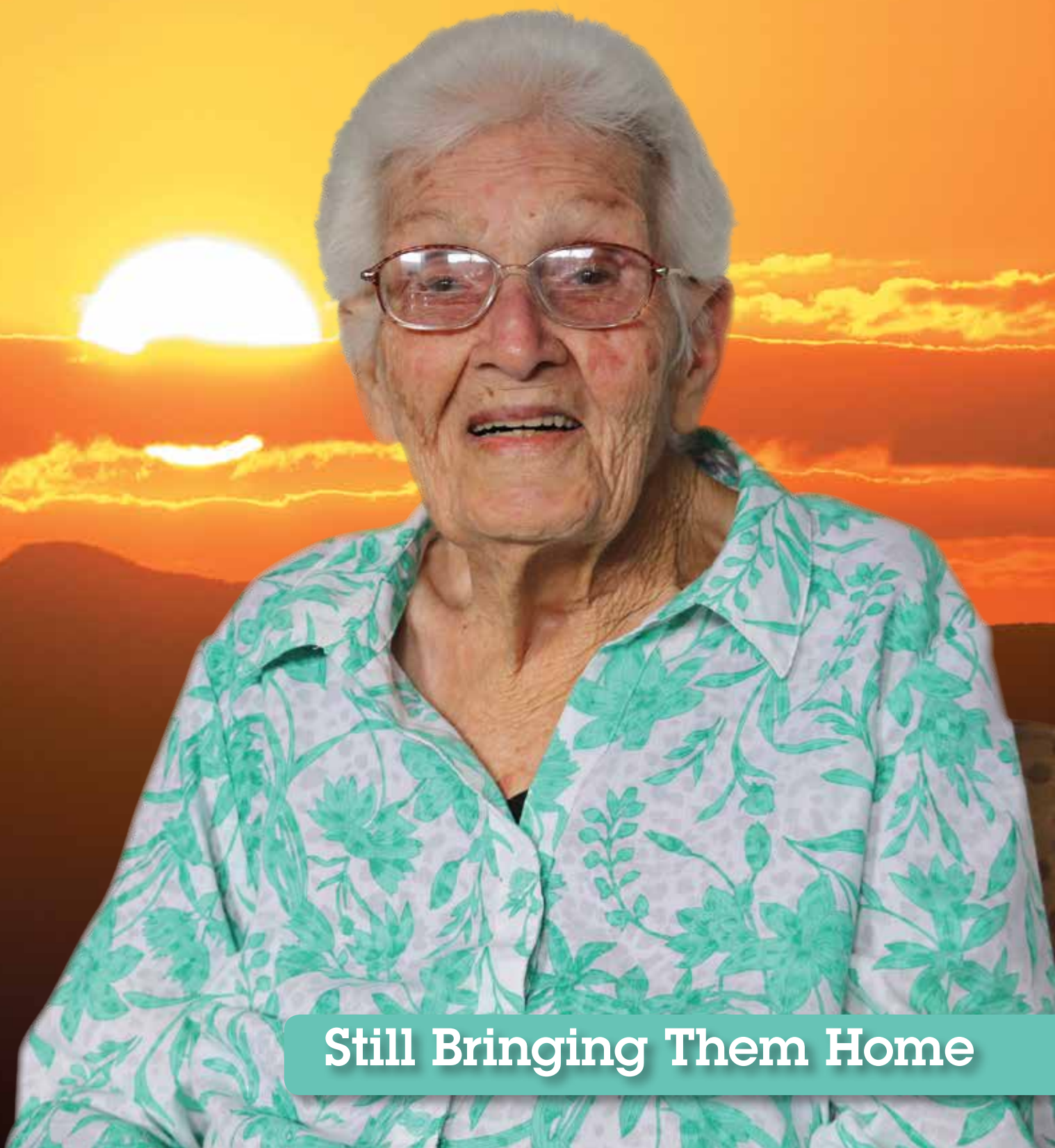




Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Volume 42 | Jan - Feb 2020



Still Bringing Them Home

Chairperson - Ken Murphy



Ken Murphy

I have been cast into this role of Chairperson at Link-Up (Qld) due to the sad and sudden passing of our brother Sam Watson in November last year. I certainly don't assume that I can fill the void that he has left, but he would want us to continue the legacy of his vision and leadership at Link-Up (Qld). He has been the Chairman for over 12 years and in that time he has advocated strongly for our Stolen Generations, promoting Link-Up (Qld) across the state and also on a National level. The current Board and myself will continue to carry on the important work for our Stolen Generations.

The first event of the year was Apology 2020. A wonderful morning at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). The Murri School dancers from The Murri School at Acacia Ridge are a special highlight at Apology each year. Jeff Locke, their cultural dance teacher, believes that culture and community are central to the academic and social development of their students. We have been proud to watch them over many years as they grow.

The Speakers at Apology 2020 included Mrs Pattie Lees AM (née Janke) from Mount Isa. Pattie was

born in Cairns, North Queensland but has been a resident of Mount Isa since 1976. Along with her siblings Terry, Michael, Johanne and Elin, Pattie was removed from her mother as a ten-year-old girl. She was sent initially to an orphanage in Townsville in 1958, before being sent to Palm Island as a Ward of the State under the *State Children Act* (1911) in 1960; she was also subject to the *Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act* (1939) and the *Aborigines and Torres Strait Islander's Affairs Act* (1965).

In 1984, Link-Up (Qld) helped Pattie's family locate and reunite with her youngest sibling Elin after 26 years of separation. Elin was only four-and-a-half months old when Pattie's family were separated. The discovery was a revelation for Pattie who grew up believing her sister had died as a baby. Pattie's biography 'A Question of Colour' is due for release by Magabala Publishing in June this year; her book includes a foreword by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

Mike Salbro (Big Mike) also shared his story, being adopted by a Swedish couple and taken to Sweden, where he grew up thinking he was African. Mike said he doesn't know how Link-Up (Qld) found him, living in another country so far away. Link-Up (Qld) successfully reunited Mike with his family at Cherbourg. Mike gave an inspirational introduction to his story in Swedish and translated in English. Big Mike is an inspiration to others.

Shellie Morris, a multi award winning singer/songwriter, sharing her story of being adopted by a loving couple who encouraged her to find her family. Shellie Morris' illustrious career has balanced being one of Australia's most celebrated singer-songwriters with her unwavering commitment to healing through music within

communities. Armed with personal experience of connection and disconnection, Shellie imparts the importance of having a voice, listening to one another and that every individual is important. Her uplifting single *Footsteps*, released February 2019, connects people through language, song and spirit.

Jacob Ridgeway an upcoming singer/songwriter/performer from Newcastle, NSW performed an award winning debut single *Bullyman*. The gloomy lyrics describe a journey inspired by one of Jacob's female elders in his community and her story through personal experiences through *Stolen Generation*. This story is character driven from transitional moments in her life from small child, young woman to a mother herself all whilst being fed lies and a false sense of security from the *Bullyman*. As the story progresses with her exposure to the world and education, she realises the protection that she was told was never real (*White Protection Act/Policy*) and will protect her children at all costs. *Bullyman* was the grand prize winner of the 2019 National Indigenous Story Awards.

Link-Up (Qld) has been proud to see Jacob grow as an artist as well, he has performed previously at Sorry Day events.

Finally, I would like to say, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Link-Up (Qld) we will continue striving to carry on the good work of our late Chairman Sam Watson and to maintain stability. It has been a privilege to work with him, share in his knowledge and wisdom and to witness his calm and effective leadership. We will be honouring his legacy at Link-Up (Qld) for a long time to come. Thank you Brother.



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

The cover of this issue features Aunty Joan Bowman, who sadly passed away on 23/12/2019. A tribute to Aunty Joan is on page 14.



Patricia Thompson

Welcome to this first edition of our magazine for 2020

Welcome to this first edition of our magazine for 2020 featuring Auntie Joan Bowman on the cover. Auntie Joan sadly passed away on 23rd December 2019 aged almost 94 years. Auntie Joan has had a long association with Link-Up (Qld), initially becoming a client in 1992 and then serving as a director on the Board for a period of 10 years. Auntie Joan's story is featured in this edition and also in our 35 Years 35 Stories Book which was published and launched in November 2019.

It was a privilege to have Auntie Joan at the 35 Year Gala dinner in May 2019 and at the book launch in November 2019 – she was excited attending both events, catching up with old friends and people she hadn't seen in a long time. Auntie Joan's son, Mark contacted us to share the news of her passing, he said *"Link-Up was in her soul"*. The day after the book launch, Mum said, *"If I never go out again it's fine because that was the best event I've ever been to"*.

We are so pleased that Auntie Joan had the opportunity to share and publish her story.

Apology 2020 was held at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in February. It was a beautiful venue to hold this event on a hot and rainy day. Mrs Pattie Lees from Mount Isa was a guest speaker. Pattie reflected on her journey and how in 1984, Link-Up (Qld) helped her family locate and reunite with her youngest sibling Elin after 26 years of separation. Elin was only four-and-a-half months old when Pattie's family were separated. The discovery was a revelation for Pattie who grew up believing her sister had died as a baby.

These are the stories we hear from our clients every day, their journey of separation and disconnection from family and country. With the rates of children being separated from their families today, we are seeing another generation of removals and that disconnection. We receive many requests from agencies looking after children in out of home care, seeking assistance to reconnect children to their culture, families and country. There seems to be a gap in service in this area.

Service Delivery staff have been busy facilitating reunions which are featured in each edition of our magazine. Reunions are facilitated after the research is finalised for our clients. The research process is complex and timely and can take up to 12 months or more to be completed. Research findings are not released to clients until the end of the research process as records obtained must be validated.

Clients receive a full research report with records attached, sources cited and a family tree to summarise the information. The research process is important work as our Stolen Generations

experience many barriers in accessing the records they require to trace their identities and histories, and reunite with families.

Our organisation was the first Link-Up service in Australia to have a dedicated research team. Our research team are highly qualified and skilled, they are committed and dedicated to our Stolen Generations. Our Service Delivery teams are also highly qualified and skilled in working with our Stolen Generations. We are proud of our achievements, supporting our clients and reuniting them with families, culture and country. The valuable work of our Multi Media team promotes our important work in this publication.

Our client's stories and feedback such as that from Auntie Joan Bowman, Mrs Pattie Lees, Mike Salbro are testament to the professionalism to our work in serving our community.

Link-Up (Qld) currently has two (2) Redress Counsellors in our Brisbane office. Anne Struckett and Julie Pemberton are available to assist individuals eligible to make a claim for the National Redress Scheme to complete their applications. We offer a supportive environment in which you can speak to our Redress Counsellors for assistance with your application in complete confidence.

You can also read information about the National Redress Scheme in this magazine. We publish an update in each edition, if you know someone who is eligible please encourage them to contact our Redress Counsellors or the National Redress Scheme Line - 1800 737 377 to assist them.



Apology 2020 - QPAC, Brisbane



Murri School Dancers

Apology 2020 was held in the Concert Hall Foyer of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in the heart of South Bank. A wonderful inviting space overlooking trees in the Green.

The 160 attending guests were encouraged to help themselves to Murri Menu's fantastic grazing tables, heavily laden with a variety of food including kangaroo and

emu sliders, while treated to a powerful Indigenous program.

The program included Pattie Lees, CEO of Injilnji Aged Care, Mt Isa, an accomplished author of *A Question of Colour: My Journey to Belonging*.

A highlight for our clients is the wonderful Murri School Dancers, those small kids from the past

are now in their last years of High School, growing up quickly!

Jacob Ridgeway performed his award-winning debut single "Bullyman", Shellie Morris, a Multi Award Wining Singer and Songwriter, shared her story of adoption, finding family, learning and singing language - 17 traditional languages. She sang "Nannas song." The song, in Yanyuwa, is her story.

Mike Salbro (Big Mike), a Gallang Place Counsellor and a former Link-Up (Qld) client, did Acknowledgement to Country in Swedish. Mike was adopted by a Swedish couple and grew up in Sweden. His reunion was to Cherbourg.

The program was completed with Jacob Ridgeway providing guests with a sneak preview of his soon to be released song "I'm not coming home".



Link-up (Qld) Chairperson Ken Murphy



Pattie Lees, author of "Question of Colour: My Journey to Belonging"



Mike Salbro (Big Mike)



Former Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Joe Stuurman

Apology Day - Cairns University



Shellie Morris, Singer



Jacob Ridgeway, Singer



Guests helping themselves at the Murri Menu grazing table

Joshua Thompson, Sylvia Wright and Joshua Williams of the Cairns Office were invited by Kathy Lakatos, Project Officer | First Peoples Think Tank | Office of Indigenous Engagement, CQUniversity Australia in Cairns for morning tea to commemorate the anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations.

On 13th February, 2008 the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd gave a National Apology to the Stolen Generations. He formally acknowledged the profound suffering that First Nations people experienced because of the policies of past governments to forcibly remove their children. Very few First Nations families are untouched by past government policies and on this day we remember our Stolen Generations and celebrate their survival and resilience.

Joshua Thompson, Service Delivery Manager – North, spoke about Link-Up (Qld) and the importance of our continuing *heart work*. Joshua also provided information about our 35 Year 35 Stories booklet which was launched on 27th November 2019, 35 heartfelt client stories over 35 years. Kathy was interested in the book as an important resource for CQUni's library.

It was a successful day, and Link-Up (Qld) staff were invited back to do a presentation at CQUni in coming months. We would like to give a big thank you to Kathy and CQUni for having us and for the networking opportunities.



Front: Joshua Williams, Professor Henrietta Marrie, Norah Saveka, Sylvia Wright, Kathy Lakatos, Patrina Bassani
Back: Joshua Thompson, Shayne Bin Juda



Joshua Thompson, Service Delivery Manager North

Owen Norris Reunion - Barcaldine



Owen Norris and his family at his Great Grandmother's Gravesite at Barcaldine

Yaama, Gayrr ngaya Owen Norris, gayaa Kamilaroi Murri ngaya. (Hello, my name is Owen Norris, I am a proud Kamilaroi man). I am a descendant of the Kamilaroi nation by my father and grandmother.

I am 73 years old born in Brisbane in September 1946, we lived in an old army tent by the Strathpine railway holdings until I was about 2 - 3 yrs old, we then we moved to

a rental home in Geebung until my parents saved enough money to put a deposit on their own home.

I am married and have seven children and six grandchildren. I'm currently involved with helping, encouraging, supporting, and mentoring our First Nation People by being involved with various organisations, as well as being an elder on the Murri court.

My first contact with Link-Up (Qld) was many years ago at the Dreaming festival at Woodford, and it was only a few years ago that I made contact with Link-Up (Qld) after the NAIDOC celebrations in Maroochydore.

My sister and I always knew we were aboriginal by things our father showed us and said. But, my mother would say our father was Spanish and she kept us away from our dad's family. Sometimes my father would take me to visit his family without my mother knowing.

I believe she said and did those things to protect us from the *Aboriginal Protection Act. 1895 - 1969*.

My Great Grandmother Mary, after giving birth to our Grand Mother at Warialda, fled from the Terry Hie Hie reserve area at Moree, and travelled from Warialda through to Barcaldine over a period of about eleven years, she told people she was Maori from Wellington New Zealand to protect her children from being stolen.

After living in Barcaldine for only about six months she accidentally spilled a lamp, that was a jam jar filled with kerosene and a wick, on herself and died two days later from burns to 74% of her body.

After the death of my Great Grandmother the local police constable arrested my Grandmother who was 12yrs



Owen read a message to his Grandmother in language



Owen, his wife Cate, and their daughters Zahuia and Zeah after the gravesite smoking ceremony

old, at the time, and was looking after two her sisters who were 7 yrs and 18months old, as being destitute and neglected and living in a dilapidated tin humpy on the railway reserve.

My Grandmother and her sisters, instead of being returned to their family, were placed under the care of the state and committed to the industrial school in Clayfield in Brisbane and were later administered to an orphanage.

Fourteen years ago, I had a strong spiritual experience with our mother earth, and after talking with a traditional owner of the area, he confirmed to me that the experience revealed to me about that area was correct. It was then, that I decided to find out more about my Aboriginal heritage.

My sisters and I had carried out some family research with limited outcome, so I decided to apply to Link-Up (Qld), and forwarded to them what we had collected to help find our lost/stolen family.

What an amazing group the Link-Up (Qld) people are. They are kind, thoughtful, generous, loving, caring have amazing empathy and love for our people. They have a passion to find out the truth and connect families together.

Link-Up (Qld) contacted me recently and said they would like to show me what they were

able to find. What they found and revealed to me was beyond anything that I would have been able to find by myself.

Being with Link-Up (Qld) has helped us to connect with cousins and relations that we didn't even know we had.

Link-Up (Qld) informed me that they found my Great Grandmother Mary's burial site and could take me back to Barcaldine to do a reunion at the grave site. I was very grateful and overcome to be able to see where she was buried and express my feelings to her for what she did to overcome adversity, and to escape the Act.

My feelings were mixed, reserved, unknowing, sad, rejoicing, quiet and unsure of what to expect. My wife and two youngest daughters came with me to give me support during the reunion.

Through the reunion I was hoping to connect to my Great Grandmother and who she was, our culture, identify who I am, erase the lies we were told, help with closure for my Grandmother being stolen from her family, my heritage being stolen from me and by not having a chance of growing up with my full culture.

The gravesite reunion was a very moving experience; we conducted a smoking ceremony to allow my Great Grandmother's spirit to

return to her country. My feelings after the reunion are calmness and an inner peace and healing. It has given me greater connection to country, our people, emotional closure, relief, forgiveness and understanding about my mother.

The people we met in Barcaldine and especially the motel managers James and Colleen, were very helpful, understanding, giving and supportive of our reunion journey.

I would like to give special BIG THANK YOU to the research Manager Ruth Loli and her team at Link-Up (Qld) for their tireless efforts in finding a multitude of information on our family.

To my special new friends, Sloane Stallan and Anne Garrett who worked tirelessly to make the reunion an amazing success and life changing for me forever, I thank you and I feel a special connection to you both forever.

Your contagious enthusiasm and holistic commitment to connect our family back together, make you amazing ambassadors of our First Nations people.

Marruu baa nginda, maaru yananga, (thank you, go well).



Caseworker Sloane Stallan, Owen Norris and SEWB Counsellor Anne Garrett



Visiting Gray Rock near Aramac

Elizabeth Watson Reunion - Brisbane



The Faulks and Watson families

My name is Elizabeth Watson and I was adopted as a baby from Taree NSW. I believe that my birth name was Phyllis Lorraine. My mother – Dulcie Craddock who lived at Purfleet Mission already had a son when I was born and all that I know about that time is that the Salvation Army became involved and I was adopted under the name Elizabeth.

I spent the first 9 years of my life living at Nambucca Heads with my adopted mother, father and brother Frankie and then we moved to live in Brisbane. I lost my adopted father in the war and my mother remarried and had another son Neville. I was very close to Neville until his death. My adopted stepfather was a cruel man and when I left school I was homeless for a while and took on various menial jobs as there was no Social Security or Women's Refuges

back in those days, it was survival of the fittest. My son Darren was born and I set about making a life for us both.

It was about this time that I met my dear friend Lelani who was a Social Work Student at University of Queensland and Lelani encouraged me to start looking for my parents.

In about 2000 became involved with a woman's group and one of the ladies in the group mentioned to me about Link-Up(Qld) and the work that the organization was doing with reuniting families so I approached Link-Up(Qld) and became a client. My Case Worker back then was Robert Stuurman who worked very hard on my case but we kept coming up against brick walls with finding information about my family.

My dear friend Lelani by this stage was a lecturer of Social Work at University of Queensland, and information about the Stolen Generation was starting to be talked about and I use to go to the University and talk to the Social Work students about my life and through doing this I became very involved in Reconciliation activities. Lelani kept encouraging me to keep searching for my family members and one day she said to me "How would you like to go to Taree?" Of course I said yes.

We first visited Armidale (NSW) where we stayed with Lelani's sister who knew a lady who put me in touch with her father – Uncle Warner Saunders who knew of my birth family and through her I met a man called Jimmy who when I showed him my adoption papers with my mother's name on it he



Elizabeth's son Darren (left) flew back from his holiday in North Qld to meet his Uncle and cousins



Elizabeth and her son Darren meeting Ivor's daughters, son-in-law and grandchildren

said "I knew her and some of her brothers" so off we went down to Taree. We were driving through the main street of Taree and Jimmy suddenly yelled out of the car window at a man and woman walking along the street who turned out to be my sister Ruby and her late husband Laurence. I had Christmas with Ruby and met many family members and other residents who knew my birth mother and her family. I am still in contact with Ruby.

I contacted Robert at Link-Up (Qld) and told him that I had met some of my family and Robert arranged for me to have a Graveside reunion to my mother's burial place in a Cemetery at Kempsey. This was a bit of an adventure as there are 3 cemeteries in Kempsey but through the family members that I had met we found the location and at last I knew where my mother was buried.

I got such a shock when last September Case Worker Sloane and SEWB Counsellor Anne visited me and let me know Link-Up (Qld) had found my brother Ivor Faulks who lives in Berry (NSW) and that he wanted to contact me. I had given up on every finding out anything about Ivor and had resigned to that. I had accepted the fact that I knew where I came from, I knew that I was Aboriginal and I satisfied myself with knowing this but I still longed to know about the rest of my birth family.

I couldn't believe it when Sloane and Anne told me that Link-Up (Qld) were organizing for Ivor and his daughter – Jodi to come up to Brisbane from the NSW South Coast to visit me at Opal Retirement Village in North Lakes where I know live after having a stroke, and was even more shocked that the rest of Ivor's 5 children also wanted to bring themselves all the way up to Brisbane to meet my son Darren and I. I just couldn't believe it.

On the first afternoon I spent a few hours with Ivor and Jodi sharing with them the information I knew about our mother Dulcie and some of our siblings. The next day I met the rest of Ivor's children and some of his grandchildren. My son Darren flew back for the day from his North QLD holiday to be with

us. We had a lovely lunch to which my dear friend Lelani who has supported my search for family for all those also joined up.

I saw Ivor and some of the family again on Thursday morning before they left to fly home and I know have wonderful memories to cherish as for all these years there has only been Darren and me, and now we have a family.

There are no words to say how appreciative I am to the Link-Up (Qld) mob for making this happen, and thank you Sloane and Anne for all your support, and Jason for the lovely photos.



Brother and sister united for the first time; Ivor Faulks and Elizabeth Watson



Lunch with new found family and friends



Elizabeth telling Ivor about their family

Kayleen Jackson Reunion - Normanton



Kayleen Jackson, Caseworker Sylvia Wright, Arlene Jackson and SEWB Counsellor Anne Garrett

My name is Kayleen Jackson, I was born at Yarrabah, North Queensland. My father is Kenneth Jackson Snr and my mother is Ivy Jackson Nee Gordon both deceased. I am the 6th child out of 7 children. My family moved to Bessie Point then to Cairns where I grew up.

I used to go back to Bessie Point and Yarrabah for school holidays staying with families. Growing up in Cairns, Bessie Point and Yarrabah was fun.

After completing my schooling, I got my first job as a clerk typist

with Excel K & M Electrics in Cairns. I then moved back to Yarrabah and was working for Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service Aboriginal Corporation. I held different positions within GYHSAC before I started working as the Bringing Them Home Counsellor.

While working in collaboration with the Link-Up (Qld) team in Cairns supporting clients through their journey in linking their families, I thought about all my grandparents and how they were taken from their homeland.

I knew that my great grandfather Amos Kingsburra came from Mt. Mulligan (Kuku Djunjan), my great grandmother Adelaide Kingsburra came from Ingham (Warrgamay), my granddad Henry Gordon came from Mossman (kuku Yalanji) and my grandad Harold Jackson came for Chillagoe (Wakamin), but I had no idea where my Granny Flo came from. I found out that she might be from Normanton or Kowanyama.

I went back to most of my ancestor's country where I felt at peace, connected and I felt that I belong there, but I still had



Kayleen and Arlene at Normanton Airport



SEWB Counsellor Anne Garrett, Arlene Jackson, Kayleen Jackson and Francine George

this ache in my heart, one is still missing. While supporting my clients, I decided to become a client of Link-Up (Qld) to find out about my Granny Flo.

While waiting for Link-Up (Qld) to finish their research, I had mixed emotions. Then I received a phone call from my caseworker Sylvia Wright. Sylvia had some information for me. Sylvia came to Yarrabah and went through what the research team had found out. They had old photos of Granny Flo and they found out that 4 children were taken from Normanton around the time Granny Flo was sent to Yarrabah, 2 boys and 2 girls. After the meeting I thought that was it. A couple of days later I got a phone call from Sylvia asking if I would like to go to Normanton for a Back to Country Reunion as Pat Thompson, CEO of Link-Up (Qld) had approved it.

Arrangements were made for our reunion including meeting with Phillip George and Francine George (brother and sister), Traditional Owners from the area. Phillip extended an invitation for myself and Arlene to meet other TO's at their meeting being held during our reunion and Francine kindly offered to show us around Normanton.

My sister Arlene Jackson was my support person. On Monday the 28th of October Arlene and I booked into a motel in Cairns.

The following day we met up with Sylvia and Link-Up (Qld) Counsellor Anne Garrett before we went to Cairns airport. When we arrived in Normanton Arlene and I felt at home. We were excited because we were standing on our Granny Flo's country. We all checked in at the Gulfland Motel and Caravan Park.

After having a cup of tea together we decided to go for a ride. We picked up Francine George and she showed us around Normanton. We visited all the historical places but when Francine took us to the Old Reserve the most amazing thing happened to me, I started getting goose bumps, and tears started rolling down my cheeks. I spoke to my Granny Flo, telling her I was home. Arlene said that she felt this peaceful feeling come all over her. Sylvia, Anne and Francine all felt something too. That night we went to the Albion for a meal and to meet up with our cousin Jackie Brown.

The next day we attended the meeting of the three Traditional Owner Groups, Kukatj, Kurtijar & Gkuthaarn. I got up and spoke about Granny Flo, how she might have been taken away from Normanton and sent to Yarrabah. I passed around a photo of her hoping someone would recognise her. At the meeting all the Traditional Owners agreed on us seeing their Genealogy Charts

at the Ranger's Station. Lance Rapson (Ranger) took us through the charts.

After leaving the Ranger Station we picked Francine up and drove to Karumba for lunch. We visited the Barramundi Research Station and was hoping to view an old Aboriginal burial site before returning back to Normanton but it was fenced off. We stopped at the turn off to Delta Downs Station and took a photo.

On Thursday, while sitting at the airport, I started feeling sad because I was about to fly back to Cairns. I made a promise to myself that I was going to go back to Normanton as I was not finished with my search.

When I arrived back in Cairns, I got a phone call from Trevor Owens who has kindly agreed to meet with me and show me his family tree.

I would like to thank my caseworker Sylvia Wright and the staff of Link-Up (Qld) Cairns, the CEO Pat Thompson, Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane, Link-Up (Qld) counsellor Anne Garrett, Link-Up (Qld)'s research team, Francine and Phillip George of Normanton and my cousin Jackie Brown. Without you all Arlene and I would not have had a beautiful and rewarding reunion.



At the Ranger Station with Ranger Lance Rapson, looking at Genealogy charts of the Kukatj, Kutijar and Gkuthaarn Peoples

Jack Murphy Reunion - Daintree



Brother and sister Jack Murphy and Melita Murphy

My name is Jack Murphy. I was born on the 6th of August 1952 to parents Walter/ Walker Murphy and Maria Coker. My father was taken from his country Bloomfield, Daintree and sent to Palm Island in 1940 but later escaped. In 1945 my mother gave birth to

my eldest sister (Unnamed) who was born and passed away on the same day in Mossman and buried at the Gorge Cemetery (Mossman Gorge). My Mother gave birth to my eldest brother George in 1948, then in 1949 along with my father they were removed from

the Daintree Mission (30km North of Mossman) to Palm Island, it was also noted in October 1949 my mother gave birth to my sister Nancy in the Cairns police station and then having to travel by boat for a three day journey across to Palm Island.

My Dad never made it home again to Daintree, he had made a boat by hand and rowed from Palm Island on his journey to make it back home but was stopped by authorities in Cairns and sent back to Palm Island, always thinking of home.

Growing up we never knew of our eldest sister, so receiving my research from Link-Up (Qld) was a surprise.

Shane Wallace and Joshua Thompson from Link-Up (Qld) came to visit my sister Melita and I in Palm Island about the research they did and to see if I would like to go to the Gorge Cemetery



Caseworker Shane Wallace, Melita Murphy and Jack Murphy



Jack and Melita going into the Gorge Cemetery



Jack Murphy searching for his oldest sister's gravesite





Melita and Jack searching for thier oldest sister's gravsite

(Mossman Gorge) where my sister was buried and which I kindly accepted. My sister Melita and I travelled by plane from Palm Island to Townsville where we met with Shane Wallace, then to the big airport where we flew to Cairns and Joshua Thompson was there to pick us up to drive to Mossman.

The next morning, we was all up early to go to the Gorge cemetery (Mossman Gorge) to pay our respects to all our family

that are laid to rest and my sister who would've been in her mid 70's today. Melita was walking down the back of the cemetery where she felt something strong spiritually and come across a small burial site with a border of rocks and covered in leaves we strongly believe that's our sister's grave, we cleared the leaf litter and laid a floral wreath.

We then went for a visit to the Daintree which was sad thinking

of Dad at that time not being able to go back to his beautiful country and all his stories of home and how he missed it, Melita and I was very grateful of Link-Up (Qld) to be able to take us to where our sister was laid to rest and the countries of our, mother and father



Jack and Melita laying a floral wreath at the gravesite



Jack Murphy



Melita Murphy, Caseworker Shane Wallace, Service Delivery Manager North Joshua Thompson, and Jack Murphy



Aunty Joan Bowman

Link-Up (Qld) is saddened by the passing of Aunty Joan Bowman (nee Presley), who passed away on 23 December 2019, aged almost 94.

Joan was a Link-Up Queensland client in our early days and later became a Board Member. Recently she shared her story as part of our 35 Years 35 Stories book, which we were honoured to have interviewed her for only last year.

Joan was born at Darwin, Northern Territory on 2 January 1926 to Nora Hall and Edward Presley. She had a challenging childhood and she and her siblings were raised for a time by their uncle. In the 1940s Joan and her three young brothers; Bill, Duncan and Cyril were taken from Darwin and sent on a cargo ship to Nudgee orphanage in Brisbane, never to see their mother

again. Upon arrival, Joan was told she was too old for the orphanage and was left to care for herself. She found work and visited her brothers when she could.

When Link-Up (Qld) interviewed Joan, she reflected on her childhood experience, "There was no one to turn to in those days" she said. Joan stayed close to her brothers who were placed in the orphanage as she worried they may be taken by other families and forget who they were. Joan said "I had to be very careful, I didn't want to lose sight of them. I had to stay and work wherever the boys were."

Joan later moved to Townsville where she met her husband Tom. They had six children; whom Joan raised on her own after Tom passed away young. She also helped raise her nephews and nieces and looked after many people in the community.

In 1992, Joan came to Link-Up (Qld) in search of her mother whom herself was taken as a girl. Sadly, Joan's mother was found to be deceased however, Joan discovered an elder half-brother at Alice Springs, and they reunited. Joan's brother passed away soon after they met.

Joan was inspired by her time as a client at Link-Up (Qld) to assist the community and members of the Stolen Generations by joining

the first Link-Up (Qld) Board of Directors. Joan served on the Board for 10 years and continued to volunteer with Link-up for several years afterwards; visiting schools and teaching kids about the Stolen Generations, Aboriginal culture and art.

Link-Up (Qld) was honoured to have Aunty Joan attend our 35 Year Anniversary Gala in May 2019 and our 35 Years 35 Stories book launch in November 2019. Link-Up was in Joan's soul and we thank her for her generous and dedicated service.

*"I saw a man who looked like me
And said this can only be
A link to some time long ago
About things I don't know
We must belong to a skin
Of long ages, we must be kin
I wanted to get to know him better
But said I would do that later
Years have gone since I saw that man
Now I have time, I've filled my plans
Grown older and aware, I know I
can care
For him and me"*

Joan Bowman, undated – published in "A Collection of Poems" Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation Support Group, 2000.



Aunty Joan in the early 1990s



Aunty Joan in the office in the early 1990s

Letter to Link-Up (Qld) - From the Bowman Family

Dear Link-Up (Queensland) Manager and Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Bowman family, I would like to thank and acknowledge the support of Link-Up (Queensland)'s staff and Board members over the years provided to our Mother, Joan Bowman.

Our Mother's Link-Up journey meant that she was reunited with her stepbrother, Albert Presley and other family members. The assistance provided in taking Mum to the Northern Territory helped in many ways, providing the impetus and strength that led to Mum helping many others in their journey through Link-Up Support Groups.

We, the family, would like to thank everybody who Joan worked with to accomplish a support safety net for those who were in need. Sometimes reunions went well, sometimes not so well. I myself was very happy to be included in many of the group meetings and retreats, providing visual records and support where possible. We saw women's and men's business grow and flourish providing support to both the staff of Link-Up and their clients in many ways, shapes and forms. The support group motto: "Come in, sit down and have a cuppa" was always very relevant.

Those early retreats were deadly as, taking clients and staff away on weekends helping those people reconnect through art, storytelling, poetry and music, opening the door for those clients who might have been struggling with what had happened with their families. In some cases, Link-Up support group became their family. Thank you for the many years of reconnecting families and their past. We have been proud to be a part of the Link-Up family.

The passing of our Mother just before Christmas at age 93 hit the family hard but we are working through it.

We wish to say thank you to the Link-Up people who came to pay their respects at Mum's funeral and thank you for the poster of her. We appreciate the gesture. Thank you for the many years of including mum in the Link-Up activities. Mum was always proud to be in the marquee at NAIDOC Day festivals every year that she was able, talking to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community on behalf of Link-Up Support Group.

With very kind regards,
William Bowman on behalf of the Bowman family

Invasion Day 2020 - Brisbane

Upwards of ten thousand people gathered at Queens Gardens in the Brisbane CBD on the 26th of January for Invasion Day.

Speeches were made about Aboriginal deaths in custody, the high rates of Aboriginal incarceration, the removal of children from families and communities and the destruction of land and land rights with mining and climate change.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags flew high and placards and banners were held with messages such as "Abolish Australia Day", "Pay the Rent" and "Protect Country".

One chant reverberated especially loud; "Always was, always will be, Aboriginal Land!"

L.O.R.E Men First Nations Riders led the march, and as the crowd made their way through the city and across to South Bank, stopping to make intersections corroboree grounds once more, one chant reverberated especially loud; "Always was, always will be, Aboriginal Land!"

The march ended in Musgrave Park, with more speeches, songs, dances and a feed.



The crowd gathered in Queens Gardens
Photo by Studio 9001 Photography



L.O.R.E Men First Nations Riders led the march
Photo by Studio 9001 Photography



"Always was, always will be, Aboriginal Land!"
Photo by Tony Robertson Photography



The march crossing the Victoria Bridge between the city and South Bank - Photo by Tony Robertson Photography



Upwards of ten thousand people attended the rally and march
Photo by Mick Jones Photography



The march making it's way up to Musgrave Park
Photo by Mick Jones Photography

Stolen Wages Class Action - Update

Settlement

In early September 2019, the Queensland Government and lead applicant, Mr Hans Pearson, represented by BELAW, agreed to settle the Stolen Wages Class Action for \$190 million, subject to Federal Court of Australia approval.

Registration for the settlement closed on 21 November 2019, except for Papua New Guinean claimants who could register by 7 February 2020. The administrators cannot accept late registrations.

On 19 December 2019, a hearing was held in Brisbane in the Federal Court before Justice Murphy for approval of the agreed settlement. It was determined that the applicant had developed a method for the calculation and distribution of the settlement monies that was fair and reasonable, and in the best interests of claimants. The method is set out in a lengthy document called the Settlement Distribution Scheme ('the Scheme'), and is available at www.stolenwages.com.au. The Scheme guides the entire administration process. It is discussed further below.

Administrators and advisors

Justice Murphy made final orders on 17 January 2020 approving the Scheme and appointing Anthony Beven and Tony Jonsson of Grant Thornton in Cairns as administrators of the Scheme. Grant Thornton is one of the world's leading independent accounting, audit, tax and advisory firms.

As administrators, Mr Beven and Mr Jonsson now have day to day conduct of the scheme, including the amount and timing of payments.

BELAW are appointed under the Scheme as advisors to the administrators.

All queries and correspondence relating to the Stolen Wages Class Action and the Scheme should now be directed to Grant Thornton's Stolen Wages Information Centre, referred to below.

Timing of payments

Payments will be made by the administrators to eligible living claimants and registered

representatives of deceased claimants (collectively referred to in this letter as the claimants).

The appeal period must expire before the administrators can access the settlement monies. If no appeals are made to the Federal Court before 6 March 2020 against the orders of Justice Murphy on 17 January 2020, the Queensland Government will then transfer the settlement monies to the administrators.

The administrators have six months—until 6 September 2020 if no appeals are made—to verify the identity and eligibility of all claimants and then send a distribution statement to each claimant setting out their details and the estimated amount they will be paid.

Timeline (Indicative Only)

6 March 2020 Appeal period closes

- **18 March 2020** Queensland Government transfers settlement monies to the administrators
- **March – September** Administrators verify all registered claims
- **6 September 2020** Distribution statements sent to all claimants with an estimate of payment
- **6 December 2020** Payments made to claimants.

Calculation of payments

The administrators cannot accurately estimate how much an individual claimant will receive until the eligibility and identity of all claimants has been verified. How much an eligible claimant will receive depends on whether they are male or female and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, when they were born and whether the claimant is still alive or has passed away.

There are 16 categories that eligible claimants will fall into, depending on some or all of the factors described above. There is a schedule at the back of the Scheme, called the Assessment Methodology Schedule. This sets out calculation tables for the 16 categories, however

these are examples only and not indicative of payments to claimants and registered representatives. The Scheme can be downloaded at www.stolenwages.com.au

Stolen Wages Information Centre

The administrators have established the Stolen Wages Information Centre to assist claimants, process documents received from claimants and to answer queries. Claimants can send identity verification documents to the Stolen Wages Information Centre or contact the centre to update their contact details if they change, or ask any questions. All queries and correspondence relating to the Stolen Wages Class Action and the Scheme should now be directed to Grant Thornton's Stolen Wages Information Centre:

The Stolen Wages Information Centre can be contacted at:

Phone: 1300 591 545
(9.00am - 5.00pm weekdays)

Email: stolenwages@au.gt.com

Fax: (07) 3222 0447

Address: PO Box 7200,
CAIRNS QLD 4870

Stolen Wages Information Centre offices

The Stolen Wages Information Centre currently has offices located in Cairns and on Poruma (Coconut Island) in the Torres Strait. Additional offices will be opened in Townsville and Brisbane in March. If queries cannot be answered by visiting the Stolen Wages website or contacting the Stolen Wages Information Centre, appointments can be made with a staff member by calling or emailing the Stolen Wages Information Centre.

Information sessions

Grant Thornton will be holding information sessions for claimants in the Torres Strait, throughout Cape York and in some other mainland communities. The dates and locations of the information sessions will be available on the Stolen Wages website as they are finalised.

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

Link-Up (Qld) assist individuals eligible to make a claim for the National Redress Scheme to complete their applications. We offer a supportive environment in which you can speak to our Redress Counsellors for assistance with your application in complete confidence.

The National Redress Scheme has received over 5,040 applications and around 750 decisions have been made. The National Redress Scheme has made 638 payments. 618 applications are on hold as a result that one or more institutes who are named in the application have not yet joined the Scheme. The average payments have been between \$75,000 and \$85,000.

It is important that before you put your application in, you check that you have as much detail as possible especially about the abuse. Around 300 applicants have been asked for further information for their applications. Supports Services are there for applicants to work with when filling in the application. This could be just getting the support service to go over your application to look for areas where there may need to be further information before it gets to the Redress Scheme. When waiting for further information the application process can be delayed.

On the 23rd of October 2019, the Queensland Government passed the *Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019 (Act)*. This is a significant change for any civil action against organisations for child abuse claims. The period of limitations against such claims has been removed. Personal injuries sustained from sexual abuse when the applicant was under 18 years of age are now included. The Act also includes the following claims which are resulting from sexual



Redress counsellors and Service Delivery staff after a presentation

abuse, serious physical abuse or psychological abuse of a child perpetrated in connection with sexual abuse or serious physical abuse.

"An institution has a duty to take all reasonable steps to prevent the abuse of a child by a person associated with the institution while the child is under the care, supervision, control or authority of the institution"

(Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019)

www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/asmade/act-2019-034

The onus of proof of such abuse will be placed upon the institute to prove that they have taken all reasonable steps to prevent the abuse from occurring. The institute will be breached unless such proof is given. The *Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019* is a State based legislation affecting Queensland. As the National Redress Scheme is a federal based legislation, this Act will not affect the Scheme.

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.

Link-Up (Qld) Redress Counsellors: Anne and Julie – available 8am to 4pm – Monday to Friday



Client Morning Tea - Brisbane

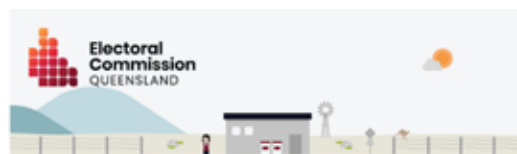


Andrew Osedo and Len White at Link-Up (Qld)'s Morning Tea

At Link-Up (Qld)'s Client Support meeting in September Andrew Osedo – Indigenous Electoral Participation Program, was one of our guest speakers. Andrew suggested to the staff that he organise for a donation of stationary and first aid kits from

the Australian Electoral Commission be sent to Link-Up (Qld) to be shared around clients, community and organisations.

2 weeks later 2 pallets turned up containing pens, calculators, note pads, markers, staplers, highlighters, blue tac, rubber bands and 100 first aid kits. These were then shared between 12 organisations at Ipswich, Brisbane and Cherbourg. Organisations like Sisters Inside, Yumba Hostel, Valley Men's Group, Liworaji Aboriginal Corporation and Community Centre Zillmere.



**28 March 2020
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

It's time to enrol or update your enrolment

Voting is compulsory for all Queenslanders over the age of 18. If you don't vote, you may receive a fine.

Everyone must enrol to vote for council, state and federal government elections if you:

- are an Australian citizen or **eligible British subject**
- are aged 18 years or over and
- have lived at your address for at least one month.

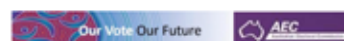
Check your enrolment, enrol to vote or update your details on the [Australian Electoral Commission \(AEC\) website](#).

You can also [download PDF \(0.2 MB\)](#) or get a form from Australia Post. You must send the completed form to the AEC. The address is on the form.

Make sure you are enrolled to vote before 28 February 2020

Once you've enrolled, your name and address will be added to the electoral roll and you will be able to vote.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD | ENROL and VOTE



Link-Up (Qld) National Sorry Day

Tuesday 26th May 2020

Breakfast: 7am

Program: 8am to 9am

**Where: Cranbrook Place, Orleigh Park
104 Hill End Terrace, West End**

Brisbane Client Support Group 2020 Morning Teas

Morning tea is on the last Thursday of the month from 10:00am
Contact Link-Up (Qld) on 07 3638 0411 for more information.

**February 27th
March 26th
April 30th
May 28th
June 25th
July 30th
August 27th
September 24th
October 29th**

Cairns Client Support Group 2020 Morning Teas

Morning tea is on the last Thursday of the month from 10:00am
Contact Link-Up (Qld) on 07 4041 7403 for more information.

**February 27th
March 26th
April 30th
May 28th
June 25th
July 30th
August 27th
September 24th
October 29th**

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.

