



# Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Volume 44 | May - June 2020



**Still Bringing Them Home**



## Chairperson - Ken Murphy



*Ken Murphy*

To all our Link-Up (Qld) families and friends, I hope you are staying safe and healthy.

At the time of writing, we don't have many people infected with Coronavirus in Queensland, so the government has thankfully lifted many of the lockdown restrictions that we had earlier.

It feels like we have gotten through the worst of it, but we know this virus hasn't gone away. We have recently seen the southern states have a rapid increase in their Coronavirus cases, and Victoria has entered lockdown again. Our hearts are with them.

We all still need be careful in Queensland. Keep on washing your hands, sneezing or coughing into elbows or tissues, and try not to be close to others. If you do have to be somewhere where you are close to others, wear a mask. We need to keep our community safe.

At the moment, we can travel anywhere in Queensland which is great news and I know all of our Link-Up (Qld) staff are looking forward to being able to get back to some sort of normal life with reunions, morning teas and other events being cautiously planned for. As we have seen though, the rules and regulations can, and do, often change so please keep up to date by looking at credible websites for current information. These are listed on page 11 of this magazine.

Our Link-Up (Qld) staff continue to show their strength and resilience during this challenging period. Zoom meetings and on-line training are still continuing in some areas and all staff members are very careful with their hygiene practises.

Thank you to everyone who helped put together our on-line National Sorry Day livestream, especially Sam Watson Junior, we hope you enjoyed it. Thank you also to all our guest speakers on the day. If you haven't had a chance to watch it yet, you can still watch it. Go to [www.link-upqld.org.au/national-sorry-day-2020/](http://www.link-upqld.org.au/national-sorry-day-2020/) and follow the links to watch it either on Facebook or Youtube.

Our cover photo for this magazine was taken on 6 June at the Black Lives Matter rally in Brisbane and shows just some of the thousands and thousands of people who joined together all round the country and world to protest against institutionalised racism. More powerful photos are on pages 4-5 of this magazine. The large crowds were well organised,

with many of the protesters wearing face masks, organisers handing out hand sanitiser and efforts being made towards social distancing.

**Black Lives Matter is an international movement that has seen people all over the world make a stand against racism and inequality.**

**In Australia, more people are becoming aware of current and past injustices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and realise that major change is needed.**



### This issue's Cover Story

Photo by Brad Whelan: Black Lives Matter - Stop Black Deaths in Custody Rally in King George Square, Brisbane

### 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.



Patricia Thompson

Here we are at the end of the financial year and a very challenging one it has been. I firstly want to congratulate Link-Up (Qld) staff for their efforts over the past year. Despite some very challenging times, staff have continued to carry on our incredibly important work each and every day supporting our Stolen Generations.

A significant achievement of the past year has been the launch of our 35 Years 35 Stories book in November 2019. This publication was months of not only hard work, but *heart* work of our dedicated staff. A small team worked solidly on this and we are proud of the final product. The work involved identifying and locating clients back to Link-Up (Qld) beginnings in 1984, conducting interviews, writing client stories, collating photographs and coordinating the book design. I want to particularly thank the research team for their dedication and commitment to this project.

35 Years 35 Stories is a celebration of Link-Up (Qld)'s important work and the significant milestone we have reached in our 35th Anniversary. More importantly, it is a celebration of the tenacity, power and resilience of our Stolen Generations people.

We thank and acknowledge the clients featured in our book who have courageously shared their stories.

**They are snapshot stories – windows only – but with a power to fill your heart with warmth, and yet leave your heart broken. Our clients open a truth to what is the lived realities for our Stolen Generations.**

It was a wonderful opportunity at the book launch for clients featured in the book to participate in a Yarning Circle which was held at kuril dhargun centre at the State Library. It was a culturally safe space for everyone to meet, share and connect with each other.

We were also involved in working collaboratively with [beyond...](#) (Kathleen Stacey and Associates) and Link-Up services around the country on the Link-Up Evaluation and Monitoring Framework project funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The project provided the platform for an impact evaluation of Link-Up services. Individual Link-Up services at various national leadership meetings had discussions about measuring outcomes and how challenging that has been due to the complexity and sensitivity of services delivered.

All Link-Up services were involved in this project and worked closely with the [beyond...](#) team. The final outcome of this project was an Evaluation and Monitoring

Framework for Link-Up Services. Kathleen's team also developed monitoring tools to assist us to capture important data to assess impact on client's wellbeing. Collecting data is important to ensure that our services are meeting our client needs to the high standard.

We were pleased to host a skilled volunteer to work with us during the past financial year. Coolamon Advisors, in partnership with the Department of Education and Training implemented a skilled Volunteering Program which involved selected employees from the department having a unique opportunity to volunteer their skills, in a cultural immersion experience, with local Indigenous organisations.

The outcome from this volunteer program was a successful funding application from the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Grants Program to run Music Therapy Workshops. Initially these workshops were scheduled to run in March 2020, however COVID-19 forced us to reschedule them to October 2020.

Overall, our work here at Link-Up (Qld) is very challenging but also very rewarding. On behalf of management and staff, I would like to thank the Board for their leadership, care and support throughout the past financial year.





# Black Lives Matter - Brisbane Rally



*All photographs reproduced on this page and on the cover were taken by Brad Whelan and printed here with his permission  
www.BradfordWhelan.com*





*All photographs reproduced on this page were taken by Dylan Crawford and printed here with his permission.*



## Greg Duffy Reunion - Brisbane



*Greg Duffy and his cousin Steven Lynch at the Link-Up (Qld) office*

Hello, my name is Greg Duffy and I was born Kevin Dudley Lynch on the 15/07/1956 at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. I was adopted by Noel and Joan Duffy, even though my papers stated that I was not suitable for adoption as "this one is showing colour." Joan took me home and raised me as her own child, along with Joan's daughter and my three siblings that later came from Nudgee Orphanage.

My adoptive parents loved and raised us all as their own and provided a great family life. But I always felt the odd one out. I loved Noel and Joan, they were great parents, but I always felt the yearning for mum, the land and how things could have been. At that time nothing could be done to try and find my mob. Red tape and government restrictions made it impossible to track them down.

Years went by, I got married twice. Along with my wife of 33 years Karen, we raised five great kids and now have five fantastic grandkids.

As they got older, they started asking questions about their heritage and where we came from.

Around 2006 I contacted Jigsaw for information, but they couldn't help at the time, red tape again.

Some years passed before I started looking again. I was informed of Link-Up who I contacted and arranged a meeting. With only my adoption papers, I had no real source of identity. I was assigned Mr Sloane Stallan as my case worker and the team went to work.

Along the way I've met some wonderful people. My case moved on to Mr Jason Ives who along with the research team Ms Ruth Loli and Link-Up (Qld)'s CEO, Ms Pat Thompson all helped me. Thanks to all the staff at Link-Up who have supported me through this process. Along with all my friends at Link-Up morning teas and everyone involved and of course the late Uncle Sam Watson, a wonderful man and warrior for us all.

I mentioned to Donna at one of the morning teas that I played guitar, and she came up with a crazy idea. What better way to establish identity and heritage than to play and sing a song she picked out for me called 'Feels Like Home To Me' at the 35 Year Anniversary Gala Night at City Hall. It was an honour and an experience of a lifetime, thanks Donna.

Due to the persistence of the research team, we finally confirmed my identity. My family now has roots that would eventually lead us to Waluwarra mob on the Georgina River.

After years of searching, out of the blue Jason calls and says, "I think we found your cousin Steven in Townsville!" Well I nearly hit the floor; I never thought this day would come. Jason said there was a bit more checking to do, and he will get back to me soon. At home, my family was buzzing with the news.



It was in March 2020 at the Link-Up office at Woolloongabba that for the first time in 63 years I met a blood relative.

**It was an amazing moment in time - when you look eye to eye with a man you've never met and feel the warmth and love straight up.**

His name is Steven Lynch and along with his lovely wife Kimberly and my wife Karen, we spent a couple of fantastic days together. Steve shared stories of the family and is happy to help fill in the gaps wherever he can. We also

spent time at the grave sites of our grandfather who was a WW1 veteran in the light horse regiment and our uncle. We both didn't know they were there. It was a special time for us all.

To the Link-Up Team - due to your professionalism and dedication you've helped me in many ways to reach my goal of finding my family and hopefully leading to my mother. Your work is done, and my case is closed!

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all.



*Steven Lynch and Greg Duffy at Toowong Cemetery*



*Karen, Greg Duffy, Steven Lynch and Kimberley*



*Cousins: Steven Lynch and Greg Duffy*



*Link-Up (Qld) SEWB Counsellor Anne Garrett, Karen, Greg Duffy, Steven Lynch, Kimberley and Service Delivery Manager Jason Ives at Toowong Cemetery*



*Karen, Kimberley, Steven and Greg with Link-Up (Qld) staff members Jason Ives, Rebecca Oberle and Anne Garrett at Toowong Cemetery*



## Client Care Packages - Home deliveries

During April and May, the dedicated Link-Up (Qld) staff in the Brisbane and Cairns offices put together and home delivered over 100 care packages to our clients.

Care packages were delivered throughout Brisbane, Cairns, the Tablelands and Lockyer Valley. With the help of some past clients, packages were even delivered to

communities in lockdown such as Yarrabah and Palm Island where they were gratefully received.

Each box contained fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, eggs, non-perishable goods, gift cards and hygiene products like sanitiser, soap and even toilet paper, which was a valuable commodity at that time.

We hope this offered our clients some support during this very challenging period as we tried to stay connected as much as possible.









# COVID-19 (Coronavirus) - Update as at 22/07/2020

The following information was taken from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) (ATSILS) website:

[www.atsils.org.au](http://www.atsils.org.au) and the

Australian Government

Department of Health Website:

[www.health.gov.au](http://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

Sorry Business and other cultural activities are very important. From 10 July 2020, funerals can be attended by a maximum of 100 people. It is still important to stay home if you are unwell.





Together Queenslanders have slowed the spread of COVID-19 by following advice and using common sense to safeguard ourselves and our communities. As a result, the Queensland Government will continue to ease restrictions on getting together, outings and recreational activities within Queensland.

From midday 3 July 2020, Queenslanders will be able to gather in groups of up to 100 people in homes and public spaces.

Queenslanders can travel anywhere in Queensland for any reason. There is no limit on distance. You can stay overnight anywhere in Queensland for as many nights as you like.

Qld Health

### 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:

[www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus)

#### Australian Department of Health:

[www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert](http://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert)

#### World Health Organisation:

[www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019](http://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



## Cairns Update

LUQ monthly client support group has been put on hold throughout COVID-19, as well as client visits, events and reunions.

LUQ introduced Client Care Packages to a number of clients in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville, Palm Island and surrounding regions, to give support to our clients through these tough times.

Cairns staff Joshua Williams (Counsellor) and Joshua Thompson (Service Delivery Manager North) made a road trip to Townsville to deliver care packages. Whilst delivering care packages Joshua Williams did some emotional support exercises with clients in Townsville which was an uplifting experience.

We would also like to give a big thanks to two of our past clients who assisted LUQ in delivering care packages to Yarrabah and Palm Island, given that these communities were in lock down.

LUQ Cairns is in the process of delivering Coles gift cards to our clients in regional areas like Mt Isa and Cloncurry.

Tahnee Rapson commenced her employment with Link-Up (Qld) in February as SEWB Counsellor and Intake Officer. Tahnee is a great fit to our LUQ family and is passionate about helping our people connect with family, culture and country. Tahnee brings a broad set of skills, to ensure that our *heart* work continues.

Our Service Delivery Team will be back in full swing planning client reunions and events in coming weeks.

In October we will be hosting a three day workshop, one in Brisbane and one in Cairns with Shellie Morris who is an established Singer Songwriter. The activity will be based on coming together sharing clients combined lived experience to compose soul

reflection songs with the aid of a talented and experienced Music Therapist in a safe environment.

Ongoing Professional Development is a high priority at Link-Up (Qld). Currently 2 staff in the Cairns office are on their last block of Diploma of Counselling with Gallang Place.

Staff have also completed Marumali training®. The Marumali Journey of Healing Model is a unique healing framework developed by Aunty Lorraine Peeters to train Aboriginal counsellors to support survivors to heal from the specific types of trauma they suffered as a result of removal. Aunty Lorraine presented her healing model for the first time as an invited keynote speaker in 1999 at the NSW Mental Health Conference in Sydney. Since then, Aunty Lorraine and daughter Shaan have delivered the training to many organisations involving hundreds of participants across the country.



*Shaan and Aunty Lorraine with Sylvia and Josh from Link-Up (Qld)*



# Staff Spotlight - Tahnee Rapson

*In our latest employee spotlight interview, we meet Tahnee from our Cairns Link-Up Office*

**Position: SEWB  
(Social and Emotional  
Wellbeing) Counsellor**

**Team: Cairns - North**

## **Tell us about your role at LUQ?**

As a LUQ Counsellor, I provide counselling support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients through Social and Emotional Wellbeing counselling. I also case manage clients by supporting them throughout their healing journey with LUQ. This includes support through the intake, research and reunion stages.

## **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I enjoy meeting our clients, putting faces to names and getting to know them. I enjoy yarning with people from different backgrounds, finding common ground and even ties within the community.

## **What is a common question you get from clients?**

Where are you from? I find this question to be one in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people connect from. There is always someone that you know, and who someone else knows too. For me, I am originally from Borroloola in the Northern Territory. I am Garawa and Yanuwa from my mother's side and Larrakia on my father's side. I spent most of my life living and working in Borroloola and then in the last 6 years, I moved to Queensland where I met my husband and settled down. We have a beautiful little girl together whose ties through her father are from around Normanton and Old Mapoon.



## **Do you have a favourite project, memory or highlight from work?**

I have only been working with LUQ for a couple of months now, but I have memories with staff who I previously studied with. It was brilliant being able to connect with the Cairns staff long before being employed in the same office because I had the opportunity to get to know them all on different levels before working alongside them.

## **Three words to best describe you?**

Friendly  
Motivated  
Determined

## **What is a fun fact about you that people may not know?**

I'm a mum of two and I count my blessings every day. I have a 16 year old teenage boy, Antwhon and a 1 year old baby girl, Emerson. I enjoy camping, fishing, hunting and spending as much time as I can with and around my family.

## **Favourite quote?**

Live life and do what makes you happy because you only live once.





Link-Up (Qld) owns a small collection of books, reports, magazines and audio-visual material collated over time, since our beginnings in 1984.

On 12 August 1995, the following newspaper article appeared in The Courier Mail, days after the establishment of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Children (Bringing Them Home). At the time the article was written, Link-Up (Qld) had been in operation for eleven years researching and reuniting families, though on limited funding and a paucity of resources.

The findings and recommendations of the Inquiry were tabled in its final report Bringing Them Home to the Federal Parliament

on 26 May 1997 and prompted the expansion of government funding to Link-Up services and other national initiatives. Some may remember the widespread public and parliamentary debate that followed in the years after the Inquiry, particularly in regard to saying sorry.



# Link-Up offers hope to the stolen children

IN 1983 the Aboriginal Development Commission paid \$2 million for the Gulf property Delta Downs, a 4000sq km cattle property north of Normanton.

The commission, headed by Charles Perkins, handed the property over to the traditional Aboriginal owners — the Kurtjar people — who had been driven off their north Queensland tribal lands in 1913.

Kurtjar elder Roley Gilbert gave an interview at the handover where he told how the part-Chinese cook "took four, five Aboriginal people, chains on their feet and ropes around their necks, and shot them".

The old man indicated a tree behind the homestead where the murders had taken place, and said his own parents were among the victims.

His story is typical of thousands of Aborigines this century who were dispossessed, and their children stolen from them and put into church or government-run missions.

That was particularly so for the children of mixed parentage — those with lighter skin. The paternalistic attitude was that the "half-castes" would be better off brought up away from the tribal environment, and with a healthy dose of religious fervour.

Last week saw the establishment of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children.

People, mostly from governments, are ducking for cover lest



TONY KOCH

it turn into a mass compensation claim.

But there is a sensible compromise that could be funded immediately — and that's the effort to re-unite Murrus who were kidnapped, or "forcibly separated" as the politically correct prefer.

In Brisbane there is a little-known organisation called Link-Up which does incredible work in getting these abused people back together.

It is run by Aboriginal woman Beverley Johnson, on a shoe-string budget.

I can't see how giving tens of thousands of dollars will "compensate" or in any way ease the pain of what happened to these oppressed people, but there would be immeasurable gain in funding the reunions.

Mrs Johnson in just four years has attracted 800 cases to her books and has had quite extraordinary success considering the paucity of her resources.

There is a need for Link-Up offices to be set up in several northern and central Queensland centres, to be properly resourced and staffed with experienced research people and counsellors.

That would be an immediate, inexpensive and positive reaction to what is a serious issue that

deserves a compassionate response.

One of Mrs Johnson's contacts involves the tragic case of a baby girl taken from a Peninsula tribe by the local Anglican minister and his wife.

They tried to adopt the light-skinned child, found they couldn't and deposited her in a Brisbane girls' home.

She was told by the pastor's wife that her mother would come for her. Visitors came to the home on Sundays, so that stolen child, then five years old, sat at the window looking up the street, waiting for her mother to come — every Sunday for 10 years.

That person, now an elderly lady, wants to get to the north to find a sister she believes she has. But on the pension, such an expense is out of the question.

She doesn't want compensation. She wants to meet any family she might have — and that's where a properly resourced Link-Up would be able to do the job.

But back to the quite remarkable Roley Gilbert at Delta Downs. He was asked what happened to the Chinese cook who shot his kin at the homestead.

After a long silence, he replied that the cook "got very worried about blackfella, and killed himself".

Roley was asked if the cook was worried that blackfellas would point a bone at him.

The old bloke replied, with the hint of a grin breaking across his wrinkled face: "No, not point the bone; he more worried that blackfella point a spear at him."

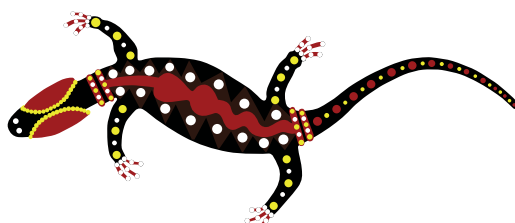


## Staff Photos - when we were young!

Can you pick who the staff members are pictured below in their much younger years? You can use the staff photo on page 18 of the magazine to help.

If you think you know the answers, send them to us at [contact@link-upqld.org.au](mailto:contact@link-upqld.org.au) - we have some deadly prize packs for the first ten correct answers!

Answers will be revealed in the next magazine.





# 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.

The Australian Government wants as many people as possible to have access to the Scheme. Institutions must agree to join the Scheme so that they can provide redress to people who experienced child sexual abuse while in the care of their institution.

Institutions named in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse or named in an application received by the Scheme must provide a clear written statement setting out their intention to join the Scheme by no later than 30 June 2020.

Access to redress is based on where the abuse occurred and the institution responsible. Where you live now does not affect your ability to get access to the National Redress Scheme.

## What if I was in foster care?

Every foster care situation is different. Institutions may be responsible for abuse that happened in foster care in certain situations. It will depend on whether the Scheme finds that an institution was responsible for the abuser having contact with the person. The Scheme considers each application on a case-by-case basis.

If a person was placed into foster care by an institution and the institution was the person's legal guardian, then that institution could be considered responsible. An example of this is if a ward of the state was placed with foster carers by a state government department.

If a person was placed into foster care through informal arrangements, then an institution may not be considered responsible. An example of this is if a person was placed with the consent of the parent into a relative's care.



If you are experiencing emotions you are 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**

**Mens Line 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/](http://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 Yvette Salam and Keiron Brown, Redress Counsellors, available 8am to 4pm – Monday to Friday.**



# Stolen Wages Class Action - Update

The article below is from the Koori Mail and shared with their permission and that of the author, who has provided the following update:

There is less than 30 days left to submit all the information and identity verification (photo ID) required to support a registered

claim under the Stolen Wages Settlement Distribution Scheme. The deadline is 28 August 2020.

As at earlier this week 6,835 people still had not provided the BELAW Stolen Wages team with an acceptable identity document (photo ID). Acceptable ID is listed at [www.stolenwages.com.au](http://www.stolenwages.com.au).

For accurate and up to date information, please visit [www.stolenwages.com.au](http://www.stolenwages.com.au)

Email: [stolenwages@au.gt.com](mailto:stolenwages@au.gt.com)  
Phone: 1300 591 545 (9am-5pm weekdays)  
Post: PO Box 7200, CAIRNS QLD 4870  
Fax: 07 3222 0447

## Claimants risk missing Stolen Wages payment

### Deadline to supply details is August 28

By CHRISTINE HOWES



THEY're not budging and they won't put a figure on it – but if Stolen Wages claimants registered to the Federal Court's Pearson v State of Queensland don't get their details to appointed distribution agents Grant Thornton by August 28 they won't be paid.

As of last week that could mean as many as 7,219 registered claimants won't get their money, out of a possible 12-15,000 people, because they haven't provided sufficient identification Grant Thornton partner Anthony Beven said.

There were also 1,815 claimants missing address details, 2,820 missing bank account details and at the end of May there were more than 900 claimants who hadn't provided their date of birth.

"The Stolen Wages class action has been going since 2016 and, as part of the class action, people have only been required to register some basic information since 2019," Mr Beven said.

He said the cut-off date for providing information is August 28 and the Court had ordered people be paid by December 6.

"If you haven't received a claim statement yet, or haven't updated your details, please don't leave it until August, please contact us straight away," Mr Beven said.

"All the post offices are still open, we've been here every day during COVID, our office has been open every day during COVID, we've just reopened our office in Townsville today. We're reopening our Brisbane office on July 8, and we'll be back into Yarrabah the minute we're permitted to by the government and by the Aboriginal Shire Council.

"So our focus is helping people as much as possible, but that timeframe will not change, people will get their money in December."

Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher, who is not a claimant, said several people in his community, including his mother, were concerned, particularly because of COVID-19.

"I think it's important, that there needs to be an extension of time simply because of the current COVID-19 situation," he said.

"To say you need a birth certificate and even some of the

**"It would break my heart to think some of those who fought for so many years may miss out now because they were unaware of the documents they need to prove they are rightful claimants."**

**– Dr Ros Kidd**



Claimant Joanne Willmot, who grew up in the Cherbourg dormitories, speaking with former-ANTar SA President Glenn Giles and UTLG SA President Janet Giles speaking to a public meeting in Adelaide in November 2003.



Grant Thornton team stolen wages team members: Left to right: Shavi Kanagaratnam, Jonathon Kawa, Halejah Wacando, Malia Nai (seated), Samantha Mailman, Alana Murphy (seated), Sana Dorante, Halley Murphy & Anthony Beven.

(other) ID is very challenging, even without COVID-19.

"And you're talking to the older generation here. They're not IT savvy either.

"All that has to be taken into consideration."

Academic Dr Ros Kidd, who has spent years researching the Stolen Wages, said it was heartbreaking.

"To think that after all these decades of struggling for justice, large numbers of claimants may

yet miss out on their payment because they might not have provided all the essential documents to the administrator," she said.

"It seems that several thousand claimants have not yet sent in this information.

"It is likely that many people in remote areas do not have access to the internet to download instructions and documents.

"Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers

have won the biggest human rights class action in Australia's history.

"It would break my heart to think some of those who fought for so many years may miss out now because they were unaware of the documents they need to prove they are rightful claimants."

Claimant Joanne Willmot, who grew up in the Cherbourg dormitories, appealed to younger family members to help.

"Sit with the Elders. They do

need access to the internet for their identification and a whole lot of other things. If they can't get that in they won't be able to make a claim," she said.

"So I really would ask that people in the community support those Elders for them to be able to at least get a little bit of what they have been owed through this whole reparation process."

Mr Beven said they felt they had done, and were doing everything they could to get information to people and help them as much as possible.

"We need to have a deadline and August 28, this is the timeframe the court has set for us," he said.

"So after the 28th, the distribution statements will be issued and there's an appeal process that's built into the scheme, where people can appeal in relation.

"So if someone hasn't provided a bank account, which means they're ineligible, they'll receive a letter saying they're ineligible and they can then use the appeal process that the Courts established under the Stolen Wages settlement scheme."

But, he said, that appeals process would cost.

"It's going to be harder for them and the Court has, in the scheme, imposed quite a significant fee," he said.

"If there's incorrect or missing information, we just implore people to get in touch with us."

"We have people passing away every week and my priority is the money will go out to people quickly and that's all I'm focused on.

"And the quicker we do it, the more money goes out to people because there's less costs in doing all of this.

"So my focus is not about tracking down every single person that could be eligible and working through all of those issues, that will cost millions of dollars and take a lot of time and delay payments.

"My focus is getting this money to people and the old people I talk to, they come into our office every day and when I talked to Mr (Hans) Pearson (who led the class action), he says, 'give us the money now. This has been going on for too long'.

"And that's my priority, to get the money to people as quickly as possible."



## Staff Training - Culturally-safe, Trauma-informed Practice Training



*Rebecca Lockyer, Lauren Schiewe, Kerry Sandow, Sloane Stallan, Mirko Soto, Ruth Loli, Nicole Tujague (The Seedling Group), Patricia Thompson, Kelleigh Ryan (The Seedling Group), Rebecca Oberle, Alison Bell, Joshua Thompson, Anne Garrett, Christine Kanofski, Anne Struckett, Yvette Salam, Joshua Williams and Tahnee Rapson*

Staff at Link-Up (Qld) recently completed culturally-safe, trauma-informed practice training in our Brisbane office. This training from The Seedling Group comes from an Indigenous perspective – written, researched and presented by Indigenous professionals. Our trainers were Kelleigh Ryan (Psychologist) and Nicole Tujague (Research Academic and Trainer).

The training acknowledges an Indigenous knowledge system, resilience, and the power of culture, language and capacity-building in the healing of trauma.

### Day 1 Training

The workshop examined the links between trauma, the developing brain and the influences of a person's cognitive, social and emotional functioning.

Topics covered were:

- Defining trauma
- Trauma in childhood
- Types of trauma and how they impact us
- Recognising trauma
- Strategies to build a trauma-informed workplace
- Why culture is important
- Taking care of workers – guarding against Vicarious Trauma

### Day 2 Training

The second day of the workshop covered the topics of:

- Vicarious trauma
- Strategies to minimise compassionate fatigue and burnout
- The science of intergenerational trauma
- Institutional challenges
- How culture heals
- Building a safe practice
- Building resilience
- Self-care planning

Thank you very much to our trainers Kelleigh and Nicole from The Seedling Group who were able to tailor the training to suit our specific work requirements at Link-Up (Qld).

# The Healing Foundation - Queensland Healing Strategy

The Healing Foundation has this year been working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to co-design and develop the first ever Queensland Healing Strategy.

The project has heard from more than 400 people through yarning circles, interviews, forums, case studies, creative input and online surveys with yarning circles held in Cairns, Gold Coast, Inala, Rockhampton, St George and Yarrabah with Elders, young people, families, community organisations, healers and Stolen Generations survivors.

The Queensland Healing Strategy is hearing people pour their hearts out and share what healing means for them.

**Healing is about making spirit feel good. It is truth telling and acknowledging the past.**

Healing is culture - embracing, celebrating, living, breathing and embedding culture into everything. It's about connecting and reconnecting with family, community, land, country, sea and water. Healing is moving forward with hope for the future, with renewed energy, strength and enthusiasm.

The project is leading the way with a navigational tool to chart a way forward, help heal past hurts and break the cycle of intergenerational trauma for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Check out the website page <https://healingfoundation.org.au/queensland-healing-strategy/> for more information about the Queensland Healing Strategy, existing healing initiatives, case studies, programs, services and approaches that are already working, along with a range of tools, resources and evidence of what works to empower communities to help lead their own healing.

If you would like to make contact with The Healing Foundation to talk about the Queensland Healing Strategy, please email [QLDStrategy@healingfoundation.org.au](mailto:QLDStrategy@healingfoundation.org.au).





# 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, Qld 4101  
Tel: (07) 3638 0411 Fax: (07) 3217 3458  
Email: [contact@link-upqld.org.au](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/linkupqueensland)  
or visit our website at [www.link-upqld.org.au](http://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.

