



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Healing Foundation

Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation
Level 2, 55 Wentworth Ave, Kingston ACT
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Newsletter

April-June 2017



NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation

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Warning

Photos displayed in this newsletter may contain images of deceased persons and may cause distress.

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NTSGAC 2017 Community Events

Sorry Day & BTH 20th Anniversary



.....*We were Stolen from Our Land, Culture & Language.*.....





Hi everyone,



We have all been extremely busy in the last few months:

- Regularly communicated with the Healing Foundation on 20th anniversary of The Bringing Them Home Report funding, events and merchandise
- Planned and conducted “Poetry for Healing” event as part of the 20th anniversary of The Bringing Them Home Report commemoration held in our conference room
- Planned and organised the 20th anniversary of The Bringing Them Home Report and National Sorry Day commemoration at Jingili Water Park
- Prepared invitation list for the Chief Minister’s function at Parliament House to commemorate the 20th anniversary of The Bringing Them Home Report
- Prepared compensation/reparation questionnaires, gave them out and posted to as many Stolen Generations peoples as possible
- Worked with Maxine Kunde on the lists of NT Stolen Generations peoples for Mr Maithri, Lawyer assisting with compensation.
- Assisting Stolen Generations peoples complete their questionnaires
- Arranged the Community Meeting on 14 June at Tracy Village Club
- Acquitted grants funding from Healing Foundation
- Updated MOU with National Archives to include Central Australia Congress
- Sought funding for, and currently planning, our NAIDOC event in July
- Updated and renewed all insurance policies
- Renewed office lease



These have been huge tasks carried out whilst we all continued to perform our Link Up and operational, general administration, managerial and financial and Board duties, attend regular staff meetings, Board meetings and community meetings, as well as attending training sessions and events and assisting members with other services.

Link Up has 51 current clients, 89 continuing clients, assisted other Link Up organisations with 26 clients, and closed 75 client files. They have researched family tracing, organised and carried out reunions. Four Link Up staff are attending educational training and qualification courses.

The Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet has completed the Compliance Review on our organisation, and their regional officers met with and discussed the outcomes with our Board. We are in the process of preparing a submission for future funding, as our current funding expires in mid-2018.

As per the terms of our funding grant, the required annual reports have been completed and submitted.

Staff and Board Directors will undergo an ISO Surveillance Audit on 27th June, which is a pre-requisite to our accreditation required by Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet.

We requested clarification from ORIC as to the correct quorum for our general and annual general meetings as this seems to have been, and still seems, to be a contentious issue at these meetings. ORIC confirmed the correct requirements and have made the changes to our Rule Book as per the CATSI Act, which states that for 95 members or more, we only need 10 members to form a quorum.

We have fully updated our membership list with ORIC.

20th Anniversary of The Bringing Them Home Report (BTH20)

We spent months planning and holding the following events to commemorate this anniversary:

“Poetry for Healing” held in our Conference Room. Kathy Mills and Emily Hansen wrote and read poems to school students, Lord Mayor and other guests. I also read poems written by Luke Morcom. They were wonderful poems and we thank our writers for sharing them.



Both CEO and Chairperson attended the launch of the BTH20 at the Sydney Opera House, and attended, with Director Bernadette Shields, the BTH20 commemoration at Parliament House in Canberra.

We held the community event at the Jingili Water Park to commemorate both 20th anniversary of BTH Report and National Sorry Day, which was attended by approximately 250 people, including Stolen Generations members, school children and other Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations.

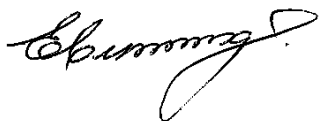
The Chief Minister held an event at Parliament House on Monday 29th May for NT Stolen Generations peoples, which was hosted by Minister Vowles.

Our CEO met with Mr Maithri Panagoda whilst in Sydney to discuss compensation/reparation procedures. She also attended the Darwin Region Priority Working Group Meeting 19th May, and attended Reconciliation Breakfast Talk - Dr Sue Stanton 'Reluctant Reconciliation' – at CDU.

We held a community meeting on Wednesday 14th June in the presence of three partners from Carroll & O'Dea to discuss the process of pursuing possible compensation from the various governments. Stolen Generations peoples were encouraged to complete the questionnaire provided by the lawyers and to either deliver them to our office or post directly to the lawyers.

We have been interviewed by a number of radio and television stations and NT News on the 20th Anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report and the issue of compensation for our NT Stolen Generations peoples.

Our Chairperson has given talks at a number of schools and Charles Darwin University on the history of the NT Stolen Generation and National Sorry Day. It was a delight in being involved with the school children. We gave them each a bag with a water bottle, comic book and brochure on the Stolen Generations history – all provided by the Healing Foundation as part of the 20th Anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report.



Eileen Cummings
Chairperson



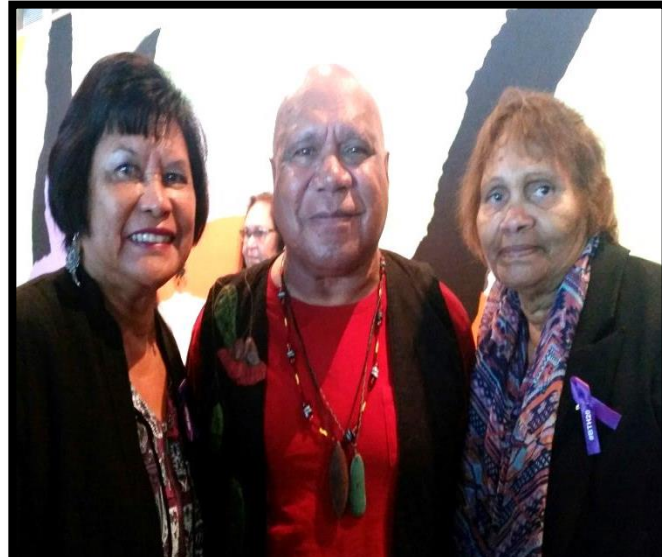
Maisie Austin
Chief Executive Officer



.....*We were Stolen from Our Land, Culture & Language.*.....



Photos of Events



.....We were Stolen from Our Land, Culture & Language.....

National Sorry Day & BTH 20th Anniversary Commemoration



This year, NTSGAC Darwin combined National Sorry Day & the “Bringing Them Home Report” 20th Anniversary Commemoration with special celebration with stalls and local entertainment from Milingimbi Culture Dancers, Schools and guest speakers.



Followed by releasing of purple balloons in remembrance of those who have past away, also Art painting presented to the NTSGAC Elders from Rosebery Middle School. The students of 7 schools also hosted the day by walking the Elders & guests along the red carpet to their tables and served morning tea & lunch to the Elders while watching the performances and listening to music.



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BTH 20th Anniversary Commemoration

Parliament House 29th May



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"Poetry for Healing"

Friday, 12th May 2017,
NTSGAC Boardroom



Left-Right- Aunty Kathleen Mills, **CEO-** Maisie Austin, Kormilda Students, **Chairperson -** Eileen Cummings, Uncle Peter Hansen, Aunty Emily Hansen.

Poetry was written and presented by Stolen Generations Members. The language of poetry is used to tell their life stories and express their individual thoughts and emotions about their life journey. Thank you to all who helped made it a lovely morning.



CEO- Maisie Austin, **Chairperson-**Eileen Cummings, Aunty Kathy Mills, **MLA-** Ms Ngaree Ah-Kit and **Lord Mayor** Katrina Fong Lim



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Barunga Festival

9th -11th June



Miriam Cleary and Tyron Major attended the festival on Friday, 9th- Monday, 12th June. Barunga community is situated approximately 80km south east of Katherine, Northern Territory. Among the various stalls, there were many other things people were involved in, traditional dance, live music, sporting activities, art, spear making and throwing competition, children's activities and dancing competitions to name a few.

NTSGAC stall was set up on Friday morning with all the merchandise, which included; Link-Up pamphlets, posters, bucket hats, caps, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, cloth shoulder bags, water bottles, information sheets etc. We did have a few visitors both local and interstate.

We were so popular that most of our information and merchandise was gone shortly after lunch. It was an enjoyable day and hope to have the opportunity to see Barunga Festival in 2018.



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NOTIFICATIONS BOARD

Confirmation of Aboriginality

Due to the high volume of applications and the added costs associated with the administration of the process, applications for confirmation of Aboriginality will now incur a fee.

Applications are endorsed by the Board of Directors

Fee Structure:

Adults: \$10.00 (18+yrs)

Children: \$5.00 (0-17yrs)

Family: \$20.00 (2 adults, 2 children)

Re-Issue: \$5.00

All monies received will be put towards NTSGAC's non-funded programs.

NTSGAC Support

Whilst NTSGAC endeavours to provide **printing of booklets** for funerals for Stolen Generations peoples, we do require advanced notice as we have limited staff and cannot always provide the printing.

If you require further information or seek funeral support please contact the CEO directly on 8947 9171.

Link-Up Notices:

Could all clients please inform Link-up at NTSGAC if you have changed your address or contact details.

NTSGAC Members

Contact the office on: 89 47 9171
in regards to Membership update of yourself and your descendants



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CURRENT BOARD AND STAFF



Current Board of Directors

Name:

Position:

Eileen Cummings	Chairperson
Maurie Japarta Ryan	Deputy Chairperson
Audrey Tilmouth	Director
Nora Kempster	Director
Halpin Hart	Director
Verna Macauley	Director
Joseph Daby	Director
Joyce Napurrula Schroeder	Director
Bernadette Shields	Director
Gloria Daylight-Corliss	Secretary / Minute Taker



Current Staff

Name:

Position:

Maisie Austin	CEO
Diara Croker	Reception
Yvonne Bradley	Project Officer
Raelene Rosas	Link-up Caseworker
Evelyn Perkins	Link-up Caseworker
Miriam Cleary	Link-up Research Officer
Daniel Fejo	Wellbeing Counsellor
Tyron Major	Administration Officer

Email:

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diara.croker@ntsgac.org
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evelyn.perkins@ntsgac.org
miriam.cleary@ntsgac.org
daniel.fejo@ntsgac.org
tyron@ntsgac.org

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TOP END LINK-UP & REUNION CASEWORK SERVICES

LINK-UP COUNSELLORS

The Link-Up counsellors provide counselling and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are tracing and/or locating their families and/or planning a reunion. They offer counselling which includes trans-generational grief, trauma and family relationship counselling. They also provide referrals to other relevant health professionals. They work closely with the Link-Up Service.

What we do

- Family tracing
- Family reunion management
- Research and access to records
- Guidance and support to clients
- Referrals to other support services

What we don't do

- Genealogies
- Family History
- Locate Missing Persons
- Child Protection Cases
- Family Law Courts

Eligibility Criteria

- Affected by the past government policies of removal.
- Must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.
- Must reside in the Top End region.
- Must undertake an initial assessment for registration.

Confidentiality

All staff are obliged to:

- Adhere to NTSGAC confidentiality agreements.
- To ensure that client rights are protected.
- To provide a professional level of service.
- Agree to maintain confidentiality and to respect the views of clients and their families.

Cultural Protocols

Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation is committed to providing a culturally sensitive service to all clients and their families.



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TOP END LINK UP SERVICE



**ARE YOU
OR YOUR FAMILY
MEMBERS OF THE
STOLEN GENERATIONS?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONNECT WITH YOUR FAMILY?
WE CAN HELP YOU WITH FAMILY TRACING, RESEARCH
AND FAMILY REUNIONS**



**NT Stolen Generations
Aboriginal Corporation**

Contact Details

Phone: 08 8947 9171

Fax: 08 8947 9173 • Email: linkup@ntsgac.org • www.ntsgac.org

Our Link Up Caseworkers give priority to 1st Stolen Generations clients, especially the elderly and those requiring urgent assistance due to health concerns.

Our Link Up Counsellor provides counselling and support within our SEWB programme to those who are tracing and/or locating their families and at reunions. This includes counselling for intergenerational grief, trauma and family relationships.

The NTSGAC office will be closed between the hours of 1pm- 4.30pm on the first Friday of every Month to support administration requirements and staff development.



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