



Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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Still Bringing Them Home

Chairperson - Ken Murphy



Ken Murphy

To our Link-Up (Qld) families and friends, I want to start out by saying look after yourselves and your families during this very scary time, the whole world is in crisis with this very dangerous Coronavirus affecting our community. I am sure a lot of our older and most vulnerable people are finding it tough with the restrictions and isolation, however we need to take this crisis seriously, it really is a matter of life and death.

I want to thank the leadership and staff at Link-Up (Qld) for their commitment to working with our clients and providing support during this time. Phone contact and delivery of essential care packages to clients is a good way to make sure we stay in touch. Staff are only a phone call away don't hesitate to call the Link-Up (Qld) offices if you need to talk to somebody.

Just prior to restrictions in February 2020, the Board met with Anthony Bevan and Alex Bell from Grant Thornton CPA, who have been appointed to administer the Stolen Wages settlement. The Board appreciated the visit from Anthony and Max as it was an opportunity to hear first-hand details of the settlement and what it means for our people who are eligible to make a claim for Stolen Wages.

The Stolen Wages case is the 5th largest class action taken in Australia's history. The State Government agreed to pay Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers a record \$190 million settlement for wages withheld from 1939 to 1972. \$53 million (20% fee) paid to BeLAW in Cairns who took this case.

12,400 people registered claims.

70% of people eligible have passed away. Registered representatives are those eligible to claim for their parents who have passed away.

Grant Thornton CPA have offices in Cairns, Torres Strait and at 184 Ann Street, Brisbane (level 18) and Aboriginal and Islander staff available at call centres (except Brisbane).

There is further information in the magazine about Stolen Wages, contact numbers and website details.

Sorry Day event this year will not be held at Orleigh Park, West End due to restrictions on group gatherings because of Coronavirus. Staff are preparing the program to be livestreamed via Link-Up (Qld) Facebook page and YouTube. Our late Chairman, Brother Sam Watson was excited about Sorry Day 2020, he had been in consultations with the GPS Rowing Club and the Brisbane City Council about the Orleigh Park site, a significant site where the rowing clubhouse backs onto the remnants of the stairway of Cranbrook House.

Cranbrook House was a place where Aboriginal girls were sent to, detained and made to work as unpaid domestics. Because of a history of terrible maltreatment of those vulnerable girls, the home was eventually closed down in the first decade of the 1900's.

After the Royal Commission into the Stolen Generations in the mid 1990's, something Brother Sam was very much involved in, the Brisbane City Council placed memorial plaques at six sites of significance across Brisbane to honour and bear witness to the pain and suffering of those young Aboriginal girls who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.

Link-Up (Qld) through Brother Sam as our Chairman took responsibility for looking after the site at Orleigh Park, West End and developed a very strong connection to that place and the stories of that place and the girls who were detained there.

Brother Sam's excitement late last year was about consultations and negotiations with the Rowing Club and the Brisbane City Council about the club needing to extend the club house to accommodate their equipment and activities. He saw this as an opportunity to support their needs, but also for Link-Up (Qld) in terms of forming that close relationship to ensure our needs are also met and strengthened to support our annual Sorry Day event at that site.

Two ideas were put forward which he excitedly shared with us and that was:

- Naming a boat 'Cranbrook House'.
- Link-up (Qld) putting a mural on the river-side wall of the boatshed.

Brother Sam expected timing of the boat naming ceremony fitting in with our next Sorry Day event in May 2020, however given the current circumstances it is unlikely this will happen in May. The Link-Up (Qld) Board will continue with these consultations to carry the legacy of our late Brother Sam.



Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has been made to respect cultural traditions, Indigenous readers are advised that this publication may contain images of people who are deceased.



This issue's Cover Story

Sloane Stallan at his Grandfather's graveside, reading a prayer in Gunggari language, Mitchell Cemetery.



Patricia Thompson

We are currently in uncharted and very challenging times with this deadly Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that is impacting worldwide. This virus is highly infectious and spreads through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes or exhales. A fact about these droplets is that they are too heavy to hang in the air and quickly fall on floors and surfaces.

You can be infected by breathing in the virus if you are within close proximity of someone who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then your eyes, nose or mouth. Most people who fall sick with COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms and will recover without special treatment. Tragically though we are seeing worldwide, tens of thousands of people dying from this dreadful disease.

This disease has taken a hold and has spread so quickly throughout the world, impacting on every aspect of our lives. Our lives have changed dramatically in a very short space of time and tragically the impact on our society will be long lasting.

The importance of personal hygiene, the use of hand sanitizers,

wiping of surfaces with alcohol based wipes and social distancing must be taken seriously by all of us to protect ourselves, our families and community from this deadly disease.

It is important to follow the advice of our health organisations and the restrictions put in place by governments and authorities based on advice from the health experts, we are all in this together and must be united in our fight against this deadly virus.

At Link-Up (Qld) we have heeded the advice of health experts, our offices have been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized, hand sanitizers and alcohol based wipes are spread throughout our offices for use. Staff are practicing social distancing within the office.

We are providing regular ongoing support to our clients via phone and Zoom sessions where possible. Our staff are preparing and delivering essential care packages to support those who are isolated and need additional support. We trust that this support offers some relief to our clients during this very challenging period.

Staff have been resilient throughout this period, managing work and family responsibilities, whilst adhering to the advice of health organisations and restrictions imposed by governments.

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures and border closures client reunions are on hold. The restrictions don't currently allow us to access the DATSIP offices therefore family history records at Community

and Personal Histories, for client research requests may be slightly delayed. We want to acknowledge the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is committed to assisting with research for Link-Up (Qld) requests through these challenging times. We value the partnership we have with DATSIP and are pleased family research will continue to be completed.

In the week leading up to the Coronavirus outbreak, music therapy workshops were set to be facilitated in Cairns and Brisbane. Award winning artist Shelley Morris is engaged to facilitate these workshops for clients providing opportunities for them to come together, tell their stories and express their feelings in a safe environment, composing soul reflection songs guided by Shelley.

We look forward to when we can gather in groups to provide therapeutic face to face activities for all our clients. We are exploring Zoom sessions for group participation activities. This will be interesting, however we hope that we can engage our clients in this way. I am sure we will all have fun trying this communication method.

Sorry Day 2020, will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and YouTube. This will be the very first time we will not be gathering at Orleigh Park, but like all our Sorry Day events, we will have great speakers and entertainment.

Take care, stay safe and look after and out for each other during this very challenging period in our lives.



Sloane Stallan Reunion - Mitchell



Sloane Stallan at his Grandfather's graveside

My name is Sloane Stallan. I am an Ugarapul man from the Ipswich Region. When I was growing up, I was told that my grandfather was George Carbine. I didn't know anything else besides his name. I didn't feel connected to a name.

I started working for Link-Up (Qld) and began to understand the importance of connecting with family. I began to appreciate what connecting to family was about. I started to learn that knowing about a name wasn't just knowing but creating your own identity.

I had a dream for three consecutive nights. This dream came to me in cartoon form. I would find myself walking behind this old man and his dingo. Each step the old man took, he would look behind and say, "you need to take me home." Every time I closed my eyes, I would see the old man and his dingo. That dream never left me. I became a Link-Up (Qld) client. My journey had begun.

While I was studying at Gallang

Place, I met another student who was from Woorabinda. They told me about a family that was still in Woorabinda, the Carbine family. I took my children and mother for a trip to meet them. We met up with them. My mum is the eldest and they called her tribal aunty.

In 2020, the research completed by Link-Up (Qld), was delivered to me by Joshua Williams, Daniel Houtman and Lauren Scheiwe. There was a lot of information in the research, and I was surprised with the family connections that were made. That name and resting place had a story. A graveside reunion was planned. This took me a few weeks for the information to process. It was starting to sink in, that the dream that I had been having was about to be fulfilled.

The day of the reunion came, I met Joshua Williams and Joshua Thompson Link-Up (Qld) staff at the Brisbane airport. I was with my cousin Colin Graham who came along for support. We flew into the Roma airport at night. I

wasn't comfortable flying at night but was supported by my cousin Colin Graham, Joshua Williams, and Joshua Thompson. Landing in Roma, the weather was hot and there were a lot of flies that followed us around for the next three days.

My reunion was to go to the Mitchell Cemetery for a Graveside Reunion. The night before, I was thinking a lot about what was going to happen. I had questions going around in my head. I wondered what was going to happen and what it was going to look like. Colin and I spoke about the effects of generational healing and the story behind the reunion.

The next morning, I woke up and realised the moment I had been waiting for had arrived. I was getting nervous as we drove out to the cemetery. This took about an hour. Joshua Williams told me the unmarked grave was marked with a steel picket and a ribbon. I left the car and walked to the grave. I took a deep breath and said, "you



Colin graham, Sloane Stallan, and Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Joshua Williams



Driving in to Mitchell

are home". A peace fell over me as I stood there besides the grave, I was speechless. I lay my hands on the dirt and asked God "to take him home". I knew then that the dream had been fulfilled.

I wanted to say goodbye in Gunggari language, so I wrote a prayer and put a piece of my grandmother's grave in a glass jar and left it there with my grandfather.

*(Nagid) Grandfather I am here
(Yilanggu Ngiya),*

*God listens to me (Beer-an-ool-ah
nah-din-ah yim-bah-nah),*

*I have come here (Gun-ah-la) to
bring back (Burr-goo) him home,
that his spirit (Bee-yul-bee-wal) be
free.*

*Goodbye (Noo-lah nah-gah-lah)
Peace is with you (Yan-tel-our-oo)
as you return to the Sky (Bun-dah).*

I want to thank Patricia Thompson (CEO) for allowing the reunion to happen. I want to thank the Link-Up (Qld) staff - Joshua Williams and Joshua Thompson for taking my cousin and I to Mitchell and Lauren Scheiwe for doing the research.



Sloane Stallan and Colin Graham at Mitchell Cemetery



Sloane Stallan reading a prayer in Gunggari language at his Grandfather's grave

James Wright Reunion - Inverell



James Wright and his wife Julia and James' father's grave

My name is James Wright. For a long time I have been searching for my father, Gordon Charles Wright's, family and resting place.

There were so many questions and answers that I was looking for, as the years passed on, I never stop wondering where he was or what happened to him. In 2019 I asked Link-Up (Qld) for help to search for my parents.

In 2020 the research was delivered to me and my wife Julianna.

The research came back that my Father's place of burial was at the New General Cemetery, Inverell.

Leading up to the day of the reunion, it had been raining for over a week, so, traveling by car was time to reflect. At that point there was a lot of emotions, a lot of nerves, but with the support of my wife Julianna and the Link-Up (Qld) staff Sloane Stellan and Christine Kanofski, we headed off by car to Inverell NSW.

First stop was at Wallangarra at the Queensland and New South Wales border where I had a chance to stretch my legs and get photos. By then I was getting a little more nervous knowing Inverell wasn't that far away.

On arriving there was a break in the weather, the afternoon was nice and sunny. After checking in to the motel, it was short car ride to the New General Cemetery. The moment had arrived to be reunited



James, Julia and Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Christine Kanofski at the New South Wales/Queensland border



James and Julia at the "Queenslander" sign in Wallangarra

with my father Gordon Charles Wright. As I laid out the ornaments and flowers that I had brought from my home to lay on my father's grave, I became a bit emotional.

The night before I had written a letter to my father to say goodbye.

"Well Dad I finally got here to talk to you about my life which

I'm very happy with, also I have a loving wife and we are very happy together and I have a loving stepdaughter and her children.

Love from your son Jimmy, no matter what you have done in your past you are my father always and I love you from your son Jimmy and daughter-in-law Julie.

P.S. Dad by the way you have a grand daughter named Elizabeth and the family is growing, you have a great grandson."

With that the tears started to flow; I know I have left a part of me with him. I would like to thank Link-Up (Qld) Caseworkers, Counsellors, Researchers, and the CEO for the great support I have received from my first inquiry, to becoming a client, and finally to the reunion event of visiting my father's grave.



James, Julia and Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Sloane Stallan searching for the grave at the New General Cemetery, Inverell



James and Julia adorned the grave with flowers, photos and flags



James read a letter to his father which he wrote the night before



James and Julia also visited Susan Wright's grave

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) - Update as at 21/04/2020

The following information was taken from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) (ATSILS) website: www.atsils.org.au and the Australian Government Department of Health Website: www.health.gov.au

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a new coronavirus introduced to humans for the first time. It is spread from person to person mainly through the droplets produced when an infected person speaks, coughs or sneezes.

ATSILS

Symptoms

Symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild illness to pneumonia. Some people will recover easily, and others may get very sick very quickly.

People with coronavirus may experience:

- fever
- symptoms such as coughing, a sore throat and fatigue
- shortness of breath

Who is most at risk

In Australia, the people most at risk of getting the virus are:

- travellers who have recently been overseas
- those who have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with

COVID-19

- people in correctional and detention facilities
- people in group residential settings

People who are, or are more likely to be, at higher risk of serious illness if they get the virus are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions
- people 65 years and older with chronic medical conditions
- people 70 years and older
- people with compromised immune systems

Social Distancing

Social distancing in public means people:

- stay at home and only go out if it is absolutely essential
- keep 1.5 metres away from others
- avoid physical greetings such as handshaking, hugs and kisses
- use tap and go instead of cash
- travel at quiet times and avoid crowds
- avoid public gatherings and at risk groups like older people
- practise good hygiene

Australian Government
Department of Health

Protect Yourself and the Community

It is important we all play our part in preventing the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Queensland Health recommends

5 important ways we can all follow help stop the spread of viruses:

- Clean your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your face, nose, and mouth. And avoid shaking hands.
- Stay home if you are unwell.
- Avoid contact with anyone who is unwell – try to stay 1.5m away from anyone coughing or sneezing.

Potential ways you may contract the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) include:

- someone with the virus sneezes or coughs onto you
- someone with the virus coughed or sneezed onto a surface (like a door handle) that you touch, and you get the infected droplets on your hands and then transfer them to your mouth, nose or eyes when you touch your face or eat.

Remember: Looking after yourself by eating a healthy, balanced diet, getting regular physical activity, sleeping well and reducing stress is important all the time.

ATSILS

Sorry Business and Funerals During COVID-19

Funerals with more than ten people are not allowed under strict new controls to stop coronavirus.

Sorry Business and other cultural activities are very important. But it is more important at the moment

to keep Elders — and others who are already ill — safe by not holding gatherings of more than a few people.

The Federal Government has banned large indoor and outdoor gatherings to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), and this includes sorry business and family gatherings such as wakes.

Travel restrictions are also in place across Queensland, so people will not be able to travel to attend

gatherings.

Families need to talk about other ways they can conduct sorry business while restrictions are in place.

ATSILS

Keep Up to Date

As the impact of the virus in Queensland changes, advice will change, so it is important to get up-to-date advice from credible

sources. We recommend following updates from:

Queensland Health:

health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus

Australian Department of Health:

www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert

World Health Organisation:

www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

PROTECT YOURSELF & THOSE AROUND YOU



STAY AT HOME IF
YOU'RE UNWELL



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR
FACE, NOSE AND MOUTH



STAY 1.5 METRES AWAY
FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE
COUGHING OR SNEEZING



COVER COUGHS AND
SNEEZES



WASH HANDS
REGULARLY

National Leadership Meeting - Broome



The National Link-Up Leadership Meeting Attendees

The National Link-Up Leadership Forum was held in Broome at the Cable Beach Club from Wednesday 4th to Thursday 5th March 2020 with representatives from across Australia. Attendees also included representatives from the Healing Foundation, AIATSIS, NIAA and Know More Legal.

The two day conference was facilitated by the KSGAC Chairperson Dr Mark Bin Bakar and the dinner on Wednesday evening included some local catering and participation in the National Mary G Radio Show.

Thursday afternoon the group visited the traditional owners at the Yawuru office and were treated to some cultural history and a wonderful afternoon tea.



One of the many presentations over the two days

It was a great opportunity to all the National Link-Up organisations to get together to discuss relevant issues in relation to funding, the

Link-Up program and how each service rolls this out in their area, reunions and shared reunions, and the long term need for the service.

Each invited attendee gave a presentation around their organisation and how they worked in with the Link-Up Services.

Prue Gregory (Project Manager) attended from Know More Legal along with Margaret Coyne (Aboriginal Engagement Team Member) and Ellie Haas (Senior Lawyer) who spoke about the Redress Scheme and how they have been working with Redress Support Services to assist clients.

AIATSIS spoke about the work they continue to do in providing



A highlight was the Traditional Welcome at Yawuru office

research assistance to Link-Up Services. There is a need for AIATSIS to be supported more and Link-Up Services were prompted to use their services more.

The Healing Foundation gave a presentation on the changes that have been taking place and the future direction of the Foundation.

Sonia Boersig from NIAA gave a presentation about the importance of the Link-Up Service but was unable to provide any decisions around future funding but advised that she would take all queries on board.

Thursday night saw most of the attendees go for dinner on Cable Beach for their final catch up before everyone headed home.

The next National Link-Up Leadership Forum will be held in Perth and hosted by Yorgum.



Joshua Thompsen taking photos of the sunset at Cable Beach



Enjoying dinner at Cable Beach Resort Restaurant

Link-Up (Qld)'s Service Delivery Model

In early March, Link-Up (Qld) Service Delivery Managers Joshua Thompson and Jason Ives travelled from Queensland to Broome in Western Australia to attend the National Link-Up Leadership meeting. The 2 day meeting was hosted by Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation and held at Cable Beach Resort which is famously known for its beautiful beach and sunsets.

Joshua and Jason presented Link-Up (Qld)'s Service Delivery Model framework which has been developed by staff as an easy to read manual for staff to use in their everyday work. The model:

- builds on the information outlined in the Program Manual and SEWB Program Handbook for Link Up Service Providers
- demonstrates the sequential stages of a client's journey from

the entry to the exit stage

- includes workflows detailing specific steps that Caseworkers and SEWB Counsellors would follow to complete the tasks within each stage
- demonstrates the complementary nature of how service delivery staff work together to provide a holistic service to clients
- provides consistent information and steps that would make it easier to train new Caseworkers and SEWB Counsellors and for them to keep as a guide to refer to

We are proud of the work we do and the quality improvements we make to ensure that our staff are equipped with appropriate tools and training to support our Stolen Generations on their healing journey.

Thank you to Mark, Tania and the team in the Kimberley for being great hosts.



National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme is in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
National Redress Scheme Line - 1800 737 377

The Scheme:

- acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions
- holds institutions accountable for this abuse
- helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to counselling, a direct personal response, and a Redress payment
- started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years

Link-Up (Qld) has appointed a Redress Manager – Anne Struckett. Anne and her growing team of Redress Counsellors, Julie and Yvette are committed to supporting all those eligible to make an application to the National Redress Scheme. The team offers a free and confidential service in an environment where you can speak openly about your sexual abuse, without judgement and in a way that you feel comfortable with. The team will continue to provide emotional and counselling support with a trauma-informed approach, as they work with you throughout the application process before, during and after.

Given the current Covid-19 situation the Redress team are unable to travel across Queensland until further notice. We were fortunate enough prior to this restriction to have travelled to Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Caboolture to speak with Indigenous organisations about the National Redress Scheme, including University presentations.

However, we wish to reassure current Redress clients and those wanting to make a



Redress Counsellors Julie Pemberton and Yvette Salam, and Manager Anne Struckett (Centre)

Redress application throughout Queensland that the team are committed to supporting you either via phone or in our Brisbane office ensuring compliance with Covid-19 use of hand sanitizers and social distancing requirements. We will adapt our work processes to ensure that all Redress applications and communications with you are progressing in a timely manner, with confidentiality maintained.

Current National Redress Scheme – Update

As of 31 January 2020, the scheme:

- Had received 6,077 applications
- Had made 1,367 application, including 1,112 payments totally over \$89.3 million with an average payment of \$81,184
- Had made 255 offers of redress, which applicants have another six months to consider
- Was processing 3,851 applications
- Had 897 applications on hold, including 543 because one or more institutions named had not joined yet, and about 354 because they required additional information from the applicant

If you are experiencing emotions you're not coping with, the following services can be contacted 24 hours a day and seven days a week:

Beyond Blue:
1300 224 636

1800RESPECT:
1800 737 732

MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service:
1300 659 467

For more information or to find support services, go to the National Redress Scheme website: www.nationalredress.gov.au or call 1800 737 377 Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm (local time), excluding public holidays.

Please feel free to speak with the Redress team at Link-Up (Qld), Anne Struckett - Redress Manager and the Redress Counsellors: Julie and Yvette – available 8am to 4pm – Monday to Friday

Stolen Wages Class Action - Update

Claim statements are being posted

All claimants and registered representatives of claimants that have passed away will shortly receive a claim statement. Hard copies of claim statements are now being mailed to the postal address provided for each person. This is a very important document and you will need to read it carefully and in full.

A sample claim statement can be viewed on the Stolen Wages Settlement website under the Updates tab.

The claim statement is to confirm your details and does not mean that you will receive a payment. Once the details of all registered claims are confirmed we will assess the eligibility of all claims and determine who is eligible to receive a payment.

Please carefully check your claim statement. If any details are incorrect, have changed or are missing, the correct information can be provided by completing the relevant fields on the claim statement, signing the document and returning it to the Stolen Wages Information Centre.

Please retain a copy of the claim statement for your records as we will not return them to you once you send them to the Stolen Wages Information Centre.

Over 3,000 people have not provided a mailing address. The Stolen Wages Information Centre will attempt to contact these people where phone or email addresses have been provided.

No change to settlement timelines

The Stolen Wages Settlement process has a defined timeline as set out in the Settlement Distribution Scheme approved by the Federal Court. The timeline is as follows:

- Before 6 September 2020 - distribution statements will be sent to eligible claimants and eligible registered representatives
- Before the 6 December 2020 - Payments will be made to the registered bank accounts of eligible claimants and eligible registered representatives

At this stage, the Coronavirus restrictions are not expected to change the timeline set by the Federal Court. Payments will not be made earlier as a result of the restrictions. People experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the Coronavirus restrictions should contact Centrelink or go to www.australia.gov.au for support packages and assistance provided by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

Don't forget to...

Claimants and registered representatives for claimants that have passed away, need to provide the Stolen Wages Information Centre with details to support their claim. This includes:

- The name of both the claimant and if applicable, the registered representative/s
- Date of birth of the claimant
- Whether the claimant is male or female
- The bank account details of the claimant or if applicable, the registered representative/s
- Ethnicity—whether the claimant is or was Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (cannot be both)
- Identification i.e. approved photo ID of the claimant or if applicable, the registered representative/s (see the website for what ID is acceptable)

If you haven't already provided the above information and documents please contact the Stolen Wages Information Centre.

Our website - www.stolenwages.com.au - is the place to go to for accurate and up to date information.

Sorry Day - Online Event

This Sorry Day, Link-Up (Qld) will be hosting its first ever online event. On Tuesday 26th of May at 10am, we will host a livestream on our Facebook and YouTube.

The first Sorry Day was on the 26th of May 1988, one year after the Bringing Them Home report was tabled in Federal Parliament.

We gather every year on May 26th to commemorate and reflect on the stories of the Stolen Generations, and while we won't be able to physically gather, we invite you to join us virtually.



Client Morning Tea - Brisbane

On Thursday 27th February Link-Up (Qld) hosted its first morning tea for 2020, which was attended by 33 of our faithful clients and supporters, many who hadn't seen each other for 3 months. They turned up to hear talks from Lyn Schonefeld from Life Without Barriers, Billy Gorham and Marshall Saunders from the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and just to catch up with old friends and to see the staff. Another hearty lunch was prepared and Uncle Len White was presented with a birthday cake to help celebrate his recent special occasion.



Marshall Saunders from the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health giving a talk to the morning tea group



Lyn Schonefeld from Life Without Barriers giving a talk to the morning tea group



Clients and supporters who attended the first morning tea of the year



Sloane Stellan with the cake for Uncle Len White's birthday



Staff prepared another hearty lunch that was very well received by the attendees

Better Together Health Gathering - Metro North



Link-Up (Qld) Counsellor Anne Garret and Research Officer Rebecca Lockyer

On Thursday 20 February 2020 Rebecca Lockyer (Research), Sam Watson Jnr (Multimedia), and Anne Garret (SEWB Counsellor) presented an overview of the “heart” work that we do here at Link-Up (Qld) to around 60 Health Workers from Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

Our presentation was well received and feedback from Caley Colley, Project Officer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team is that “Staff have continued to mention how wonderful your presentation was and how much they enjoyed it.”

Thank you to Carly, and Metro North Hospital and Health Service for inviting us.



Elwyn from Metro North Health, MC for the gathering



Anne and Rebecca answering questions after the presentation

Link-Up (Qld) Presentations

Recently staff from the Service Delivery and Redress teams completed a week of presentations that included a road trip that took them from Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Harvey Bay, Caboolture and finally back to

Brisbane. During the presentations community members, local organisations and government departments were shown a 30 minute promotional video of the services that Link-Up (Qld) supply followed by a Q and A session.

Many promotional materials such as magazines, brochures, fact sheets and badges were made available for the participants to take with them. Many of the organisations inquired about having Link-Up (Qld) do a return visit to present more presentations in the future.



Presentation in Bundaberg



Presentation in Gladstone

2020 Local Government Elections - Queensland

Saturday, 28 March 2020 - Declared

Congratulations to all the candidates elected to Local Councils in recent elections and particularly to those elected in our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Great to see Vonda Malone, Torres Strait Shire Council and Aileen Addo, Mapoon Shire Council being re-elected as Mayors and of course other strong women elected as Mayors - Elvie Sandow, Cherbourg, Keri Tamwoy, Aurukun, Patricia Yusia, Northern Peninsula Area, Janita Motton, Napranum and a record number of women elected to Councils.

Ross Andrews, Yarrabah, Jason Ned, Doomadgee, Wayne Butcher, Lockhart River each returned as Mayors. Congratulations to all the candidates who have stood and been elected to represent people in their local communities. It is a wonderful privilege and honour and will not be without its challenges and of course rewards.

Aurukun Shire Mayor

TAMWOY, Kerrie Pauline

Councillors

KERINDUN, Anna Louise

KOOMEETA, Craig Allan

TAMWOY, Kemuel Mika

YUNKAPORTA, Delys

Burke Shire Mayor

CAMP, Ernest J

Burke

CLARKE, John Leonard

MURRAY, Tonya Maree

WADE, Rosita

YANNER, John

Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Mayor

SANDOW, Elvie Jean Jnr

Councillors

COBBO, Frederick Daniel

COSTELLO, Leighton Guy

DOUGLAS, Bronwyn Colleen

LANGTON, Thomas Patrick

Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Mayor

NED, Jason Grant

Councillors

DIAMOND, Antoinette Kimberley

DOUGLAS, Elijah Brandon

JOHNNY, Myron Blase

WALDEN, Athol

Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Mayor

WOIBO, Jason Grant

Councillors

BOWEN, Barry Antonio

BOWEN, Keithean Ernest Ted

MICHAEL, Allison Myola

WOIBO, Christopher Bruce

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Mayor

SANDS, Robert Michael

Councillors

BERNARD, Teddy

JOSIAH, Cameron Patrick Evans

JOSIAH, Jacob Elroy

STAFFORD, Richard Lee

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Mayor

BUTCHER, Wayne William

Councillors

BALLY, Norman Francis

BOWIE, Alistair Walter

HOBSON, Dorothy Molly

KOKO, Karen Patricia

Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Mayor

ADDO, Aileen Muriel

Councillors

BRAUN, Dawn Louise

DE JERSEY, Daphne Heather

HUDSON, Cameron Wallace

MARA, Margaret Lesley

Mornington Shire Mayor

YANNER, Kyle Hector

Councillors

BARNES, David

ROGERS, Dwayne Laurence

THOMAS, Roxanne

THOMPSON, Bob

Mount Isa City Mayor

SLADE, Danielle Dee

Councillors

BARWICK, Phillip Maurice

COGHLAN, Kim Maree

FORTUNE, Herbert George

MACRAE, Peta Michelle

STRETTON, Paul Robert

TULLY, Michael Edward

Napranum Aboriginal Shire Mayor

MOTTON, Janita

Councillors

ADIDI, Mopas Margaret

JAWAI, Kaylene Lillian

MAIRU, Egito

PITT, Marie

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Mayor

YUSIA, Patrica

Declared

Division 1 Councillor

NONA, Gina Marilyn

Division 2 Councillor

TAMWOY, Robert Allan Steven

Division 3 Councillor

GEBADI, Kitty Alvina Estelle

Division 4 Councillor

COTTIS, Eric John

Division 5 Councillor

ELU, Francis

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Mayor

SAM, Mislam Zacchias

Councillors

CASTORS, Andrew James

GEIA, Deniece Elizabeth

HAINES, Derek Garrison

KYLE-SAILOR, Andrea Roberta

Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Mayor

TARPENCHA, Richard

Councillors

CONRAD, George Simeon

FOOTE, Andrea Simone

KINGI, Ronald Douglas

KOO-AGA, Timothy Logan

Torres Shire Mayor

MALONE, Vonda Lisa

Councillors

ABEDNEGO, John Stephen

BANI, Gabriel

KETCHELL, Allan

LOBAN, Thomas

Torres Strait Island Regional Mayor

MOSBY, Phillemon Sereako

Division 1 Councillor

TOBY, Dimas Pinaith

Division 2 Councillor

ELISALA, Torenzo Elmazac Ridgeway

Division 3 Councillor

TABUAI, Conwell Nathan

Division 4 Councillor

FELL, Keith Marshall

Division 5 Councillor

NONA, Laurie Tony

Division 6 Councillor

TRINKOON, Lama Robin Henry

Division 7 Councillor

LEVI, John Edward

Division 8 Councillor

DORANTE, Seriako Henry

Division 9 Councillor

LUI, Getano Bel Jnr

Division 10 Councillor

TAMU, Kabay Jamaal

Division 11 Councillor

PEARSON, Francis

Division 12 Councillor

MOSBY, Hilda Denise

Division 13 Councillor

STEPHEN, Rocky Gabriel

Division 14 Councillor

GELA, Boggo Ettie

I Division 15 Councillor

NOAH, Aven Stanley

Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Mayor

WEAZEL, Joshua Mark

Councillors

CAMERON, Joel Efferen Thomas

DOYLE, Gerald Kenneth

WALKER, Deltas Paula

WEAZEL, Laurence

Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Mayor

CREEK, Bradley Travis Shane

Councillors

BLOOMFIELD, Robert Derek

KULKA, Regan Bob George

TAYLEY, Vanessa Marie

TAYLEY, Vincent Mark

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Mayor

ANDREWS, Ross James

Councillors

BAIRD, David John

JACKSON, Kenneth

UNDERWOOD, Brian Colridge

WILLETT, Lucrecia Anne

Mayors



Cherbourg Mayor Elvie Sandow
(Photo: CASC)

Elvie Sandow will be sworn in as the new Mayor of Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council.

Ms Sandow – who was Deputy Mayor in the last Council – is not only the first woman to lead Cherbourg Council, she is the first female councillor to be elected Mayor in any of the councils that cover the South Burnett region.

southburnett.com.au/news/2020/04/08/elvie-declared-cherbourg-mayor



Welcome our new Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council Members, Mayor Jason Woibo, Deputy Mayor Bruce Woibo, Cr Allison Michael, Cr Keithan Bowen and Cr Barry

Bowen.

As Chief Executive Officer, I would like to congratulate our new Councillors & Mayor on behalf of the Hope Vale Shire Council workforce and Community.

Mark Kelleher
CEO, HVASC

www.facebook.com/HopeValeAboriginalShireCouncil



Phillemon Mosby, Mayor of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council

(Photo: www.theexpressnewspaper.com.au/breaking-news/three-far-north-regions-still-without-a-mayor)



Wayne Butcher, Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor

Councillor Wayne Butcher is in his second term as Mayor of Lockhart River Community Council. Under his inspiring leadership, there is a tangible positive and cohesive atmosphere prevailing, as Mayor Wayne and his Council successfully steer the community towards long term sustainability and ownership of its future.

lockhart.qld.gov.au/message-from-mayor



Mayor Vonda Malone, Torres Shire Council

(Photo: www.ceqld.org.au/governance)

Vonda Malone is the newly elected Mayor of the Torres Shire Council. Vonda possesses a Graduate Certificate in Australian Rural Leadership and a Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management. Vonda is a fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Program and the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner's Indigenous Fellowship Program. Vonda is also a recipient of the Centenary Medal and the NAIDOC Award of Excellence.

www.torres.qld.gov.au/mayor



Aileen Adoo, Mapoon Shire Council Mayor

The first female Mayor for Mapoon and second-time councillor with extensive knowledge and history working in the health sector. Aileen is honoured to be elected unanimously to the position. A former health worker with a keen sense of accountability and respect for culture, she is intent on working with fellow community leaders to add her mark to the solid platform that is Mapoon Shire.

www.mapoon.qld.gov.au/mayor-and-councillors



Ross Andrews, Mayor of Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

Ross is a Djungan and Yalanji

man of Far North Queensland. He is also the Mayor of Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, managing portfolios across all areas. He helps coordinate the Council's focus on using resources to build digital skills in young people and engaging them in the community. He was involved in the development of the Yarrabah Town Planning Scheme, enabling good decision-making regarding future land use in Yarrabah and other strategic planning framework that contributes to the wellbeing of his people.

advance.qld.gov.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-innovation



Mornington Shire Mayor Kyle Yanner

The Wellesley Island shire has a new mayor. Kyle Yanner has been declared mayor of Mornington Shire after winning a three way contest. Mr Yanner was born in Mount Isa and grew up in Burketown but came to Mornington Island every school holidays with his Lardil mother to meet his grandparents who are traditional owners of the country. "Home is very special place for me," he said.

www.northweststar.com.au/story/6725070/kyle-yanner-confirmed-mayor-of-mornington-shire



Mayor Mislam Sam, Palm Island (Photo: Townsville Bulletin)



Mayor Keri Tamwoy, Aurukun Shire



Mayor Keri Tamwoy, Cr Anna Kerindun, Cr Delys Yankaporta, Deputy Mayor Craig Koomeeta, Cr Kemuel Tamwoy

<http://www.aurukun.qld.gov.au/council/the-elected-council/>

About Link-Up (Qld)

Our Mission

Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation supports the healing journeys of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who have been separated from their families and cultures through forced removal, fostering, adoption and/or institutionalisation. We deliver professional, culturally sensitive and confidential research, reunion and cultural wellbeing services.

Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation Caseworkers and Counsellors are experienced individuals who can assist in reuniting Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families.

We also provide a referral service to the appropriate organisation or Government Department.

Link-Up (Qld) Offices

BRISBANE:

5 Reid Street, Woolloongabba, Qld 4102
PO Box 3229, South Brisbane, Q 4101
Tel: (07) 3638 0411 Fax: (07) 3217 3458
Email: contact@link-upqld.org.au

Quick Facts

- Link-Up (Qld) is a FREE service
- We offer support before, during and after your family reunion
- We respect your privacy and treat all information confidentially
- Link-Up (Qld) runs a range of healing activities; camps, support groups, art, craft and music workshops
- We offer cultural renewal activities and support return to country

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/linkupqueensland
or visit our website at www.link-upqld.org.au

Toll Free: 1800 200 855 from landlines

Link-Up (Qld) is funded by

National Indigenous Australians Agency,
Department of Social Services,
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women.

