

Warning

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

NEWSLETTER

January 2016



NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation

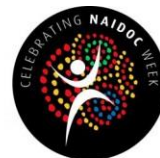
PO Box 43372. CASUARINA, NT 0810
Building 3, 13-17 Scaturchio Street,
CASUARINA NT 0811

Phone: (08) 8947 9171
Fax: (08) 8947 9173
Web: www.ntsgac.org



Upcoming NTSGAC 2016 Community Activities for the year:

- The Apology Celebration on 13th February;
- National Sorry Day on 26th May;
- NAIDOC WEEK;
- Reconciliation Week;
- Stolen Generations Group Reunions;
- Other Regional Events



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



CEO - Frank Spry

Happy New Year members and their families, I hope you had a great break and I really wish you a great year 2016.

Firstly I would like to say the year 2015 was a busy and productive year for NTSGAC. We conducted numerous community meetings and social wellbeing activities, while raising issues of importance with the media, government members and departments as well as services by advocating the needs and wishes of our members.

The NTSGAC Board and Staff will be working even harder this year to meet the NTSGAC obligations to our members.

Highlights included obtaining the independent international standard of a quality service under ISO accreditation.

The NTSGAC want to continue to build our relationships with members and stakeholders based then values and principles of integrity, respect, trust, honesty and justice.

They include but not limited to:

The NTSGAC primary activity is service our members need and meet the objectives of the organisation.

1. Provide emotional support, social wellbeing services and referral service for Stolen Generations members and their families/descendants in the Top End.
2. Provide inter-generational activities on special occasions as part of a healing and identity strengthening process.
3. Regularly inform clients regarding any National issues in developments affecting the Stolen Generations.
4. Monitor and work towards implementing the 54 Recommendations from the Bringing Them Home Report.



Currently our Strategic plan focuses on the following:

1. Vision - Stolen Generations members of the Top End and their descendants achieve recognition, social justice and fair compensation, while retaining their unique identity as Aboriginal people.
2. NTSGAC is an Aboriginal organisation that provides advocacy, social and emotional wellbeing and referral services for Stolen Generation members of the Top End and their descendants, including assistance for reconnection with land, family, language and culture.

Over the next few months the organisation will be continuing to review its services and its service delivery to better meet the needs of our members. This is part of the ISO quality management improvement process.

This has to be achieved within the financial restraints imposed on us under our funding contract guidelines.

I think it is also important to continue to talk to our funders about our vision, our hopes and dreams for our families in achieving a better and fairer life. This is in spite of past Government policies that have had an intergeneration impact on our basic human rights to follow our social, cultural and religious beliefs as free people.

I would like all of you to engage with us in a collaborative and positive manner and I look forward to working with you again in 2016.

Cheers
Frank Spry
CEO





Chairperson: Eileen Cummings

Happy New Year friends and families

The year 2015 has been a very busy and productive year for the NTSGAC Board, CEO, Staff and all who have worked with us. It has been a great privilege to be re-elected by the Board as the Chairperson. Since being elected as the Chairperson again my aim is to continue to represent the members and support the staff.

I have enjoyed and found the work challenging and rewarding to work with the CEO, Staff, and Consultants and members of NTSGAC.

The Board of Directors with the CEO will update and implementation of the Policy and Procedure Manual for the organisation to support the future strategic directions of NTSGAC. This will also include reviewing our Strategic Plan for the next three years.

The Board have worked closely with the CEO Frank to develop better standards of management, compliance and quality management for the organisation.

The Board and CEO will met with various State and Federal Ministers to showcase the organisation and to discuss compensation and reparation for the NT Stolen Generation Group.

As the Chairperson for NTSGAC and as the Board of Directors we have endorsed and supported an application done by the CEO and Consultant to Aboriginal Benefits Association (ABA) to fund a Centre to establish a history safe place, education, arts and crafts and general office space to call our own for the benefit of NT Stolen Generation members. The CEO will report on the outcome.

To support this commitment in the future it is vital that the incoming Board continue to commit to conducting Board meetings and Community meetings in the region, rural and remote areas.

I would like to thank all the members who have been supportive to the organisation and to my fellow Board Directors for the time and effort given to the good governance of the organisation.

Eileen Cummings

NTSGAC Chairperson



The NTSGAC has been **incorporated since 1998** and has successfully obtained funding from the Australian government and the Northern Territory throughout that period. This required the continuous delivery of services and the reporting of the organisation activities.



NTSGAC was established to:

- Provide emotional support, social wellbeing services and referral service for Stolen Generations members and their families/descendants in the Top End.
- Provide inter-generational activities on special occasions as part of a healing and identity strengthening process.
- Regularly inform clients regarding any National issues in developments affecting the Stolen Generations.
- Monitor and work towards implementing the 54 Recommendations from the Bringing Them Home Report.



The NTSGAC has recently obtained internationally recognised ISO organisation accreditation 2015, one of only a handful of Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal services that operate in the NT that have achieved this standard.

ISO Quality Management System (AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008) accreditation.

“With the certification of an organisation, a certificate is issued indicating that an organisation has demonstrated to IHCA Certification it has met the Standard/s for which it sought certification. The Certificate and the IHCA certification mark provide an important visible indication to consumers, stakeholders and the community about the quality of the organisation’s services.

NTSGAC ACHIEVEMENTS / MILESTONES



NTSGAC: Confidentiality

All staff are obliged to:

- Adhere to the NTSGAC Confidentiality Agreement.
- Adhere to the NTSGAC Code of Conduct.
- Ensure that client rights are protected.
- Provide a professional level of service.
- Respect the views of clients and their families.

NTSGAC: National aim of Link-up Services

To assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people separated from their families under the past laws, practices and policies of the Australian government, to undertake family tracing and family reunions with counselling and support.

The **Link-up Caseworkers** provide assistance to clients who are ready to access family history records or commence their journey home to meet family members.

This is achieved by-

- Case management of the family reunion process;
- Accessing government and church records;
- Assisting with oral histories;
- Family tracing;
- Reunion planning;
- Sensitivity and cultural awareness;
- Support and guidance through all steps of the process.

They also assist to prepare the client for the reunion and explore their expectations:



We may go home, but we cannot relive our childhoods. We may reunite with our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, aunties, uncles, communities, but we cannot relive the 20, 30, 40 years that we spent without their love and care, and they cannot undo the grief and mourning they felt when we were separated from them. We can go home to ourselves as Aboriginals, but this does not erase the attacks inflicted on our hearts, minds, bodies and souls, by caretakers who thought their mission was to eliminate us as Aboriginals.

Eileen Cummings (b. 1943)

Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families April 1997, The Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission

Many Aboriginal children and their families were placed in homes or missions run by the Churches or the Australian government.

Later some children were either fostered or adopted.



7 Aboriginal Institutions

- ▶ Kahlin Compound
- ▶ Bungalow
- ▶ St Mary's Home
- ▶ Retta Dixon Home
- ▶ Groote Eylandt Mission
- ▶ Croker Island Mission
- ▶ Garden Point Mission

Please Note:

Photos displayed are courtesy of NTSGAC and the Commonwealth National Archives of Australia from the first & second Editions of Tracking Families



Kahlin Half Caste Home: 1913–1939



- 1913- Kahlin was established by the government to house “half-caste” in Darwin
- 1924- ‘Half-caste’ home for children in Schultze Street, Myilly Point.
- 1931- Boys were moved from the home to “Pine Creek Home” to relieve overcrowding.
- 1939- Decision to move children from government-run institutions to the missions.
- 1939- Closed in September children from Kahlin home were moved to Bagot Reserve
- 1940- Children who had been at Kahlin Half-caste Home were moved to:
 - Garden Point Melville Island Mission
 - Croker Island Mission -Pine Creek Home & Goulburn Island Mission



The Bungalow (Children's Home) 1913-1945



- 1914-** Children were being compulsorily moved to the Bungalow
- 1928-** The Bungalow was moved from Alice Springs to Jay Creek
- 1933-** The Bungalow received boys from Pine Creek home when it closed
- 1941-** Children were moved from the Bungalow to
 - Croker island
 - Garden Point
 - Melville Island
- 1945-1960:** Site was used as a reserve for Aboriginal workers

St Mary's Home : Alice Springs 1947-1972



- 1947 -** Provided accommodation & schooling for 'half-caste' children.
- 1948-** Most girls from Groote Eylandt & Roper River were moved to St Mary's.
- 1972-** St Mary's Home was renamed St Mary's Children Village.



Retta Dixon Aboriginal Mission Home 1946–1982



Established by the Aboriginal Island Mission as a home for ‘half-caste’ Aboriginal children & young women.

- 1946 -** Children evacuated from Bagot Aboriginal Reserve to Balaklava Aboriginal Welfare Institution, SA
- 1942 –** Children returned and were placed in the Retta Dixon Home.
- 1961-** First building of the new Retta Dixon home(made up of cottages) were officially opened (north end of Bagot Reserve).
- 1982-** Retta Dixon was closed.

Groote Eylandt Mission 1919 -1938

(Groote Eylandt also known as Emerald River Mission 1921–43)



- 1924–** Children & young people were moved here from Roper River Mission.
- 1942–** Half-caste children & young people from Roper and Groote Eylandt mission were evacuated to church missionary Society “half-caste” mission home “Milleewa” Ashfield, NSW.



Croker Island Mission: 1941 – 1968



Margaret Somerville died at the age of 101

- 1941–** Children from government-run institutions to the missions were from: **Kahlin half Cast home**, Darwin were moved to **Croker Island** via Pine creek Home & Goulburn Island Mission. Some of the children from the Bungalow were moved to **Croker Island** via Goulburn Island Mission.
- 1942–** Darwin was under attack by Japan. The Government earlier refused to evacuated the **95** children under their care. A missionary named Margaret Somerville crossed the continent with the children, then returned to Croker Island after the war in 1946.
- 1938-57:** 190 Children were brought in from cattle stations throughout the Northern Territory and placed on the Croker Island Mission over that time.
- 1969–** Children were moved to Uniting Church Somerville Homes in Darwin.



Garden Point Mission, Melville Island: 1941 – 1969



- 1941–** Children were moved from
 - Bungalow, Alice Springs
 - Kahlin 'Half-Caste' Home, Darwin
 - Bathurst Island
- 1942–** Children were moved to Our Lady of Sacred Heart S.A.
- 1945–** Evacuated children returned from SA.
- 1967–** Mission lease was taken over by the churches.
- 1969–** Last of the children were moved to the mainland.

Bringing Them Home Report

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Report

Bringing them Home : 54 recommendation

Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families April 1997



Bringing them home - Frequently asked questions

about the National Inquiry

The National Inquiry's first term of reference, as outlined by the Attorney-General in May 1995, required the Australian Human Rights Commission to:

Trace the past laws, practices and policies which resulted in the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families by compulsion, duress or undue influence, and the effects of those laws, practices and policies.

Comprehensively tracing the past laws, practices and policies affecting the lives of Indigenous peoples is crucial to Australia's understanding of its history.

Society cannot simply block out a chapter of its history; it cannot deny the facts of its past, however differently these may be interpreted. Inevitably, the void would be filled with lies or with conflicting, confusing versions of the past. A nation's unity depends on a shared identity, which in turn depends largely on a shared memory. The truth also brings a measure of healthy social catharsis and helps to prevent the past from reoccurring.

People mistakenly believe that the taking of Indigenous babies and children from their mothers only happened in the distant past. But the policies and practices of removal were in effect throughout this century until the early 1970s. There are many Indigenous people, now in their late twenties and early thirties, who were removed from their families under these policies.



Apology Day: 13th February of each year



For us [Australians], symbolism is important but, unless the great symbolism of reconciliation is accompanied by an even greater substance, it is little more than a clanging gong. It is not sentiment that makes history; it is our actions that make history.”

Sorry Day: 26th May of each Year



National Sorry Day is an Australia-wide observance held each year and this day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations. The Stolen generation is referred as the Australian Aboriginals who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.



Barunga Festival: June of each year



This is an annual event, well renowned throughout the NT, where thousands attend each year from all over Australia and overseas (Tourists) to celebrate. Many foreign tourists from the UK, Germany and France also spoke to NTSGAC staff wanting to know about the Stolen Generations and they were astounded at the past Governments' policies towards Aboriginal and Islander peoples.



NAIDOC Celebration: July of each year



NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Community Meeting: September of each Year



The Community Meetings are aimed to allow the members of the Stolen Generation, patriarchs and matriarchs of the large Territory families to talk about their issues, concerns and desires.

The NTSGAC invites services that work in the fields of justice, health, families and education. Many of the Members of the NTSGAC were the instigators to changes in government policies and the founding members of current Aboriginal organisations.





Our Vision

The NTSGAC and their families live happy, healthy productive lives while still retaining their unique and important identity within the social fabric, as original Australians.



NTSGAC: New Staff Member

NTSGAC would like to welcome Rodney Monaghan as our new Wellbeing Support Officer. Rodney's home/State is Port Headland W.A. He has been employed for 5 years as a Senior Youth work, 8 years as a Senior Health worth and 6 years as a Renal nurse.

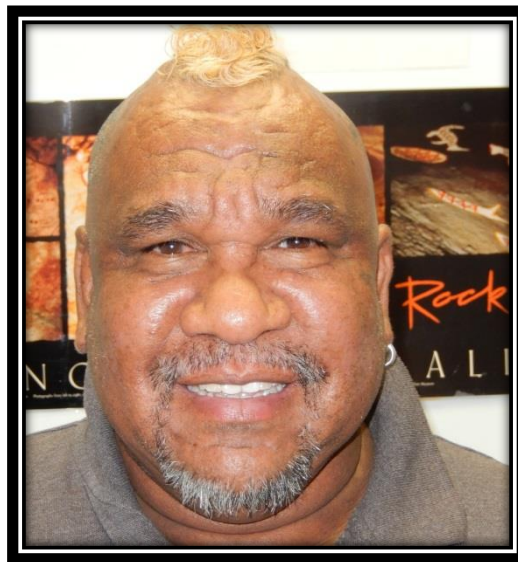
Tribal name is : Njamal

Language Group: Njamal/Nyangumarta

Skin: Group: Panaka

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing camping & 4 wheel driving

Rodney has 3 adult children and 5 grandkids.



We wish Rodney all the best for his new role as the new SEWB Officer.

Cheers

NTSGAC Ceo & Staff



NTSGAC 2015 Christmas Party

It's that time of the year and NTSGAC Christmas celebration was held at the Tracy Village Function Club. There was plenty of music from the Mills sisters singing their original songs that made everyone laugh. Music with the karaoke machine was Yvonne Bradley and Linda Jacksons daughter. NTSGAC had lots of food hampers and gifts cards that were given away as a lucky door prize. NTSGAC & board members would like to thank Maxine Kunde's family for their kind donation of \$400 towards the food hampers and her time in helping our Project Officer put together all the prizes.



Ladies Day Outing Howard Springs Nature Park 13th January 2016



For the start of the new year's Ladies Day outing I decided to take the ladies to the Howard Springs Nature Park for time out. As we walked around the park some commented how the Park had changed over the years. They enjoyed watching the long neck turtles come to the surface of the water looking for food. I did mention to the ladies to bring their bikini's to go for a dip (pretend they had forgotten). We then had morning tea at the Coolalinga Café and drove around Cullen Bay and had our ice-cream on the wharf.



Lorna and Maxine checking out the fish & turtles in the pond



Morning Tea at the Coolalinga cafe



Confirmation of Aboriginality

Due to the high volume of applications and the added costs associated with the administration of the process, commencing Monday 3rd September 2012, applications for confirmation of Aboriginality will now incur a fee. Applications are only processed once a month at the Board Meetings.

Fee Structure:

Adults: \$10.00 (18+yrs)

Children: \$5.00 (0-17yrs)

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

Re-Issue: \$5.00

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

Funeral Support

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

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

Coming up Events

February 2016

Apology Day
13th February
St Mary's Club
10am - 1.00pm

Link-Up Notices:

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



CURRENT BOARD AND STAFF



Current Board Members

Name:

Eileen Cummings
Maurie Japarta Ryan
Audrey Tilmouth
Nora Kempster
Luke Sydney Morcom
Edward Boyd Scully
Joseph Daby
Joyce Napurrula
Bernadette Shields
Gloria Daylight-Corliss

Position:

Chairperson
Deputy Chairperson
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Secretary / Minute Taker



Current Staff

Name:

Frank Spry
Tyron Major
Petronella Pigram
Amanda Perkins
Yvonne Bradley
Raelene Rosas
Evelyn Perkins
Gerry Hurst
Rodney Monaghan
Denise Hunter

Position:

CEO
Admin Officer
Reception
Reception
Project Officer
Link-up Caseworker
Link-up Caseworker
Link-up Caseworker
Wellbeing Officer
Link-up Researcher -
(Extended sick Leave)

Email:

ceo@ntsgac.org
tyron.major@ntsgac.org
petronella.pigram@ntsgac.org
amanda.perkins@ntsgac.org
yvonne.bradley@ntsgac.org
raelene.rosas@ntsgac.org
evelyn.perkins@ntsgac.org
gerard.hurst@ntsgac.org
rodney.monaghan@ntsgac.org
denise.hunter@ntsgac.org

Please contact the Stolen Generation office on: 89 479 171 in regards to membership update of yourself and your descendants



TOP END LINK-UP SERVICE

LINK-UP PROGRAM

Enquiries can be made by contacting the -

NORTHERN TERRITORY
STOLEN GENERATIONS
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Phone: 08 8947 9171

Fax: 08 8947 9173

NTSGAC acknowledges
the support of PM & C

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.



Tracking Families



NT Stolen Generations
Aboriginal Corporation

Bringing Families Together

LINK-UP RESEARCH & REUNION CASEWORK

2/3 Cascom Centre,
13 Scaturchio Street

PO Box 43372, Casuarina NT 0811

Phone: 08 8947 9171

Fax: 08 8947 9173



National aim of Link-up service

To assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people separated from their families under the past laws, practices and policies of Australian governments, to undertake family tracing and family reunions.

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.



History

NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation was formally incorporated in 1998 to respond directly to the needs and concerns of members of the Stolen Generations, their families and communities. The formation of NTSGAC was the result of discussions and the expressed wishes of many members of the Stolen Generations in the Top End since the early 1970's, and previously included members associated with:

Roper River Mission 1908

Bathurst Island Mission 1911

Jay Creek Mission 1911

Bungalow 1913 - Alice Springs

Kahlin Compound 1913 - Darwin

Emerald River Mission 1921 - Groote Eylandt

Pine Creek Boys Home 1931

Bagot Reserve 1937/1938 - Darwin

Croker Island Mission 1941

Garden Point Mission 1941 - Melville

Retta Dixon Home 1946 - Darwin

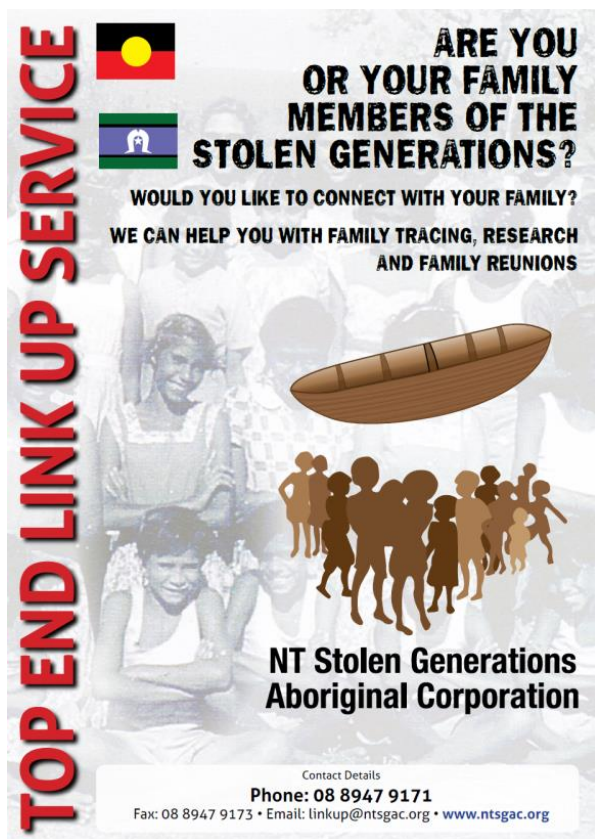
St. Mary's Home 1946 - Alice Springs

Fostered



Adopted



TOP END LINK-UP SERVICE & THEIR TEAM





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**

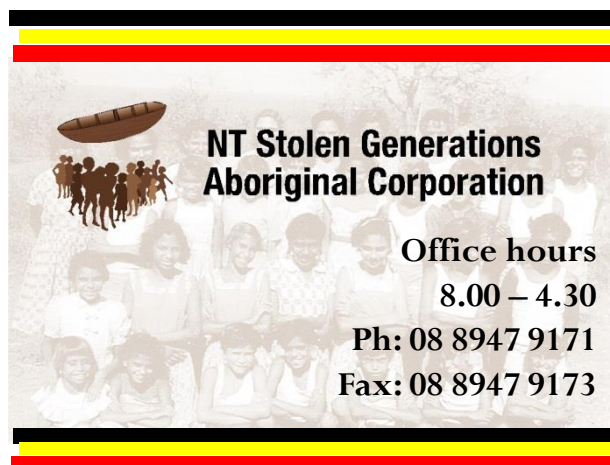
Contact Details
Phone: 08 8947 9171
Fax: 08 8947 9173 • Email: linkup@ntsgac.org • www.ntsgac.org



Our Link Up Caseworkers give priority to 1st Stolen Generations clients, especially the elderly and those requiring urgent assistance due to health concerns. We have now employed a Link Up Counsellor and he can provide counselling and support to those who are tracing and/or locating their families and/or planning a reunion and also offer counselling which includes intergenerational grief, trauma and family relationships counselling.

IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY COMING INTO OUR OFFICE OUR LINK UP STAFF WILL COME TO YOU.

We offer a free, professional, confidential and culturally sensitive counselling service. You can make an appointment by Phoning: 8947 9171.

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



**NT Stolen Generations
Aboriginal Corporation**

Office hours
8.00 – 4.30
Ph: 08 8947 9171
Fax: 08 8947 9173

