



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



## NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation

### Providers of TOP END LINK UP SERVICE

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](http://www.ntsgac.org)

Newsletter  
January 2019



Welcome to our first newsletter for 2019. We hope the year brings you love, happiness, good health and wealth.

At our Annual General Meeting last November, a new Board of Directors was elected, with some previous ones remaining and new ones joining them – Lindsay Ah Mat (Chairperson), Eileen Cummings (Deputy Chairperson), Joseph Daby (Treasurer), Bernadette Shields (Secretary), and Directors Susan Roman, Kathleen Irwin, Marie Allen and Barbara Chisholm.

The Directors are keen to continue advocating and pursuing compensation for NT Stolen Generations peoples, as well as reviewing and updating policies and procedures and a Strategic Plan beyond 2019.

This year we hope to move into new premises which will provide more office space, conference room, library and activities area.

#### Compensation news

Our CEO recently met with the lawyers in Sydney to discuss another way forward with the matter of compensation. Some of you may have had your questionnaires returned. Please either hold onto them yourself or you can have them securely stored at our office, as they will be a good starting point for the statements of compensation. You may need to provide a further detailed statement in due course. More information will be provided soon.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February is our Cultural Day at the Italian Sports & Social Club from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. See flyer in this newsletter. We'd love to see you there.



### NTSGAC Office Hours 8.00am – 4.36pm Monday to Friday

The office is closed between the hours of 1pm - 4.36pm on the first Friday of every month to support administration requirements and staff development.

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

*NTSGAC acknowledges all traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their rights to continuing connection to land, sea and community. We also pay our respects to them, and their cultures, and to our Elders past, present and future.*



Previous Board



Members voting for New Board



Electoral Commission

NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation continues to achieve quality improvement through best operational practices and financial management by regularly updating our Policies and Procedures, working within our budgets and providing training and education for our staff.

Staff will be attending trauma-informed courses, Certificate IV in Stolen Generations Family Research & Case Management, Working with Vulnerable People education, business administration and other relevant training. These training courses will also assist us in providing better services to our members, particularly our Elders and our youth through our Social & Emotional Wellbeing programme.



Research Team

Donna Hunter, Mikaela Adams and Miriam Cleary

NTSGAC has secured grant funding from Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) to develop an educational package on the History of Northern Territory Stolen Generations. The Research Team is currently writing the history of the NT Stolen Generations and the formation of the corporation and will soon be conducting oral history interviews with Stolen Generations members, with assistance and support of Mr Matthew Stephens, Manager, Oral History Unit, Northern Territory Archive Service, who conducted an oral history training workshop with us on 29 February.

Stolen Generations Garden Point elders and members together with NTSGAC Research Team and the Northern Territory Archive Service attended a morning tea on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the NT Archives Centre, Millner. Bathurst Island and Garden Point Digitised Photo Collections by *Brogan, Thecla; Bennett, Brother; Pye, Brother - Roman Catholic Mission Garden Point 1940-1988; Pye, John (Brother) - Photographic proofs and negatives of Bathurst Island and residents 1919-1994* were viewed and enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who attended.

If anyone is interested in viewing the above photo collection or other Northern Territory mission and institution photographs of the Stolen Generations, please give the NTSGAC office a call.

# Link Up Report 2019

The Case Team of the Link Up Programme consists of:

<b>Team Leader</b>	Raelene Rosas
<b>Caseworkers</b>	Evelyn Perkins and Steven Hayes
<b>Trainee Caseworker</b>	Diara Croker
<b>Counsellor</b>	Rosetta Smith
<b>Research Officers</b>	Miriam Cleary & Donna Hunter
<b>Research Assistant</b>	Mikaela Adams



Our Case Team has started the New Year off with forward planning with new clients, planning reunions, a collaborative reunion with Victoria Link Up service and reviewing our current client list. We have 6 reunions to plan for and 16 new client intakes to allocate to Caseworkers. We have staff development training planned which includes trauma-informed training, and also have meetings and forums to attend which involves our area of Social Emotional Wellbeing.

Our Team is working hard towards our best practice model and to create open and transparent conversations with all departments, agencies and organisations that we deal directly with, and creating MOUs where possible. We are also improving our service delivery to our clients, community, departments, agencies and organisations. Our Counsellor is working alongside our Team and we are referring clients to her when and if needed.

We meet regularly and all have input into how we conduct our services. We have assisted our clients to pathway better outcomes and counselling if they choose to do so, and have been working well together for the members, Board and community.

We have had successful reunions for clients that have enabled them to have some closure and reconnect to Country, Culture, Language and Communities. These reunions have assisted our clients to be able to identify with their Aboriginal heritage. At present we have reviewed all case files and archived them for safe keeping. The following are our current client listing:

- 45 current clients
- 15 assist other link up
- 02 cannot assist
- 12 closed
- 03 deceased
- 04 reunions
- 06 pending
- 14 new

Our Research Team has been working tirelessly to ensure that we have archived our client files that have been closed, uploaded all client files to our Foxtrot database and portable hard drives that have been updated on a regular basis. All these documents and files are stored in locked fire safes, compactor and filing cabinets at all times.

***We are in possession of old oral interviews dating back to the 1990s, as well as past and current Link-up client files. If these concern you, please contact Raelene Rosas or Evelyn Perkins regarding security and storage of them.***



# 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
- Native Title

Our Link Up Caseworkers give priority to 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Please inform our Link-Up team if you have changed your address or contact details

## 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.





*Northern Territory Stolen Generations  
Aboriginal Corporation*

*Come along and celebrate*

**ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
CULTURE**



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019  
The Italian Sports & Social Club  
131 Abala Road, Marrara

*11.00 a.m - 3.00 p.m*



Traditional and local Darwin food tasting,  
Arts & craft, entertainment and stalls of  
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Services & Products

*For further information please contact  
Yvonne Bradley on 89 479171*





## Batchelor College Talks about Stolen Generation



## Barunga Festival



## Batchelor Link-up Training



## Palmerston College





## CDU Unveiling "Tribal Abduction" painting by Harold Thomas



## Territory Library Tour



## National Apology Live at Parliament House



## Casuarina Club- 2018 Christmas Function



## Confirmation of Aboriginality

- Government agencies and community organisations usually accept three 'working criteria' as confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage:
- being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- identifying as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person
- being accepted as such by the community in which you live, or formerly lived.

It is recommended that you obtain as much proof of your Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander family history and heritage as possible.

### Procedure:

The applicant must:

- fully complete Confirmation of Aboriginality application form in block print.
- provide all required documentation
- provide a colour photo ID
- pay the required fee:

Individual 18+	\$10.00
Child aged 1 to 17	\$5.00
Family	\$20.00
Re-issue	\$5

Payment may be made over the counter or into NTSGAC's bank account

The Board will process the COA at a Board meeting and will only approve confirmation of Aboriginality for applicants who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, either born in the Northern Territory, or descendants or related to Northern Territory Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.



## Membership with NTSGAC

To become a member of NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation, a Membership Application form, supported by two NTSGAC Directors must be submitted to the Board for approval.

Memberships of other Stolen Generations groups, for example Garden Point, Croker Island, etc. were not automatically transferred to NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation, although many have become NTSGAC members.

Membership benefits include newsletters, invitation to events, and assistance with funeral booklets

Non membership does not exclude NT Stolen Generations peoples from being included in NTSGAC's pursuit of compensation.

### **Funeral Booklets**

Upon request, and dependent on operational priorities, support may be provided to print funeral booklets for members and their family.

### **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.

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