



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation

Providers of TOP END LINK UP SERVICE

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Newsletter
October 2019



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

Sadly, since our last newsletter, we have lost a number of our NT Stolen Generations peoples and family members – too many to name - but we again pass on our sincere condolences to all their families.

On their behalf and on behalf of our surviving Stolen Generations peoples, our Board continues to advocate for compensation and reparation through correspondence and meetings with politicians. They have a scheduled meeting with the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Hon. Ken Wyatt AM MP – the first Indigenous Federal Minister for this portfolio and also a Stolen Generations descendant – to see if there is a way forward for compensation for our people. Far too many have passed away having had no financial recognition for their trauma and suffering. Hopefully the meeting will be positive and beneficial.

On a happier note, we celebrated NAIDOC week with morning tea at the George Brown Botanical Gardens and a number of events hosted and organised by Top End NAIDOC Committee and Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

Then, of course, we commemorated the 25th Anniversary of The Going Home Conference at The Italian Club with lunch and entertainment by Mary G. We thank our major sponsors the Healing Foundation and the Northern Territory Government and our other sponsors Ironbark Aboriginal Corporation, Yilli Housing, AMSANT, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Minister Eva Lawler, Member for Karama Ngaree Ah Kit and Member for Brennan Tony Sievers.

Our Chairperson continues to give talks at schools, Charles Darwin University and other organisations on our Stolen Generations history, and we are still working on our own history book and educational packages, which will be completed in the first half of next year.

We are hopeful of moving into new office premises in Malak before Christmas. The refurbishment of the office space has been achievable through funding from the Chief Minister and the Northern Territory Government. The premises will be more spacious to allow us to hold activities, workshops and Board meetings. We hope to see you all at our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 19th November at 5.00 pm at Tracy Village Sports Club meeting room.

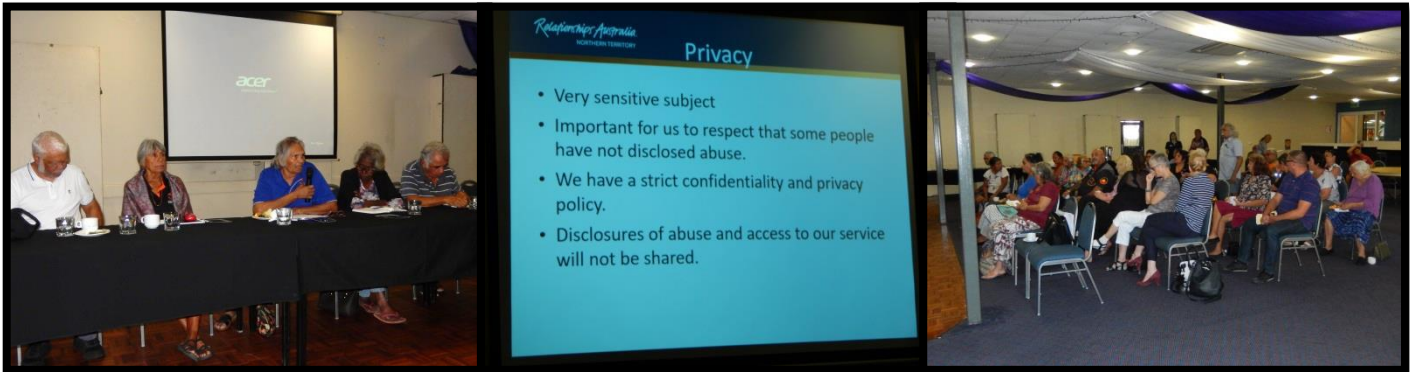
NTSGAC acknowledges all traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their rights to continuing connection to land, sea and community. We also pay our respects to them, and their cultures, and to our Elders past, present and future.

2019 Out & About

Reconciliation Week - RDH



National Redress Scheme Community Meeting



Youth Justice Forum



NAIDOC – NTSGAC Morning Tea at Botanical Gardens



A Link-Up story

Cynthia Alexander and her sister Elizabeth visited our office whilst they were in Darwin recently and introduced themselves as the daughters of Violet Tremayne who was born at Kahlin Compound.

Our CEO met with them and their cousins Rosanne, Esther and Josie (Ruddick) and presented them with a memento which were given to Kahlin children at the "Kahlin Compound and Kahlin Half Caste Home 100 Year Commemorative Event" in 2013.

The Ruddick girls first became aware of Violet's existence some 20 years ago when Top End Link-Up researched and traced Violet on behalf of their client. Violet was born at Kahlin in 1923 to Lily Cusack and was taken away as an infant, shipped from Darwin to Dalmar House (an orphanage in Sydney) at age 29 months, and told her parents had died in a car accident. She was never adopted out and grew up in the orphanage until her early twenties, where she assisted with looking after the children and other domestic duties - especially caring for the babies. She was then employed by a family as nanny to their son. When the family moved to Melbourne, she went with them. It was in Melbourne where she met and married and had her four children - Elizabeth, Lynette, Joseph and Cynthia.



During 1999, Violet responded to an inquiry to a person seeking someone with the same name as herself (Link Up). At this point she discovered she did have siblings - Geraldine, Fred, Jacqueline, Anne (deceased) and Stacia, and, in fact, she was part of the Stolen Generation. Shortly after finding her family, Violet and two daughters Elizabeth and Lynette travelled to Darwin to meet them. This opened up a new and exciting chapter in her life. She found a huge family was hers. Going from being an orphan to so many relations was pretty daunting, but she loved getting to know them. It was also revealed that her birthday was not 11th April 1923 but in fact the 14th October 1923 and that her surname was Cusack, not Tremayne. Sadly, Violet passed away in July, aged 94.

The Ruddick family had a particularly close relationship with Violet's mother Lily and her siblings. Aunty Daisy Ruddick and Violet's mother Lily were first cousins. Their fathers were young Irish men who came to the Northern Territory to work on cattle stations - Jack and Tom Cusack. Unfortunately, Lily and Daisy became victims of the same Law and were removed from their families and placed in an institution in Darwin, sadly never to see their mothers again. However, a tremendous bond existed between these two wonderful women and was passed on to their children.

Our Link Up team have signed up a number of new clients, arranged and completed family tracing and research and completed client reunions. They are also continuing various training courses and have attended several National Link Up Leadership meetings and Social and Emotional Wellbeing conferences.

25th Anniversary of The Going Home Conference


We commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Going Home Conference on Thursday 3rd October 2019 with a two-course lunch at the Italian Club, Abala Road, Marrara from 11.00 a.m. till 4.00 p.m. We were welcomed with a smoking ceremony conducted by Tiwi ladies and didgeridoo performance by Les Huddleston.

Larrakia Elder Pauline Baban did the Welcome to Country and guest speakers were NTSGAC Chairperson Eileen Cummings, Mr Maurie Ryan, past NTSGAC Director and Garden Point Delegate at 1994 Conference and Professor Mick Dodson AM, NT Treaty Commissioner.

Mary G was our emcee and provided wonderful entertainment. There was also a video presentation on NT Stolen Generation and a tribute to advocate and friend the late Barbara Cummings.

It was great to see and catch up with so many of our elders and members.



	<p style="text-align: center;">Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation Providers of TOP END LINK UP SERVICE</p>	
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ICN: 3173

NOTICE OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 19th November 2019
Venue: Tracy Village Social & Sports Club,
28 Tambling Terrace, Lyons
Time: 5:00 pm

AGENDA

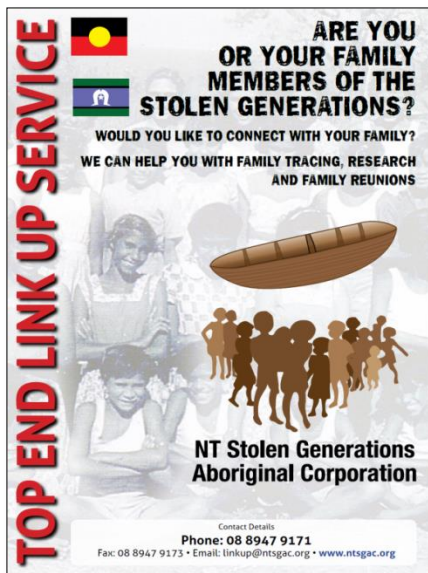
- 1.** Attendance/ Apologies
- 2.** Check register of members
- 3.** Check proxy votes
- 4.** Minutes of 2018 AGM
- 5.** Chairperson's Report
- 6.** CEO's Report
- 7.** Financial Audit Report for 2018-19
- 8.** Election of one vacant Board of Director position
- 9.** Appointment of Auditor
- 10.** Other Business
- 11.** Close Meeting

Nomination forms for the position of Board Director must be received by the Corporation no later than COB on Monday 4 November 2019.

Proxy nominations must be lodged with the Corporation no later than COB Friday 15th November 2019.

For further information, please contact Yvonne Bradley on 8947 9171

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 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. 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.



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	\$ 5.00

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.

NTSGAC Office Hours 8.00am – 4.30pm
Monday to Friday

The office is closed between the hours of 1pm - 4.30pm on the first Friday of every month to support administration requirements and staff development.

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.

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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.

**We extend our appreciation and thanks to all
our Sponsors and Supporters for 2019**



HealingFoundation

Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT**



Danila Dilba
Health Service

