



# Link-Up (Qld)

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION®

Volume 25 March - April 2017



*Still Bringing Them Home*



# Chairperson - Sam Watson



Sam Watson

Good news! We have just learned that Uncle Wilfred Prince, one of our longest serving Board members, has been nominated to carry the 2018 Commonwealth Games batons on one of the Brisbane legs.

The baton is now on the road across some 70 commonwealth nations

and in the final lead up to the opening ceremony at the Gold Coast, our Uncle Wilfred may proudly carry the baton. I remember a few years ago our Mr Prince carried the baton through leafy New Farm for another international games and the entire area was flooded by his local fans and well-wishers.

It was an amazing sight and he did it with an enormous sense of pride and true murri style. He was given a games outfit that was white and blue and he had to wheel himself and the baton for almost a kilometre. The masses of people who were there cheered him for the whole journey and he was beaming.

These games on the Gold Coast are going to be a very interesting experience and many Indigenous people will be attending to watch particular events or demonstrate and make a strong and vocal political point. I will be doing both, we want to see the lawn bowls and the netball. It should be fun and I also believe that the games will give us an excellent opportunity to present our true situation to the world.

The local community will host hundreds of protestors from across the country and we will have marches and rallies across the complete programme.



Front Cover:  
Josephine Jack and her brother Francis Jack at the gravesite of one of their sisters.

**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.**

But I also believe that sports may well be one of the most important platforms for nations to come together and engage in a positive and non-violent way.

There will be seventy nations represented at the games and the athletes and support staff will be spending two to three weeks together. That is important for our global community. The world is now a tense network of heavily armed camps and we need opportunities such as the games to come together and engage at that basic human level.

Bring on the games and make sure if Willy Prince is selected that you find out where he will be doing his baton leg and make sure that you will all be there to support him.



Link-Up (Qld) Director - Wilfred Prince

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## CEO - Patricia Conlon



Patricia Conlon

Josephine Jack and Francis Jack are featured on the front cover of this edition of our Link-Up (Qld) magazine.

Josephine lives in Mount Isa, she came into our office in September 2015 seeking assistance to find two brothers. Her story to us was “*When my*

*Mum had my brothers, I was told that two were sick and one was good. They left the good one with my mum and they took the other two. This was at the Old Royal Darwin Hospital. I don't know any name of the two that were taken. Francis who is one of the triplets, he is back home in Robinson River.*”

Edna Gauaguna Nurulama a Garawa woman gave birth in the Darwin Hospital to triplets on the 28th January 1971. Sadly, Edna passed away more than 20 years ago. Josephine Jack, Edna's daughter who lives in Mount Isa, Queensland, came to Link-Up (Qld) on behalf of her family searching for two of the triplets her mum didn't bring home from hospital 46 years ago.

Francis Jack the first born and only baby of the triplets their mum brought home to Robinson River near Borroloola in the Northern Territory after giving birth to three babies at the Darwin Hospital, some 1,100 kilometres away has finally been reunited with his sisters the lost two of three babies born on 28th January 1971.

Josephine, Francis and their family have been searching for two brothers for all of these years. Sadly their mum passed away over 20 years ago, not knowing Josephine tells us what happened to two of her babies who she thought were boys.



Link-Up (Qld) SEWB Counsellor Kathleen Bobongie and Caseworker Sloane Stallan facilitated the reunion at the Darwin Cemetery on Tuesday, 11th April 2017 on a very windy, cold and rainy day – with Darwin on cyclone watch. How ironic, if the cyclone formed it would have been known as Cyclone Frances (source Bureau of Meteorology).

The family was very shocked and in disbelief when Link-Up (Qld) delivered the research results, telling them that the other two babies were actually girls and that sadly they had passed away 4 and 5 days after their birth.

Josephine said that they have spent a lifetime thinking that when the remaining triplets got older they would check their birth certificates and see that they were triplets and they would find them.

This was a very emotional journey for Josephine and particularly Francis. At the graveside, Francis had messages for his sisters, Kathleen born immediately after him and then Denise. He said that he had been searching all of his life for them and didn't know what happened to them and where they were. That they were always in his thoughts and finally he has found them.

***“I am really hurt inside and I want to take you home to your resting place and to be with Mum”.***

Francis asked at the graveside if Link-Up (Qld) could help to take his sisters home to Robinson River to be with their Mum, where they should be and with their family. He expressed he has a responsibility to take them home.

Link-Up (Qld) will advocate and make representations where we can to assist Francis with his request.

**The 26th of May 2017 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Bringing them Home Report – A Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families.**

The Healing Foundation has conducted a review of the Bringing Them Home Report – soon to be launched. Let's hope that there are recommendations in the Review that may lead to some resolution and support for Josephine, Francis and his family who have been deeply affected by such a tragic event.



## Josephine Jack Reunion - Darwin



Roslyn, Francis, their children and Josephine at Denise's grave

My name is Josephine Jack and I live in Mount Isa. My mother Edna Gauaguna Nurulama was born at Seagal Creek on the NT and Qld border. She belonged to the Garawa tribe from Robinson River, NT area. Mum had 8 children, four boys and four girls. I am the second youngest and my brother Francis Jack is the 4th oldest. She gave birth to triplets on the 28th January 1971 at Darwin Hospital. The triplets were born prematurely. Mum only went home with baby Francis.

Mum passed away over 20 years ago. Over the years we were told that Mum had 3 sons and that the other two baby boys were taken off her. We heard about sightings of men that looked like Francis and we lived in hope that one day we would find our brothers.

In 2015, I talked to Desley Ah Wing who worked at the Link-Up (Qld) office in Mount Isa and asked her if she could help to find my missing brothers. I was shocked when the research came back and said that Mum had actually given birth to one boy and two girls. Francis was the first born and Kathleen was born second then Denise. It was so painful and heart-breaking to find out that baby Kathleen only lived for 4 days and baby Denise only lived for 5 days. They were buried in separate graves at the Darwin General Cemetery so far away from my mother who is buried in Robinson River.

Link-Up (Qld) workers Sloane Stallan and Kathleen Bobongie organised a reunion in Darwin on 11th April 2017, so that my brother Francis Jack and I could visit our sisters' resting places and pay our respects. Francis brought his partner Roslyn Shadforth to support him during this difficult time. They had travelled all the way from Robinson River near Borroloola in the Northern Territory. A distance of over 1100 kilometres one way and a journey that took 2 days by bus.



Putting flowers on Kathleen's grave



Connecting with Denise



It was a cold and windy day on Tuesday, 11th April when we all went to the cemetery. Darwin was on cyclone watch. It was such an emotional day for us especially for Francis who had been missing his siblings for over 46 years. With the help of his partner Roslyn, he wrote a separate letter to each of his sisters and these were read out at their graves. We expressed in the letters about our disappointment in finding out they had passed away but we also said that we were so relieved to visit them today at their resting place.



The reunion brought out many emotions. We realized that the search and the wait was over. Our original thoughts were that the remaining triplets would find us when they were adults. It was a heavy burden for us and we now knew that this was never going to happen. Reality hit us then. Francis was deeply affected and it was very sad for him as he always yearned for his siblings. He sat at each of his sister's graves and finally felt the connection to his sisters that he had missed since birth. We would like to find out if it is possible to move our sisters back home to be near our mother and our country so that we are united in spirit. This would make us feel proud as our mother would be together with her babies again. It would mean the world to Francis to be closer to his sisters.



Connecting with Kathleen



Putting flowers on Denise's Grave

This was always going to be hard reunion because of the circumstances. Despite this we looked forward to it and the time we would spend together. My plane from Mount Isa had to make an emergency landing in Cloncurry and Kathleen was stressing out waiting for me in Townsville. We missed our connection to Darwin and so we didn't make it up there until late at night. Roslyn and Francis lost one of their bags of clothes along the way and they missed their connection in Katherine and had to get on another bus. The weather was really wild and stormy. Despite all these setbacks, the reunion was a success.

We would like to thank Link-Up (Qld) for all the work they have done for us. Thank you to Desley Ah Wing, Sloane Stallan and Kathleen Bobongie and everyone in Link-Up (Qld) especially the Research Team, Travel Team, Multi-Media Team and the CEO Pat Conlon for their generous support.



Josephine, Francis and Roslyn at the grave of Kathleen



## Florence Ash Reunion - Thursday Island



Florence Ash and her sister Karen Hollingsworth at the graves of Maryanne and Horace Raymond

On the 3rd of April, I travelled to Thursday Island (TI) with Link-Up (Qld) staff Rob Frescon and Jessie Cobbo as well as my little sister Karen Hollingsworth, who was my support person on this reunion.

Our Mum Hilda Mary Hollingsworth nee Raymond was born on 27th December 1928 at Thursday Island and as a 6 year old child was admitted to 'Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Orphanage' on Hammond Island. It is not clear to us where our Mum was prior to being admitted to the orphanage. On the 25th December 1941 my Mum left the orphanage with her sister Amelia and went to Horn Island. Mum would have been 13 years old and Amelia 8 years old. Two months later, Mum and her sister Amelia are then recorded as being at Cairns on 11 February 1942.

This graveside reunion was a culmination of researching Mum's family history. On Thursday Island, we were fortunate and grateful for the assistance of Nola Ward at the Thursday Island Council. Aunty Nola was a great help taking the time to meet and talk with us and then look up the records for any Raymond family members who might be buried at the local cemetery.



Thursday Island Jetty

She located two graves side by side – Maryanne Raymond and Horace Raymond. We believe from the Council records and other records identified through the research that Maryanne Raymond and Horace Raymond are our mother's grandparents. Our great grandmother was also known as Mary Ann Kass. Our great grandfather's name had changed significantly over the years - Ramon was also recorded as Raymon, Raymond, Roeus, Ramon Flores or Flores Raymon.

Mrs Judy Ketchel, another local also pointed out to us that the graves were within another family group the Ah Boo family. She introduced us to Uncle Hassan Ah Boo who further explained that he has been tending to those family plots and whilst he was not sure, he thought that there is some connection between the Raymond and Ah Boo families. This is a new connection for us to hopefully explore in the near future.

Many locals gave us names of possible contacts and although we ran out of time, this gives us direction for further research at a later time.



Karen and Florence on Thursday Island





The graves of Florence's Great Grandparents



I am happy that I finally got to go to my mother's birth place, to have the research done on her family, it is something my mother would have loved to have been able to do, plus it gives you a sense of closure. My sister and I found it very interesting, walking through the cemetery and coming across familiar names. We appreciated our long time friends meeting us for lunch, reminiscing and lots of laughter.



I look forward to returning to TI, hopefully next year to chat with some of the old folk and find out more information about our family and to visit Horn Island families. Thanks to Rob and Jessie for being there with Karen and I. It sure was a great experience but wish there was more time to explore the cemetery for more of our family members gravesites.



Waiting to catch the ferry back to Horn Island



## Gloria Gavenor Reunion - Cloncurry



Edna and Gloria at Cloncurry Cemetery

No hugs from my father. No memories of sitting on his lap. No picture to see what he looked like. It hurts to have never heard the sound of his voice or his laughter. My mother Margaret Jingle was pregnant with me when my father passed away. I never got to call him dad. I never felt him wipe away my tears.

My name is Gloria Gavenor nee Stewart and I live at Mornington Island. I am 69 years old. Mum left Cloncurry after my father passed away in 1947. She took my older sister Edna back to Mornington Island to the dormitory where she grew up. There was no other place for a young pregnant mother with a young child to go. My mother didn't talk much about my father as Edna and I were growing up. She did tell Edna and I separately a bit about our father when I was about 16 but it was Auntie Gladys Goodman who told us our father's name. Mum had remarried and perhaps she didn't want to make any trouble. Things were different in those days. I wondered about my father as I was growing up – what type of a person he was, what he looked like.

I saw a Link-Up (Qld) magazine on a shelf in the Wellbeing Centre a couple of years ago and read the stories. This triggered something inside me and I spoke to Edna. When Desley Ah Wing, SEWB Counsellor from Mount Isa came to Mornington Island, I told her that I wanted to find out where my father was buried.

I was so excited when Desley delivered the research and Edna and I found out more about my dad. His name was Young Albert Stewart and his parents were Albert Stewart and Sugar Mary. He was born in Normanton between 1916 and 1922 and married Margaret Jingle on 15th March 1947. He was employed as an Aboriginal tracker in the early 1940s and was stationed at Malbon or Mackinlay Police Station. Albert was later transferred to Cloncurry Police Station and then went on to work at Kajabbi Police Station. Young Albert Stewart was only young when he passed away in Cloncurry on 29th November 1947.

The reunion was getting closer and closer and soon it was time to fly out of Mornington Island. Link-Up (Qld) staff members Kathleen Bobongie and Robyn AH-Wong met Edna and I at the Mount Isa Airport on 20th March 2017 and we travelled to Cloncurry on 21st March. We had a family meeting with some of my father's sister Eileen Tyrell's family and shared the research information and the family tree with them. What a joyous moment to be sitting down yarning with father's family. Auntie Eileen had passed away in 1982. I had met her when I was 16.



Gloria and Edna at the family meeting in Cloncurry

We met up again later that afternoon at the old Cloncurry Cemetery. It was such a sad and emotional moment sitting near my father's resting place. I really felt his presence. Edna read a poem and we put our blue flowers on top of the Aboriginal flag. We also sprinkled some fresh gum leaves over the flag. Though we only stayed a short while, we paid our respects and said a quick hello and goodbye.

I am so happy that we could finally visit his grave after carrying the burden for 69 years not knowing where he was buried. The Tyrell family were also pleased as they didn't know much about Young Albert Stewart and this was the first time the family had visited his grave.





Putting fresh gum leaves on our Father's grave

We also visited Sugar Mary's resting place in the old cemetery – our grandmother and father not far apart. Sugar Mary passed away in 1930 in Cloncurry. I knew I had a grandmother but I didn't know much about her. We left some flowers and sprinkled some more gum leaves over the Aboriginal flag.

Our final goodbye was a visit to Auntie Eileen Tyrell's grave in the Lawn Cemetery in Cloncurry. It was a beautiful day filled with mixed emotions. An opportunity to meet relatives and pay our respects to our dear father Young Albert Stewart, Granny Sugar Mary and Auntie Eileen.



Paying our respects to Auntie Eileen

This great journey would not have been possible without Link-Up (Qld) and the Wellbeing Worker Christa-bell Stafford from the Mornington Island Wellbeing Centre. I would like to extend my thanks to Desley Ah Wing, Kathleen Bobongie and Robyn AH-Wong from Link-Up (Qld) along with the rest of the team. A huge thanks also to Brendan Tyrell who has always acknowledged Edna and I as family and welcomed us to Cloncurry.





## Christine Doyle Reunion - Sydney



Christine Doyle and her sister Coreen

My name is Christine Doyle nee James. I was born in Cloncurry, lived in Djarra and grew up in Boulia. I am 51 years of age. My mother is Peggy James nee Lyon and she was from two tribes, Eastern Aranda in the Northern Territory and Wangkamdla on the border of Qld. My mother was born on 12th October 1919 at One Mile on the banks of the Burke River in Boulia and she had 12 children. In those days, Aboriginal people had to live on the bank of the river which was on the outskirts of the township.

Around the time of the 60's or 70's Mum took me and some of my siblings back to her country Boulia to meet our 2 sisters Nancy and Muriel and brother David Lyon for the first time. It was here that she told us the story that she had another daughter who was born in between Nancy and Muriel and that her name was Audrey Lyon. Mum spoke often about Audrey to us children. Mum said that Audrey was taken away from her and that she didn't know if she was still living. She talked to some child welfare mob who came to Boulia and told them her story and they said they would try and help her. Mum received a phone call one day and was told that Audrey had passed away.

However, Mum didn't want to believe that and kept hoping that one day Audrey would come back home to Boulia to meet her family. In the last years of Mum's life, she still believed that Audrey was around and that we would see her. Sadly Mum passed away on the 25th February 2000 without finding her lost daughter and died of a broken heart. She was 80 years old.

I spoke to Link-Up (Qld) caseworker Bethel Clay at the Mount Isa Office in August 2015. I told her that I wanted to find out more about our sister Audrey. I forgot all about it until one day Desley Ah Wing, the



Christine's sister Audrey

new counsellor in the Mount Isa Office rang me last year. Desley gave me some of the information that the researchers had found about my sister. In the meantime, I had met one of Audrey's children Shan in Boulia, she was on another reunion organised by Link-Up SA. Not long after that I got a phone call from Audrey's son, Anthony who lived in Sydney. It seemed like we were being guided to connect.

Audrey Maria Evans nee Lyon was born on 11 January 1945 at the Aboriginal Camp Reserve at Boulia. At a young age, Audrey Lyon was taken while Mum was at work and she was placed in the care of her mother's employer, Mr and Mrs A.R. Clarence of Two Rivers Station. They later relocated to Sydney and took Audrey with them. Audrey had three children: Anthony, Jillian and Shan. She passed away on 11 February 1990 and was buried at the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park in Sydney. Desley started planning a reunion for me and my support person, my sister Coreen to go to Sydney to visit Audrey's resting place and to meet two of her children Anthony and Jillian. In the months leading up to the reunion there was regular phone contact with Anthony and Jillian.



At the house where Audrey grew up





The following day we went to Centennial Park for breakfast and Anthony and Jillian took us to look at the house where Audrey grew up, saw the church where she got married (and had her funeral service) and the college she attended. When we visited Audrey's grave it started sprinkling and Coreen and I became emotional because the rain is culturally significant to us. We believed that this was a good sign. When I read the story that Desley helped us to prepare for this day, I broke down and cried. I was present at the burial of all of my deceased brothers and sisters except for Audrey – this was the one that we all missed out on. It was wonderful to be with Anthony and Jillian and my sister Coreen and to support each other during this emotional time. A sense of peace washed over me after visiting Audrey's resting place.

Though it was a sad time, Desley and Chris organised some highlights for us and showed us a bit of busy Sydney. We had a family dinner, went on a private tour of the Sydney Opera House that Anthony arranged and saw the Sydney Harbour Bridge. We also visited the National Australian Museum and saw some Aboriginal artefacts from Boulia and Djarra there. This was a significant cultural learning experience for Jillian and Anthony and his daughter Jacinta. Jacinta and Coreen have similar facial features and expressions so there is a strong family resemblance. Plans have started for Anthony and Jillian to visit Boulia in September 2017 to meet the rest of the family.

It was so good that Bethel Clay helped to get us started on our journey and then Desley and Chris took us on our reunion. Many thanks to Link-Up (Qld) and also to Anthony and Jillian. Coreen and I appreciate all the hard work put in to this wonderful trip.

Jillian, Christine, Coreen, Jacinta and Anthony at Audrey's grave  
Coreen and I were both excited when we left Mount Isa on the 5th December with Desley, we hadn't been to Sydney before. Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Chris Cole based in the Brisbane Office also accompanied us on our journey. On the first day, we had a family meeting with Anthony and Jillian at the Sands Motel and I shared our family tree and family information as well as photos of our mother and siblings. We told them that they have over 200 relatives. Anthony and Jillian provided photos of Audrey's christening day, her wedding day and as mother and wife of her own family. They told us that the Clarence family gave Audrey a good life and that she was loved and cared for. They said that their mother knew she had family in Boulia but she never made it back there.



Coreen, Audrey's son Anthony, daughter Jillian and Christine



## Carol Berry Reunion - Townsville



Carol Berry at her Grandmothers grave

My name is Carol Berry and I was born in Ingham and grew up around Ingham and Mount Box with my 3 sisters and one brother. There were a lot of stations around this area, Blue Range and Camel Creek to name a few. From around 10 years old I did "tin scratching" which involved digging tin out of the ground or out of the creeks around a lot of these stations. My family and I then moved to Ingham when I was about 15 or 16 of age and stayed there all our lives. I did domestic duties in different houses around Ingham.

I have been living in Charters Towers for about 4 years and currently am a Board Member of Jupiter Mossman Housing Association at Charters Towers.

My contact with Link-Up (Qld) was through a previous counsellor Cathy Illin. I was looking for information on both my grandmother and grandfather's sides of the family. My Grandfather and grandmother Willie and Gertie Seaton who with some of their children, including my mother Lorna, were removed from Ingham to Fantome Island in the 1940's. My Grandmother Gertie Seaton passed away in 1951 when I was 5 years of age. There is only one child of my grandmother still living.

My reunion with Link-Up (Qld) was on the 30th March and was at the graveside of my grandmother Gertie Seaton who was buried at the Belgian Gardens cemetery in 1951 in Townsville.



I was happy that Link-Up (Qld) could find where she had been buried and felt really good about the reunion happening and having Link-Up(Qld) caseworker Vicki Darr and another staff member, Marietta Pita from their Brisbane office there to support me.

After the reunion being able to have lunch with Vicki, Marietta and Link-Up (Qld) CEO Pat Conlon down on The Strand was special and allowed me time to reflect on this special occasion. I felt that I needed to find my grandmother Gertie's gravesite before I passed on and happy that this has been done so I can give this information to other family members as well.

I have been contacted by other family members about my reunion, they were so pleased that my grandmother's gravesite has been found and I'm hoping to take my cousin to visit her final resting place in a few weeks' time.

I would like to thank Link-Up (Qld) staff for providing the research on my family, finding and clearing the gravesite and providing flowers to go on my grandmother's grave.



Carol Berry and Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker Vicki Darr



## Senator Patrick Dodson's Visit to Link-Up (Qld)



Senator Dodson was on a visit to Queensland recently, when he took the opportunity to visit the Link-Up-(Qld) office, meeting with Elders and key people from the Brisbane community to have a conversation about the issues impacting on them in the Brisbane area.

Whilst Senator Dodson is a West Australian Senator, it was a great opportunity to meet with him, to have a good discussion about issues ranging from Stolen Generations, Native Title issues, Indigenous Incarceration issues among other topics.

Link-Up (Qld) staff are always great hosts for visitors to the office. We cooked up some curry and rice, one of our Elders cooked damper, it was great to have him visit and to share a lunch over some good tucker.

“ Senator Dodson said he greatly appreciated the hospitality of the Link Up team and the Murri elders and community members. He learned a great deal about the issues they were working on.”





## Link-Up (Qld) Mt Isa Update



Mount Isa and surrounding areas is being serviced from Cairns with support from the Brisbane office as required.

Our staff have been on the ground at Mount Isa in February and March doing client outreach, SEWB Counselling support, client case updates and networking with organisations and agencies, promoting Link-Up (Qld).

The response from the community has been very positive. We have also developed a good working relationship with the Neighbourhood Centre where we operate from when we are visiting. Client Support group meetings are also being held at the Neighbourhood Centre with a good response from current clients and potential clients.

At the support group meeting on 20th March 2017, Gail Laffin shared her reunion journey. The focus was on how the reunion went and the SEWB component of the trip, how she felt getting ready for the reunion, during the reunion and post reunion. Those in attendance were keen to hear Gail's story.



There has been an increase in enquiries and Intake applications, so Link-Up (Qld) staff have been kept very busy on their visits.

Two reunions have been completed with Mount Isa clients and those stories are included in this edition. Josephine Jack and her brother Francis are featured on the front cover. Their reunion was in Darwin and Gloria Gavenor and her sister from Mornington Island was at Cloncurry. Staff undertook a pre-reunion visit to Cloncurry to meet with the local Council representative to identify and prepare a gravesite for Aunty Gloria Gavenor's reunion.

We have a further two reunions planned for May and hopefully June or July.

Staff also travelled to Cloncurry and met with Mitakooda representatives, the Local Justice Group and the local Cloncurry Council. Link-Up (Qld) has been well received in Cloncurry, they were keen to receive the magazines and promotional material and a visit from our staff.

The next visit to the region will be in May.





## Link-Up (Qld) Cairns Update

Link-Up (Qld) Cairns has had a great start for the year with a new Client Support Group Meeting started at Yarrabah in March and guest speakers for the January, February and March at the Clients Support Group Meetings in Cairns.

January monthly meeting our guest speaker was Sadiar Thomas (Assistant Human Rights Officer) for the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland. The Commission receives and deals with complaints of discrimination and other violations of the law and promotes human rights. Sadiar gave examples of different types of discrimination and unfair treatment and how it is important for everyone to know their rights.



Link-Up (Qld) Client support morning tea in January

February monthly meeting we had 2 guest speakers, Donna Hensen and Ginny Rabeling from ATSILS (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service Qld). Donna Hensen (Indigenous Community Engagement Office) for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse provided information about their support services for people to tell their stories to the Royal Commission and the redress scheme that due to start July 2018. Information about Know More Legal Service. Ginny Rabeling (Prevention, Intervention and Community Legal Education Officer) discussed the process of applying for a Blue Card for child related employment for Kinship carer and the option of obtaining legal support in the event of a blue card being denied.



February client support morning tea

March brought Joanne Bowie (Senior Project Officer) and Sarah Seden (Project Officer) from DATSIP – Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships attend our monthly meeting to provide information in regards to the Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme. Sarah gave an explanation how previous governments controlled the employment, wages and savings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples under the 'Protection Act' between the 1890's and 1980's. Due to these injustices there is reparation payment offered to people who had their wages or savings controlled by the Queensland Government. Joanne and Sarah discussed the eligibility and application process and the support that can be obtained through the DATSIP Cairns Office in completing this process.

We are excited that the Client Support Group Meetings started in Yarrabah on March for 2017. This client group is coordinated with the help from Kayleen Jackson (Bringing Them Home Counsellor) from Girriny Yealamucka Health Service Inc. The client groups will be held on the last Tuesday of each month at the Girriny Yealamucka's Health Service, Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre, from 10:30am to 12pm. Thank you to Caroline Warta, Mary Kyle and Kayleen Jackson who attended. We are looking forward to seeing our groups grow throughout the year.



The first Client Support meeting in Yarrabah

### Cairns Client Support Group 2017 Morning Teas

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at the Link-Up (Qld) Cairns office from 10.00am to 11.30am

Contact us on (07) 4041 7403 for more details

Next meeting will be on:

**31st May**

**28th June**

**26th July**

**30th August**



# REPARATIONS SCHEME

## Eligibility and payments

### Commitment

During the 2015 Queensland state election, a commitment was made to establish a fund of \$21 million to address the legacy issue of wages and savings stolen from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders by previous successive governments under the 'Protection Acts'.

### Background

This commitment follows on from the 2002 Indigenous Wages and Savings process, when the Queensland Government decided to make reparations to people whose wages and savings were controlled 'under the Act' between the 1890s and the 1980s.

At that time, reparations included an apology and combined payments of \$3,500 or \$7,000 to eligible individuals, a public statement in Parliament, and the adoption of a Queensland Government protocol for acknowledging traditional owners before commencing Government business.

### New Reparations Scheme

The Queensland Government acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' ongoing concerns since the closure of the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations process and recognises there is unfinished business on this issue.

### Who can make a claim?

If you believe that the Queensland Government controlled your wages or savings 'under the Act' and you were born during the eligibility period, you should contact your nearest DATSIP Regional Office (see over) for advice and to complete an Application Form. You will need to provide some proof of your age such as a driver's licence, health care card or pension card.

### Individual reparations

An amount of \$21 million will be available over a three-year period for individual reparation payments. To be eligible, you **MUST** have had your wages or savings subject to government controls under the 'Protection Acts', and been alive on 9 May 2002.

#### New eligible claimants:

- a. \$9,200 to each person who was born on or before 31 December 1951; OR
- b. \$4,600 to each person who was born between 1 January 1952 and 31 December 1959.

You should complete an Application Form.

**Persons that were previously found ineligible may be reassessed** under this new process if:

- a. There was no proof of government control of wages or savings; OR
- b. They were born between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1959.

You will be contacted by mail to commence the reassessment process.

#### 'Top-up' payments to previously successful claimants:

- a. \$2,200 to each person who was born on or before 31 December 1951; OR
- b. \$1,100 to each person who was born between 1 January 1952 and 31 December 1956.

You will be notified by mail and asked to confirm bank details.

Including amounts paid under the previous reparations process, these 'top-up' payments will ensure previous claimants and newly eligible claimants receive the same cumulative payments of \$9,200 or \$4,600.

that the Queensland Government  
was responsible for the wages and savings



## Can I claim if I received an Under Award Wages payment?

The Underpayment of Award Wages Process (UAW) was a separate process about a different matter. Anyone who believes that they meet the reparations criteria can claim, regardless of whether or not they claimed for a UAW payment.

## Deceased persons

You can only claim on behalf of a relative who is no longer living if that relative was still alive on 9 May 2002, when the Government made its previous decision to make a reparations offer. If you wish to make a claim on behalf of a deceased relative, you will need to provide proof of that person's birth date as well as proof of when they passed away.

Ask your nearest DATSIP Regional Office for advice.

## How will my claim be processed?

The details you provide on your claim form will help DATSIP officers to search for government records. They will be looking for any records which show that your wages or savings were controlled 'under the Act' during the period 1897 to the 1980s. They will also check your proof of age records.

Elderly claimants and those who are seriously ill will be given first priority.

Once your claim has been assessed, you will be contacted by DATSIP letting you know whether your claim has been assessed as eligible or ineligible.

## Paying eligible claimants

If your claim is assessed as eligible, DATSIP will notify you and arrange for you to receive free legal advice. If you decide to accept the payment you must also sign a Deed of Agreement saying you will not go to the courts about stolen wages and savings. Once DATSIP has received your Deed of Agreement your payment will be processed. Payment may take up to six weeks after your signed Deed of Agreement has been lodged.

This process does not apply for 'top-up' payments.

## Ineligible claimants

If your claim is assessed as ineligible you will receive notification from DATSIP. You will be given a phone number to call if you disagree with the assessment result. If you can provide further information, you can ask for your claim to be reassessed.

## How long will the Scheme be open?

Applications are to be submitted by 29 September 2017. The Scheme will remain open for three years to finalise all claims.

## Centrelink entitlements

Social Security have determined that if a person receives a reparations payment then the amount is an exempt lump sum. For further details, visit [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au)

## Reparations payments and taxation

There are no tax consequences for reparations payments made to eligible claimants or their relatives. The ATO considers these payments are capital amounts that are disregarded for taxation purposes. For further details, refer to the ATO Class Ruling CR 2011/53.

## Further information

For more information contact us:

### Reparations Unit

Visit us online: [www.qld.gov.au/reparations](http://www.qld.gov.au/reparations)

Free call: **1800 619 505**

Free from landlines. Mobile phones will be charged at standard rates.

## DATSIP Regional Offices

### Torres Region

- Thursday Island – 4069 1243

### Far North Queensland

- Cairns – 4232 4232

### North Queensland

- Townsville – 4799 7470
- Mackay – 4862 7001
- Mount Isa – 4747 2089

### Central Queensland

- Rockhampton – 4938 4690
- Hervey Bay – 4125 9366

### South West Queensland

- Toowoomba – 4593 2101
- Ipswich – 3819 7604

### South East Queensland (North)

- Caboolture – 5490 1091

### South East Queensland (South)

- Logan – 3080 4700



## Deadly News Story - Murri's on the Move

Murri's on the Move Driving School Ltd is a not for profit indigenous organisation who run regular **'Cultural Learner Licence Programs'**. This initiative has recently been recognised and supported by Transport and Road Safety, who have provided essential funding to continue to October 2018, with 428 participating in six months.

Recently our team completed a five-day tour to include Roma, St. George, Cunnamulla and Charleville. This enabled 62 participants to pass the learner licence written test by undertaking a comprehensive knowledge of Qld road rules and facilitated by a community elder Uncle Norm Clarke.



This was followed up with a trip to Toowoomba with a further 33 in attendance. At this event, we had a young man who had attempted to get his licence the conventional way at Transport and Main Roads and failed many times. This depleted his confidence and he was ready to give up until his Mum heard about our program. When he passed the written test, he was so overjoyed his Mum was brought to tears. We hear many stories like this and this drives us to continue with our valuable program and we have known people to travel long distances to attend.

We are scheduled to visit Cherbourg in May with many more regions in Queensland on our radar throughout the year.

Our **'Cultural Learner Licence Programs'** are posted on our Facebook page regularly where participants can register at that time.

Murri's on the Move are located on the Sunshine Coast and offer subsidised driving lessons. We cover the region to Moreton Bay. Our driver trainers are qualified driving instructors with dual controls vehicles. All lessons can be logged at triple time (ie; 10 hours = 30 hours). Every learner driver is entitled to one FREE 'keys to drive' lesson.

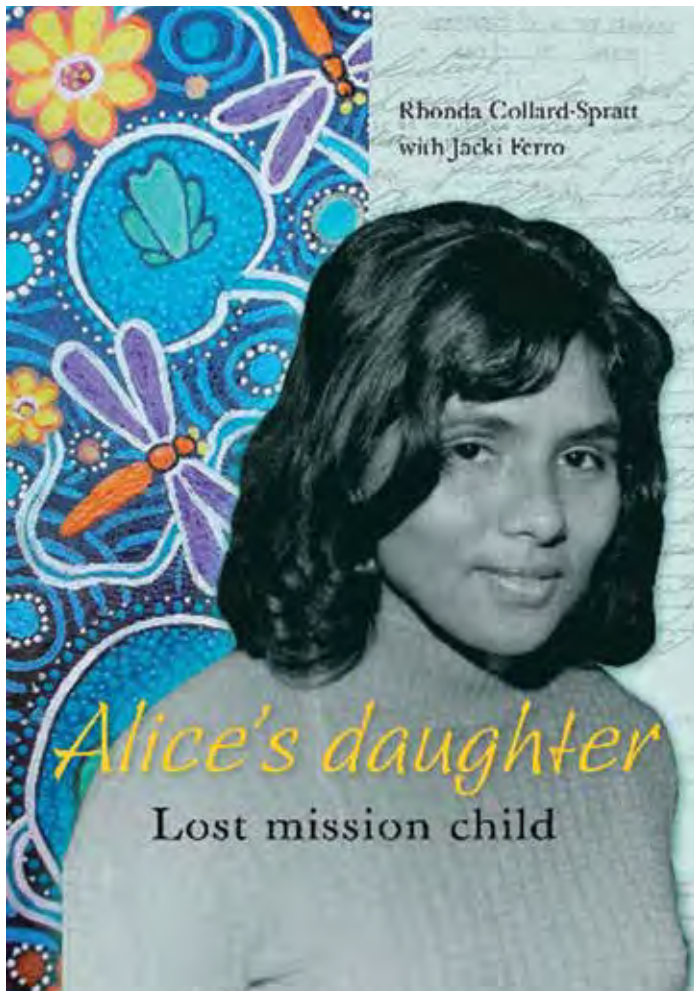
To read more about our deadly services go to our website [www.murrisonthemove.com](http://www.murrisonthemove.com) or for enquires call mobile

**0414 464 034**





## Alice's Daughter - Lost Mission Child



Framed by the changing Australian political landscape from the 1920s through to today, *Alice's Daughter* is the coming-of-age story of an Aboriginal girl removed from her culture and forced to grow up without love, without family, and without a place to call home. 'I was born in a black and white world. If you were white, everything was ok. But if you were black, your life was controlled by the government.'

Rhonda Collard-Spratt is a talented Aboriginal poet and artist. In 1954, at age 3, she was removed from her family and placed on Carnarvon Native Mission in WA. It would be over ten years before she saw her mother again. Her memoir, *Alice's Daughter*, is the first by a former resident of the mission. It tells of Rhonda's search for culture and family as she faced violence, racism, foster families, and her father's death in custody; one of the first deaths investigated as part of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Rhonda is the fourth generation of stolen children in her family, and her memoir details the lives of her parents and grandparents before her, with information gathered through correspondence under the Freedom of Information Act. Together with fun times

shared with her mission brothers and sisters, Rhonda recounts stories of her great-grandparents' lives, including events at Moore River Native Settlement, made famous by Doris Pilkington Garimara's *Rabbit Proof Fence*.

*Alice's Daughter* provides insight into changing government policies and their impacts on the lives of Aboriginal people today. Interwoven with Rhonda's vibrant and powerful paintings and poetry, *Alice's Daughter* depicts a life scarred by racism, displacement, and neglect. Despite her hardships, Rhonda draws strength and healing from her art, music, and poetry, and her unbreakable bond with the Dreaming.

"My story is not about blame. It's about sharing history that belongs to all of Australia." Told in Rhonda's distinctive voice, *Alice's Daughter* is intimate and raw—a triumph of native spirit.

Rhonda Collard-Spratt is a strong Yamatji and Noon-gar woman. She is a visual artist, storyteller, poet, singer-songwriter, dancer, and art teacher. She speaks out against injustices against her people and Mother Earth. As an Elder, Rhonda conducts Aboriginal cultural workshops, and has worked in prisons with young women around suicide prevention, helping them reconnect with their Aboriginality.

As a representative of the Stolen Generations, Rhonda officiates at National Sorry Day events in Brisbane and Ipswich.

[by Kate Taperell]

This article was featured on the "First Nations Telegraph" online daily news.

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### Brisbane Client Support Group 2017 Morning Teas

Held on the last Thursday of every month at the Link-Up (Qld) Brisbane office from 10.00am.  
Contact Link-Up (Qld) on 07 3034 8444 for more information.

Next meeting will be on:

**25th May**

**29th June**

**27th July**

**31st August**

**28th September**



# SORRY DAY 2017



"The Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts, 1897 to 1901."

## ORDER FOR REMOVAL OF ABORIGINALS.

To all Officers and Constables of Police, Prison Officers, and  
Others Whom it May Concern.

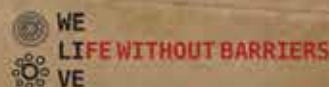
Whereas by Section 9 of "The Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1897,"  
Section 3 of "The Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1901," it is enacted  
that any person who is an Aboriginal or a descendant of an Aboriginal shall not be employed in any  
office or position of trust or confidence in any public or private institution or in any office or position of  
trust or confidence in any public or private institution or in any office or position of trust or confidence in any public or private institution

### 8AM FREE BREAKFAST

### 9AM TO 11AM - FRIDAY 26TH MAY

### ORLEIGH PARK, WEST END - BRISBANE

Link-Up (Qld) is funded by  
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Department of Communities, Child Safety and  
Disability Services.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane