I really think 'Stolen Gens' people are some of the most down-to-earth, funny, hard-working, gritty and real people in the country. I hope in the future, I can take part in assisting some more clients towards uncovering the mysteries and healing the wounds of the past. Til then, don't be strangers!" Charlie has moved to Alice Springs and is working on a book about the Wave Hill Walk-Off. The staff currently working for CASG&FAC are:



Rick Jones, Caseworker

Rick is an Arrente man with his country located south east of Alice Springs close to Santa Teresa. He has travelled extensively both overseas and around Australia. In the 20 years previous to relocating to Alice Springs, Rick was working in Victoria. In March 2010, he joined CASG&FAC, having himself being reunited with family through the Link-Up program in 2008 which gave him a perspective from the client's side. Rick says, he finds the work interesting as well as challenging and he enjoys working with a great team of people.



Charmaine Torres, Caseworker

Born in Alice Springs, Charmaine joined CASG&FAC as she wanted to be part of the Link-Up service and help members of the Stolen Generations and their families locate their kinfolk to regain cultural, spiritual, country and family connections. Charmaine said, "As I have a great interest in this, I am very excited to be a Caseworker for CASG&FAC and will do my very best."



Telissa Ferguson, Administrative Assistant

Telissa is a local Indigenous woman and third generation Stolen Generations descendant. She started at CASG&FAC in January 2010 as a casual and then in March became full-time. Within the time she has been at CASG&FAC, she has worked with foxtrot to update client records and has assisted with the St Mary's reunion which was a great success.



Daniel Coutts, Project Officer

Originally from Melbourne, Daniel graduated from university and then went on to spend more than six years in Beijing, China, in the news media. He also ran his own business for nine years up to 2005. Daniel says he enjoys Central Australia and the opportunities that the job offers, particularly the media involvement and the opportunity to record oral histories.



Tori Markos, Personal Support Worker

Named Victoria but known as Tori, she has many years of experience as a counsellor and Indigenous mentor in the Pilbara and Alice Springs. Tori came to work for CASG&FAC to contribute to the Stolen Generations as proactively as she could. As a unique group of Indigenous Australians, she says, "I am privileged to be able to offer personal support to you in the form of community liaison, personal listening, social needs and representations in any aspect of life where you would appreciate confidential assistance. I look forward to knowing you all when our Support Group commences."



Wahid Brandso, Personal Support Worker

Wahid has lived in Central Australia for 10 years and comes from a mixed cultural background. He says, "I feel privileged and honoured to be working at CASG&FAC and look forward to listening to the many life stories that will help to bring people home."



Derek Ah Chee, Receptionist

An Aboriginal man from Alice Springs and the Arrente and Pitjantjatjara tribes, Derek commenced with CASG&FAC in mid April 2010. He says he has always wanted to work with CASG&FAC since the reunion of his Ah Chee and Gibbs families in 2006. His role is to greet clients and visitors, and direct them to the appropriate staff member as well as provide administrative support to the Manager and Board. Daniel said he finds his work interesting and is very glad to be working with such a great supportive team. He was involved in the St Mary's reunion and thought it was fantastic.



Jackie Baxter, Manager

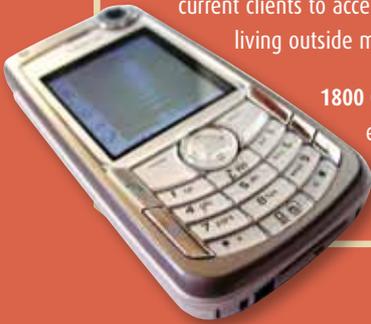
Jackie is back as Manager for the next six months and welcomes everyone to come to CASG&FAC and discuss where you want the Stolen Generations to be in the next five years.

Victoria

Call 1800 OUR MOB to begin your Journey Home!

Link-Up Victoria has recently secured a free call 1800 number **1800 OUR MOB (1800 687 662)** to make it easier for new and current clients to access their services, particularly those living outside metropolitan Melbourne.

1800 OUR MOB will assist to promote and expand the Link-Up Victoria service across the state and enable more people to begin their journey home.



New Manager

Link-Up Victoria welcomes Sue-Anne Hunter, a Wurundjeri woman, into the role of Executive Manager Link-Up Victoria. Sue-Anne has worked with VACCA for many years and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in managing various programs.

New Premises Provides Expanded Service

Link-Up Victoria has relocated to its own premises in Preston. The service now has ample space to run group sessions and Activity Days for clients in-house.

Two private counselling rooms are also available and staff now enjoy the ability to have confidential discussions with clients, service providers and community members in their own offices.

Recently, Link-Up Victoria enjoyed hosting the First Aid Training for Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) staff at their new premises and look forward to being able to utilise the space even more.

The team thanks VACCA CEO Muriel Bamblett and Executive Manager Link-Up Victoria Sue-Anne Hunter for making this move happen.

Link-Up Victoria's new contact details are:

34 Wurruk Avenue, Preston VIC 3072
PO Box 191, Preston VIC 3072
Tel: (03) 9470 3666; Fax: (03) 9470 3788
FREECALL: 1800 OUR MOB (1800 687 662)

Three Attend St Mary's Home Reunion

Link-Up Victoria Caseworker/Counsellor Samara Ahmat worked closely with SA Link-Up staff to support three clients to attend the St Mary's Home Reunion in Alice Springs hosted by the Central Australian Stolen Generations and Families Aboriginal Corporation in June.

500 Attend Sorry Day 2010

500 people attended the Sorry Day 2010 event hosted by Link-Up Victoria at the Aborigines Advancement League. Special guests and entertainment included Richard Frankland and the Charcoal Club, Kutcha and Mick Edwards, and the well-known Archie Roach.

There were many positive comments from attendees including:

"What a wonderful event."

"Overwhelming."

"Great work Link-Up Victoria has done."

"It's a great community feeling, wonderful event."

"Link-Up staff always makes everyone feel welcome."

"Sad and happy at the same time, what a wonderful event."

"Great performers/entertainers we had."

"Love it, was good, terrific."

"Loved it and loved seeing Archie Roach."

Service providers also enjoyed the event, commenting:

"Congratulations on doing such a great job yesterday. It was a wonderful day and everyone enjoyed themselves." (Jennifer Bates, Manager, Koorie Family History Service)

"I just wanted to tell you what a lovely day yesterday was."

"Congratulations on making Sorry Day one where everyone felt valued and relaxed. The entertainment was superb!" (Rita Hinekauia Morrison, Manager, Oral History Unit)





Activity Days

Link-Up Victoria has enjoyed hosting monthly Activity Days to connect clients and engage them in group activities. Some of the activities have included visiting Melbourne Museum (Titanic exhibition and Bunjilaka), William Ricketts Sanctuary and the Koorie Heritage Trust.

The team would like to say a special thank you to the clients who attend Activity Days for supporting the program and helping to keep clients connected with each other and the community.

Bringing Them Home and VACCHO to Commence Training

The Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Workforce Support Unit at the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) will soon commence training on the Mental Health Skills Set for all Bringing Them Home (BTH), Link-Up, Mental Health and SEWB workers in Victoria.

By the end of the year, they also plan to have provided in-house training on the Link-Up and BTH Counsellors Handbook to all workers as well as conduct regional meetings throughout Victoria where representatives from Link-Up, BTH, SEWB, Alcohol & Other Drugs and their Managers can discuss issues relevant to their regions.

Regional meetings will be ongoing and will complement the statewide SEWB Gathering to ensure all workers have an opportunity to network and stay informed of upcoming training and activities relevant to Stolen Generation communities.

Honouring Those who have Passed

Link-Up Victoria wishes to honour and acknowledge a very special friend and Elder, Lorraine Johnson. Lorraine was referred to Link-Up Victoria for help to find her son and she met Manual for the first time in 2006. They continued to strengthen their relationship over the years. Manual married and blessed Lorraine with a beautiful grandson, Kyron.

Lorraine lived with her loving partner, Kevin, for over 30 years. They shared special memories, happy moments and cared for many animals over the years.

Lorraine was very supportive of Link-Up Victoria, having attended many Activity Days, barbecues and events. She will be sadly missed by everyone at Link-Up Victoria, in particular Angela Swindle who worked closely with Lorraine and became good friends.

Henry Moseley is a client of Link-Up Victoria who attended the St Mary's reunion. Sadly Henry's brother Francis Raymond Moseley passed away just prior to the St Mary's reunion. Francis was known to most people as Raymond and he was looking forward to attending the reunion.

Link-Up Victoria expresses sincere condolences to Henry and Francis' family for their loss.

- Photos:**
- 1-4. Activity Days at Melbourne Museum & William Ricketts Sanctuary
 5. Dave Arden, Archie Roach and Amos Roach
 6. Kutcha Edwards
 7. Regina and Mary Edwards with Irene Sazdov
 8. Ned Maffescioni
 9. Richard Frankland



Northern Territory

16 Family Reunions in Six



Darwin Garden Point Reunion – July 2010



Teddy, Betty and Peggy at their father's gravesite in Centennial Park, Adelaide

The Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation (NTSGAC) has successfully completed 16 family reunions from January to June this year.

A Gravesite Reunion was held in Adelaide at Centennial Park for the Carter Families travelling from as far as Alice Springs and Ti Tree in the Northern Territory.

A Back to Country – Lajamanu, which involved NTSGAC, Link-Up Victoria and SA Link-Up, brought together the Herbert Families in the Northern Territory.

Whilst in Lajamanu, NTSGAC Link-Up Caseworkers were able to obtain more information through oral histories for another client which assisted them to identify her family.

NTSGAC staff were also privileged to participate in the Saint Mary's Reunion held in Alice Springs from 21–25 June where Stolen Generation members attended a 'Journey of Healing' Church Service at St Mary's Chapel and visited Desert Knowledge for unveiling of a sign and tree-planting ceremony along with other activities.

NTSGAC was able to support the Garden Point 70th Anniversary Reunion by obtaining funding from Department of Health and Ageing. The reunion was organised and supported by the Garden Point Association volunteers with support from our office and the Danila Dilba Social & Emotional Well Being Centre. The reunion was held on 10–19th July with activities held in Darwin and on Melville Island, Garden Point.

The celebrations commenced with dinner at Saint Mary's Football Club to welcome everyone. This was followed by a church service at St Martin de Poures the following day. On Monday 12 July, the members travelled by air charter to Garden Point.

Garden Point members participated in a range of activities including a picnic and swimming at the cool clear waterhole at Goolumbini, as well as day trips and camping at the beautiful Wulawunga Beach. A special event was the gathering of members at Garden Point beach where they released flowers and remembered lost love ones.

The Garden Point 70th Reunion was recorded by a film crew from TEABBA, who followed the group around the island and documented stories from individual members who were willing to share.

Months



Jeannie Nungarray Herbert's sons David Jampijinpa Logan and Paul Jampijinpa Herbert with family at Lajamanu Community



St Marys Reunion – June 2010

Other Highlights

Other highlights this year included the Women's Healing Camp in June which had 14 participants. A few more camps are being planned for Stolen Generation members. If clients are interested, please contact Dr Daniel Houtman at NTSGAC for more information.

This year's National Sorry Day Gathering was held on 26 May at Parliament House. A large gathering was present to enjoy morning tea and watch old media footage of the 1994 Bringing Them Home Conference.

Reconciliation Week was celebrated with a presentation and morning tea to Centrelink staff and Stolen Generation members. NTSGAC also held a viewing of 'Bran Nu Dae' at the Deckchair Cinema preceded by a presentation of the Kahlin Compound history in Darwin. The families of Kahlin Compound were invited as special guests.

The ANZ Bank sponsored four Darwin ladies, Rosie Baird, Jeanneen McLennan, Sharon McLennan and Loretta Geisner to attend the Long Walk Women's Luncheon in Melbourne on 8 October.

At the luncheon, NTSGAC Chief Executive Officer Rosie Baird took the opportunity to speak to Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia on issues relevant to the Northern Territory.

NTSGAC's new website can now be accessed at www.ntsgac.org and is updated regularly by new Project Officer Deanna Roberts. If anyone would like to make suggestions about the website, feel free to call Deanna.

Our organisation has now commenced consultations to do our Strategic Planning. We have also commenced the Accreditation process for ISO Certification. The process will give staff and Board Members an understanding of the ISO Certification; process map the customer input and feedback processes and commence the development of the ISO Quality Policy.

Queensland

47 Reunions in One Year



Since Dr Melisah Feeney has been Chief Executive Officer of Link-Up (Qld), an amazing 47 reunions have been conducted including 27 Family Reunions, 8 Graveside reunions, 4 Return to Community, 4 Return to Country, and 4 Institution Reunions.

Client numbers have also increased by 40.5% from 616 to 1036 with the majority (72%) being

1st Generation Stolen Generation members, having directly experienced institutionalisation, fostering, adoption or forced removal. The other clients had parents or grandparents who were removed and were searching for their extended families.

Link-Up (Qld) clients predominantly live in South East Queensland (52%), followed by Far North Queensland (29%). A smaller number (7%) live in Central Queensland with 12% coming from other regions across the state including Torres Strait Islands and the Gulf Country.

A higher proportion of clients are females (65%) than males (35%), and the majority of clients are 30-50 years old (42%), followed by 37% over 50 years and 21% 18-30 years.

Link-Up (Qld) has a solid team made up of committed workers who care immensely about helping Stolen Generation people become strong in spirit and move forward with dignity and respect. The majority of staff are Aboriginal people who themselves have a personal connection to the organisation's vision.

Mossman Gorge Reunion



In May 2010, Uncle Fred and his support persons embarked on a journey they could only be described as complete. Uncle Fred had been searching for his family for over 60 years and with the assistance of Aunty Noelene Briggs-Smith in Moree NSW, he was able to make a start.

After making contact with Research Officer, Ruth Loli, Aunty Noelene allowed Link-Up (Qld) to trace Uncle Fred's family back to Wujil Wujil country, just south of Cooktown in Far North Queensland.

It was a big journey for Uncle Fred to travel from Moree in NSW to Mossman in Far North Queensland. The group first travelled from Brisbane to Cairns, staying overnight, and then along the pristine northern coastline to Port Douglas. The reunion was to take place in Mossman Gorge, a short drive from Port Douglas. On the way, they found out that a cousin of Uncle Fred's was in Mossman Hospital, so they stopped and visited her on the way. They had never met before but instantly recognised him as family. Later that day at Mossman Gorge, Uncle Fred was introduced to other members of his extended family.

The group spent two days with family at Mossman Gorge during which time Uncle Fred and his new found family members pieced together the family tree that was started by Ruth Loli, a special part of the reunion process. Uncle Fred and his support persons were very grateful for the reunion and felt complete, even though he only met a small number of his extended family, the descendants from Wujil Wujil in Mossman.

Noelene Briggs-Smith said, "Uncle Fred is a testimony to all our people who are a part of the Stolen Generations. They are so resilient and live by the words of 'never giving up'. To Uncle Fred and family, thank you very much for involving Link-Up (Qld) in your life journey.

Cherbourg Graveside Reunion

Frustrating years of searching yielded Aunty Marie the location of her Grandmother's resting place. Extensive research conducted by Link-Up (Qld) Caseworkers finally uncovered the burial site of her Grandmother in the Old Cherbourg Cemetery. A gravesite reunion was organised for Aunty Marie and her family and extended relatives and Aunty Marie obtained permission to lay her late Uncle's ashes with his Mother as his last wish was to be buried with her after many years of separation.

Return to Cherbourg and Palm Island Healing Gathering

Several meetings have been held with community members regarding logistics for the Return to Cherbourg and Palm Island Healing Gathering events. Link-Up (Qld) want to ensure that these two events are undertaken with community working with them throughout the journey.



Cherbourg Ration Shed (inset – Brian Marshall, Casework Manager)

Sustaining Connections Art Initiative



Link Up (Qld) and Swinburne University have partnered in 'Sustaining Connections', an art initiative that aims to bring people together in communities to provide a therapeutic outlet for members of the Stolen Generation to tell their story through art.

The initiative is funded by OATSIH and Swinburne University and is focused on using art and the power of cultural connection to enhance the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by removal policies and practices of past governments.

Aboriginal academic, Associate Professor Dr Norm Sheehan, conducted research that examined the healing power of art with Indigenous people including evidence from his own research and colleagues in Australia and Canada. He designed a process that helps people not only to tell their story of trauma, loss and grief but also those who have been removed from culture to build a sense of cultural connectedness as part of the healing journey.

The initiative has engaged Aboriginal community art facilitators from 18 locations around Queensland in running workshops for their local region. The facilitators were invited to Brisbane in July for two days to be trained in design methodology which generated a lot of enthusiasm and excitement. Art supplies were then sent out to the facilitators and they are now in the process of running the workshops. Each region will exhibit their artwork locally. Photographs of the paintings will be printed on banners for a larger exhibition in Brisbane for Sorry Day May 2011.



Canadian Trip Examines Best Practice

Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Manager Brian Marshall recently attended the 'Healing Our Spirit' Worldwide Convention in Hawaii and visited a few 'grass roots' First Nations healing foundations to examine best practice initiatives in Canada.

The unique 'Healing Our Spirit' convention brought together Indigenous people from around the world to discuss techniques and strategies which may assist Indigenous people, while the 'First Nations healing foundations provided an opportunity to learn about strategies which are helping local Indigenous families with intergenerational separation and loss of traditional lands and cultural traditions.

Sorry Day Plaques Group

Link-Up (Qld) has become the lead partner in the newly formed Brisbane Stolen Generations Commemorative Plaques Group which manages six Stolen Generations plaques in key Brisbane locations.

The group includes the six plaque sites caretaker associations including Link-Up (Qld), Stolen Generations Alliance, Teralba Park Commemorative Site Support Group, Benarrawa Community Development Association, Winnam Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing Co-Op and the Noonga Reconciliation Group, plus a representative from the Brisbane City Council.

The plaque sites commemorate the institutional homes that Stolen Generations children were sent to including Orleigh Park (West End), Teralba Park (Arana Hills), Sherwood Arboretum (Sherwood), Breakwater Park (Wynnum), Kalinga Park (Nundah), and King George Square in the city.

Sorry Day events are held annually around these sites with dawn services, BBQs, information sharing and entertainment.

The Group is currently producing an information booklet for schools and libraries about the stories and histories of each of the plaque sites and the homes associated with them. A DVD including storytelling and refurbishments to the plaque sites will accompany the booklet.



- PHOTOS**
- 1. Art Initiative Facilitators
 - 2. Kalinga Park Plaque site
 - 3. Breakwater Park Plaque site
 - 4. Sherwood Arboretum Park Plaque site
 - 5. Teralba Park Plaque site
 - 6. King George Square Plaque site
 - 7. Teralba Park Plaque site

Queensland

Sorry Day Breakfast

Albeit overcast weather, a large number of people attended the Link-Up (Qld) breakfast to celebrate Sorry Day. Micah Projects, Murri Watch and IGA Supastores donated food and drinks and entertainment was provided by Ms Juanita Burr, the Songlines Choir and the Link-Up (Qld) Choir. A Smoking Ceremony was also held to mark the occasion.

PHOTOS 1. Aunty Juanita Burr 2. Sam Watson
3. Melisah Feeney 4. Smoking Ceremony



Educational DVDs

Depending on funding, Link-Up (Qld) is hoping to develop a Multimedia Unit for six months next year to produce digitally recorded material from reunions, Elders stories, community events, healing camps and the Cherbourg Institution reunion. In-house training and induction DVDs for new staff will also be produced by the Unit as well as inmate stories from the Borallon Correctional Centre to assist youth to choose another pathway in life.

The DVDs will be made available to schools, libraries and other community organisations as an information resource.

Dreaming Festival

Link Up (Qld) attended the Dreaming Festival in Woodford again this year. Caseworkers Jody Jackson and Bernard Kelly-Edwards shared their marquee with Stolen Generations Alliance members, Gillian Brannigan and Tina Louise as well as the Indigenous Support Officer for Campbell Page, Carleen Dent. The team distributed promotional materials and information on the Stolen Generations and Link-Up services to a number of people, some of whom knew nothing about Australia's Indigenous history.

Aunty Rhonda Collard and Sharon Lindh, who started Indigenous Belly Dancing ran workshops in addition to other entertainment including Indigenous band 'Street Warriors', the native American Dancers 'hoop' dance, comedian entertainer Constantina Bush and the finale to the event, a Tribute to Ruby Hunter.

PHOTOS BELOW 1. Constantina Bush and fans 2. Performer at the Dreaming Festival
3. Joining in the fun 4. Discussion between Tribes



Marumali Program Gets in Touch with Spirit Child



Seven Link-Up Brisbane staff attended the five day Marumali Training in early September. The program is designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to assist with the delivery of support to survivors of removal policies.

It is based on a model of healing by Aunty Lorraine Peters, herself a survivor of the Stolen Generation.

Participants are given strategies to deal with trauma and build respect, direction and outcomes for survivors of removal policies. The program is culturally appropriate and encourages participants to acknowledge the respect and sensitivity required to assist Stolen Generation survivors regain their strength and empowerment through their healing journey.

Staff said the workshop environment was comfortable and friendly, and Aunty Lorraine's gentle nature whilst facilitating such a wonderful program is very supportive. They recommend the course highly and commend Aunty Lorraine and her assistant Maurice for their professionalism and sensitivity throughout the program. In addition to learning how to help survivors, it was a healing journey for staff as well and those who participated were encouraged to get in touch with their spirit child.

Spirit Child

*Spirit Child; take off and soar
 Spirit Child; don't hide no more
 Come to me Spirit Child; come take my hand
 Break free from the chains and make a stand.*

*Spirit Child; you are lost no more
 Spirit Child; dare to soar*

*Come home; come home; where you belong
 Help is at hand; come sing OUR song.*

*Spirit Child; no more hurt, no more pain
 Cast off the shackles and confining restraints
 Come home; come home and sing OUR song
 We've been apart for way too long.*

*I sit here and wait; longing for your touch
 I know the day will come and I miss you so much
 Marumali; the vessel has put US together
 Spirit Child; you and I are FOREVER.*

- A poem written during the Marumali program by
 Caseworker Matthew Malone (8/9/2010)

Service Update



Karen Collins



Matthew Malone

The Brisbane office has employed two new Caseworkers to replace Walter Waia and Pamela Frith who have moved on to other life adventures. Karen Collins, who has a background in both mainstream and Aboriginal community organisations, and Matthew Malone who was a Bringing Them Home Counsellor in Cherbourg, have joined the team. Link-Up (Qld) welcomes them along with their experience, knowledge and passion.

In June 2010, Link-Up (Qld) staff attended the three day Social, Emotional and Wellbeing Workshop at Maleny. They explored service delivery practice issues and how support can be better provided for clients, Caseworkers and Counsellors. The reunion process and training for Counsellors and Caseworkers were also discussed. Participants also gained a better understanding of what is happening around the regions.



Lenny Dahlen, Facilitator



Workshop Circle

Link Up (Qld) staff recently attended a morning tea at Relationships Australia to encourage communication and referrals between the two teams. Relationships Australia has a network across Queensland and Link-Up (Qld) hopes to liaise with them more to assist Stolen Generation clients.



PHOTOS

1. Mati chatting

3. Kerriann, Marietta & Miranda

2. Matthew feeding

4. Meet & Greet

National Link-Up Forum

In May this year, Link-Up (Qld) hosted the National Link-Up Forum at the Rydges Southbank. Link-Up Services from around Australia attended the three day conference. Facilitators Stanley Nangala and Erin Evans kept delegates motivated with an interesting and challenging event.

Delegates were treated to a Welcome Ceremony and BBQ at the grounds of the State Library of Queensland and a display of traditional stories and dances from local traditional dance troupe, the Yuggera Nunuccul Dancers.

A formal dinner allowed everyone to let their hair down and unwind from all the hard work during the year. Delegates were entertained by dancer Jessie Martin (from So You Think You Can Dance), singers Kalisha Soe and Gayle Jones, and band 'The Link-Ups' fronted by Link-Up (Qld)'s Communications Manager, Mick Angeles.

The Yuggera Nunuccul Dancers



South Australia

Promoting Link-Up to Communities

SA Link-Up promoted Link-Up services to communities including Ceduna, Koonibba and Yalata from the West Coast during NAIDOC Week.

At Yalata, a community barbecue was held and provided an opportunity to hear community stories. An information stall was set-up in Ceduna at the Family Sports Day at the Far West Sporting Complex and SA Link-Up staff visited local agencies to promote the service. Bringing Them Home Counsellors (BTH) Tony Barrett and Jenny Everett co-ordinated the event.

In September, SA Link-Up visited Berri and worked closely with BTH Counsellor Deanna Zeukuchis who co-ordinated a community visit to Gerard. Sharon Betty and Donna Pickett visited service providers and established contacts with key agencies. Many mainstream organisations expressed the need for formal presentations about Link-Up and the screening of 'Why Me?' for staff and community members. Link-Up Counsellor Donna Pickett will be providing support in this region on a regular basis.

Link-Up also held information stalls in Adelaide during NAIDOC Week which attracted a huge crowd. Other promotional events included a City of Playford Information Day, Kurna Plains School and St Mary's College.



Healing Drums

Two workshops were recently conducted for female clients in the SA Link-Up Program to come together and share a unique experience of making their own individual healing drums.

Senior Counsellor Sharon Betty was interested in providing new opportunities for supporting clients after accessing research which showed there was significant therapeutic value in creating a personal healing drum which had the potential to ignite creativity and in so doing release tension and anxiety.

It was also hoped that clients would have a permanent tool to encourage a connection with their spirituality, culture and identity.

Facilitators of the workshop, Aunty Irene Allen and Wendy McKell, spoke about the drum beat connecting participants to earth mother's heartbeat and the circular shape of the drum symbolising the hoop of life.

Extensive documentation exists on the potential for the power of sound and vibration to assist healing. This includes the benefits drumming can have on an energetic level to facilitate changes in the body physically, emotionally and spiritually.

The workshop was held over two days and some of the feedback received from clients included:

"Making a healing drum assisted with my meditation and relaxation. I recently received a birth file from Link-Up and making a drum helped accentuate my journey to self."

"Making the drum is spiritual for me. The drumming is like the beat of my heart and will make me stronger."

"Making this drum has given me something else to reflect on and provided me with a sense of harmony in my life when things are not working well or when life is a little mixed up and my wellbeing is down".

"I feel this experience has enhanced my relationship with my spirit and soul. I feel very relaxed and calm after the experience."

"Healing is very important as we deal with lots of different stressful situations and I have come away from this workshop with something in place to help me deal with life."

"Laughing and yarning with the other women while making my healing drum and realising it's OK to be different was an awesome experience."

Due to the success of the Healing Drum workshops, SA Link-Up will be exploring other opportunities to bring clients together which involve creative and artistic ways of responding to grief and trauma in a practical and creative way.



Participants of the Drumming Workshop with their creations

Simon's Day

SA Link-Up is working towards 'Simon's Day' in December in honour of Simon Boyce, BTH Counsellor who passed away in May.

The day will focus on strengthening relationships with fathers and children, promoting fun activities, health talks and checks with Nunkuwarrin Yunti clinic staff and cultural activities with Uncle Moogie Sumner. Nunkuwarrin Yunti has committed to supporting this event annually in dedication of Simon Boyce for his passion over many years in working with the community, particularly Stolen Generations, and focus on strengthening family relationships.

Educational Resource Kit

An exciting new resource is currently being completed for school education on Stolen Generations. The resource kit is for upper primary years 5, 6 & 7 and will provide history, resources, activities and support to South Australian teachers. It will be available for schools to purchase in January 2011.

Reunions

SA Link-Up has been involved in many reunions over the past few months including St Mary's Institutional Reunion (Alice Springs), Garden Point Reunion (Darwin) and family reunions in Darwin/Lajamanu, Darwin/Mataranka and Perth/Mogumber Mission.

Counsellor Donna Pickett and Caseworker Deanna Roberts accompanied five clients to Alice Springs for the St Mary's institutional reunion from 21-25 June. Many activities were organised for clients including sharing stories about when they were in the home while sitting around the camp fire. This process was very uplifting for clients as they felt supported by others who had shared similar experiences.



The local community was very supportive of the reunion and clients with extended family living locally were encouraged to participate in many of the activities which provided additional support to participants who had come from other states in Australia.

Link-Up workers from all services came together each day to discuss activities and how to best support clients.

The collaboration of Link-Up workers enabled clients to feel comfortable about coming together as a family and not only reflect on their time at St Mary's but how people had moved on with their lives.

Senior Caseworker Lorelle Hunter and Counsellor Donna Pickett took two sisters, Anita Starling and Patricia Ryan, along with Carer Ricky Bilney to Perth for a grieving reunion for their two siblings in July. After exhaustive research, SA Link-Up were unable to locate any photos of the siblings who had passed away. While on the reunion, the group visited the Funeral Directors who organised the funeral for their brother and they also were unable to provide a photo but had a contact number for a relative.



Senior Caseworker Lorelle Hunter contacted the relative and found her to be the adopted sister who wished to meet Anita and Patricia. She also organised a booklet with photos of the brother and some paper with his hand writing. After 50 plus years, the sisters finally saw what their brother looked like, heard stories about him and touched his hand writing.

SA Link-Up also travelled to Mugumber Mission for the baby sisters grieving reunion. Special thanks to Mary Nannup from Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation who played a significant role in the preparation of this reunion. Her local knowledge of Mugumber Mission was extremely important as she shared a lot of history and stories with clients and staff members.



South Australia

Service Improvements

Quality Improvement has been a focus of the SA Link-Up team recently with reflective practice training as well as revising processes and documentation to ensure they are culturally accountable and client focused.

External workplace practice and supervision for Caseworkers and Counsellors is proving a very positive support. All staff access monthly supervision and, in addition, Caseworkers have 'team supervision'. It provides opportunities to reflect on practices in a confidential environment.

Link-Up Welcomes New Caseworker

New staff member Nicki Morey commenced as a SA Link-Up Caseworker in October. Nicki was born and raised in Adelaide and identifies as Eastern Arrente people, Northern Territory. Her father is part of the Stolen Generations and she is passionate in working for her mob and community.

Adelaide Narrative Practices also continually support SA Link-Up workers in the area of social and emotional wellbeing.

SA Link-Up's website www.salinkup.com.au has been updated with new information in a user friendly format. The website contains information about client eligibility, staff profiles, significant calendar events, client reflections, community events, resources available, useful websites so people can start their own research, newsletters, and SA Missions resources.



More Reunion Photos...



AIATSIS

Family History Unit Update

Newly Indexed Family History Resources

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies has recently indexed the following books on the ABI and they can now be searched by name.

These books will be extremely valuable to Link-Up Caseworkers for research:

- Born a Half-Caste, by Marnie Kennedy
- Echoes of the Past: Sister Kate's Home Revisited, edited by Sally Morgan
- Learning the Ropes, by Keith Saunders
- MOWANJUM 50 years: Community History
- My Past – Their Future: Stories From Cape Barren Island, by Molly Mallett
- My Side of the Bridge: The Life Story of Veronica Brodie, as told to Mary-Anne Gale
- This is Palm Island, by Bill Rossier
- Torres Strait Islander Women and the Pacific War, by Elizabeth Osborne

Names can be searched in these books at www.aiatsis.gov.au/fhu/abi.html (click on Search ABI).

Ancestry.com.au

Link-Ups are advised to subscribe to www.ancestry.com.au because it contains a birth, death and marriage index for all states and territories (to 1922 for Births, 1949 for Marriages and 1985 for Deaths) as well as Electoral Rolls, Census and Cemetery records.

Family History Training

The Family History Unit has held two Link-Up Caseworker workshops this year; in Brisbane (8-12 March) and in Canberra (28 June – 2 July).

Eleven participants from the Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns Link-Up offices attended the Brisbane workshop.

Feedback was positive and led to the opportunity to continue the relationship with Link-Up Qld by engaging in case review activities. Family History Unit staff also benefited from visits to the State Library and State Archives of Queensland and by meeting with Kathy Frankland from the Community and Personal Histories Unit.

Course Accreditation

Family History staff are working closely with the Yuruana Centre (Canberra Institute of Technology) to develop a curriculum for the accredited AIATSIS Family History training program.

It is anticipated that Link-Up accredited training will be offered as of 2011.

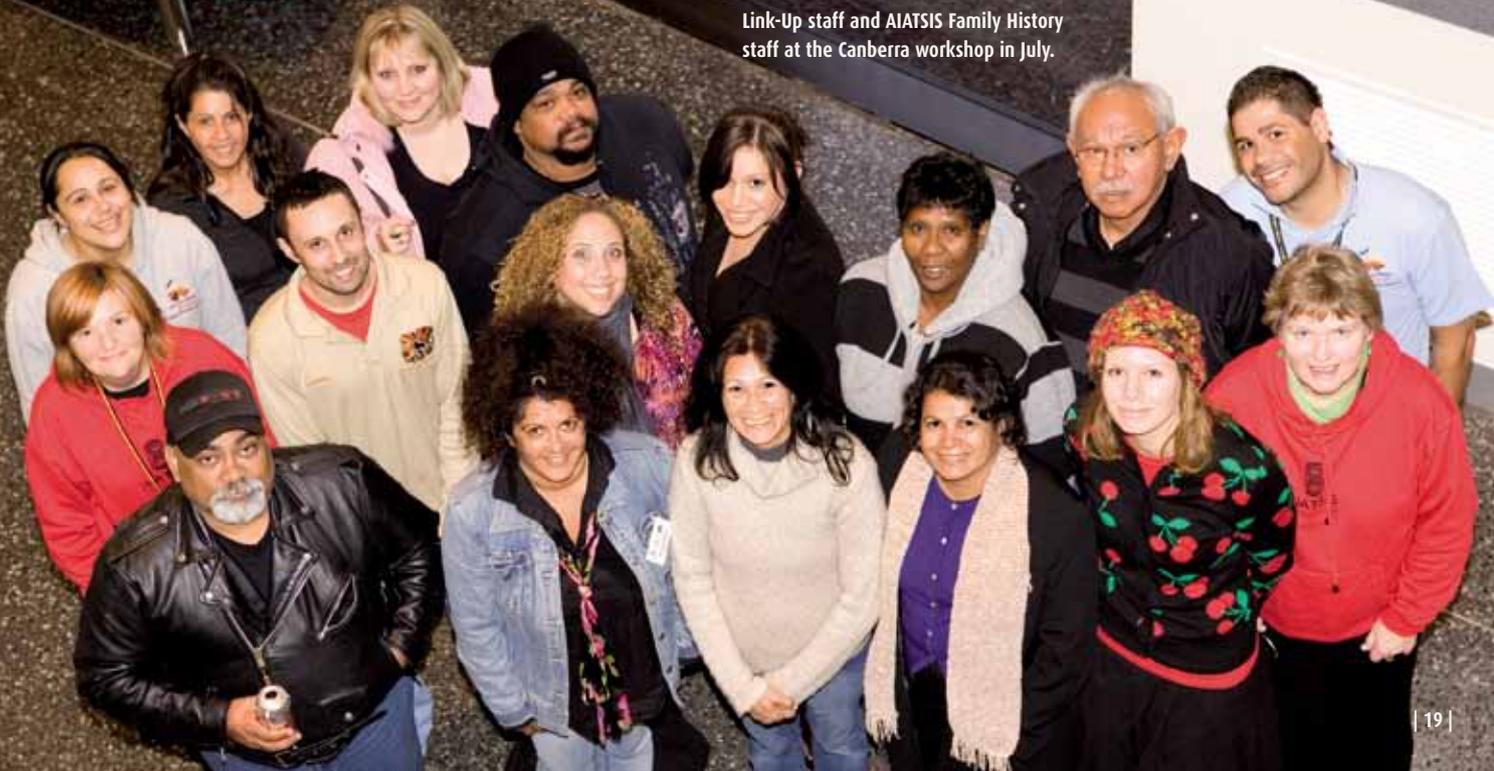
Survey

The Family History Unit thanks all who responded to the recent AIATSIS/Link-Up survey. Some fantastic feedback and suggestions were received which will be used to provide an improved and more relevant service.

Case Review Service

The Family History Unit will be visiting Link-Up Qld in October to assist with the review of a number of more difficult cases. The Unit believes the trial will be a success and could be extended to other Link-Ups.

Link-Up staff and AIATSIS Family History staff at the Canberra workshop in July.



Contacts & Resources



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