



LINK-UP [NSW]
Aboriginal Corporation



LINK-UP [NSW] ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR WORK IS CONDUCTED ON THE TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE ABORIGINAL NATIONS ACROSS NEW SOUTH WALES.

WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ELDERS BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, AND TO THOSE EMERGING LEADERS WHO WILL GUIDE US INTO THE FUTURE.

LINK-UP (NSW) ABORIGINAL CORPORATION IS COMMITTED TO HONOURING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES UNIQUE CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS TO THE LAND, WATERS AND SEAS AND THEIR RICH CONTRIBUTION TO LINK-UP (NSW) AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE MEMBERS OF THE STOLEN GENERATIONS WHOSE CONNECTION TO THEIR COUNTRY WAS INTERRUPTED AND SEARCH FOR BELONGING AND IDENTITY HAS BEEN LONG AND DIFFICULT. WE STAND BY THEM IN THEIR STRUGGLE.

WARNING: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE ARE WARNED THAT THIS DOCUMENT MAY CONTAIN IMAGES OF DECEASED PERSONS

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REUNIONS:



ERICK TALBOT REUNION

MOREE, NEW SOUTH WALES



Erick Talbot's with Link-Up [NSW] began in 2021 when Erick's Aunt Michelle was reunited to Country in Moree, New South Wales. In July 2022, Erick's Mother was also reunited to Country at a gravesite reunion and a visit to the old mission where her maternal Grandparents lived and raised their children. Unfortunately, due to contracting COVID, Erick was not able to attend this reunion in July 2022 and therefore it was decided by Link-Up [NSW] to allow Erick to attend a duplicate reunion which was held on February 4 to February 6, 2025.

Erick's reunion was held over three days and started with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony held by Uncle Lloyd Munro and Brother Paul at the Moree Cemetery where Erick placed native flower arrangements at the resting place of both his maternal Great Grandparents Alf and Annie Haynes.

The following day, Link-Up [NSW] staff took Erick on a road trip with Brother Paul to Mungindi Mission and Boomi, as well as a visit with Elders from the Mungindi Local Aboriginal Council.

Whilst at Mungindi Mission, Erick sat with the local Elders' and Brother Paul around a yarning circle and listened to their stories about the past as well as their hopes for the future. They expressed their hopes of the Mission becoming a place of cultural significance where mob can meet, celebrate and reflect.

Brother Paul shared language with Erick as well as his knowledge about local Aboriginal history. Erick really appreciated this opportunity and expressed how much Brother Paul's generosity as well as the other Elders' who attended his reunion had meant to him.

Erick stated his plans were to return to Moree in the future to continue his healing journey. He mentioned his intentions of returning with his family and desire to speak with his cousins about putting a headstone on their ancestor's plot which he had been shown.



REDRESS:



NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

The National Redress Scheme (NRS) was recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It was set up to acknowledge the harm done to people who have experienced child sexual abuse while in care.

The NRS can provide three things:

- *counselling for those who were sexually abused in Australian institutions*
- *a personal response or apology*
- *a Redress payment*

TERRITORIES STOLEN GENERATIONS REDRESS SCHEME

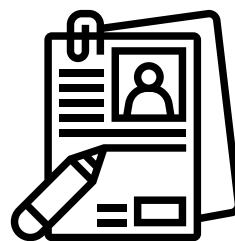
The Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme provides support to Stolen Generations survivors who were removed from their families or communities, and whose removal took place in the:

- *Northern Territory, before 1 July 1978 or*
- *Australian Capital Territory, before 11 May 1989 or*
- *Jervis Bay Territory.*

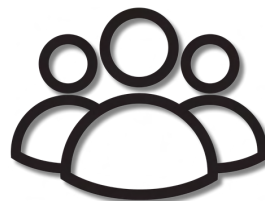
NATIONAL REDRESS UPDATE:

The Redress counsellor and Caseworker attended several RSS workshops in different regions, including Fairfield and Albury/Wodonga in New South Wales. They also participated in several important meetings including NSW/ACT Redress Support Services (RSS) Community of Practice Meeting, NSW/ACT Redress Support Services Network Meeting, ACT/NSW Bimonthly Meeting and the National Redress Scheme DSS Bi-Monthly.

Additionally, outreach efforts were made in areas such as the Central Coast, Far Western regions, Armidale, and Port Macquarie to connect with individuals and groups who may need assistance or information regarding Redress Support Services.



10 New Applications



77 Current Clients



10 Client Outreach Visits

TERRITORIES REDRESS UPDATE:

Link-Up [NSW] Aboriginal Corporation's Redress Caseworker, Stephen Fields and Territories Redress Caseworker, Robert Leslie visited the Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre, where they met with Director Rosie Lovelock. Rosie explained her work connecting Aboriginal people in the area to their families and showed them two books that help individuals trace their family histories.

Upon learning that Link-Up [NSW] shares this key role, Rosie expressed interest in collaborating with them to assist each other. During the visit, they also learned about a program helping young people identify their connections to tribes and totems.

Robert Leslie suggested adapting this program for a men's group in Penrith, and Aboriginal Elder Bob Blair, who was present, agreed.



YOUTH AND COMMUNITY:



FAMILY LINK UPDATES:

The Family Link Program assist Aboriginal youth and children that are at risk of entering or already within Out-of-home-care (OOHC) statewide (NSW). Dedicated research provides Kinship, Family Contact and Cultural information linking them to families, country, and community, ensuring a sense of social, emotional, and physical well-being.

Link-Up [NSW] works closely with Birth Deaths and Marriages NSW (BDM NSW), Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and other peak research bodies.

TARGETTED EARLY INTERVENTION:

Link-Up [NSW] employ a Targeted Early Intervention Caseworkers (TEI) and Cultural Partnership Coordinator to build links with Aboriginal Families, Children, young people, and communities to have access to culturally safe support and services to promote culture, strong communities, and self-determination.

FAMILY LINK UPDATE:

Through collaboration with various partners, including the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), the Family Link team has seen a steady flow of referrals. To date, the team has successfully completed family history research for 30 young individuals. With an average of 16 referrals per month, it is evident that the demand for these services is high, highlighting the importance of this work in the lives of young people in care.

The Family Link team is comprised of a dedicated group of six researchers who work tirelessly to track down family histories and



ensure that all family lines are researched thoroughly. They utilise a variety of resources to gather information, including web pages, external organisations, books, and registers.

The research conducted by the Family Link team is not just about finding names and dates; it's about providing young people with the knowledge that helps them feel seen, heard, and valued.



TARGETTED EARLY INTERVENTION

As the new Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) caseworker, Vickie Mason brings a wealth of knowledge and skills from her background in education, health, and the community sectors. Her expertise uniquely positions her to make a significant impact in the lives of individuals and families in Western Sydney, an area known for its cultural diversity and socio-economic challenges.

Targeted early intervention is about identifying potential issues early on and providing the right support to prevent those challenges from escalating. With her experience, Vickie is well-equipped to recognise early signs of difficulties in children, families, and communities. Her understanding of the local Western Sydney community and the community sector enables her to engage with local services and resources to offer holistic support and deliver effective interventions.

The knowledge that Vickie holds will help her tailor interventions that are culturally sensitive and relevant, ensuring they meet the specific needs of the community to strengthen families in Western Sydney, ultimately promoting better outcomes for children and young people.



ORGANISATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



LINK-UP [NSW] ABORIGINAL CORPORATION CEO: MAX DUNCAN

Link-Up [NSW] Aboriginal Corporation is proud to welcome Max Duncan as our new CEO; marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the organisation.

Max brings with him a wealth of experience, leadership, and a deep understanding of the importance of culturally safe and respectful practices in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. His professional background and dedication will significantly strengthen our ongoing commitment to supporting Stolen Generations survivors on their healing journeys.

With a strong commitment to advocacy, community engagement, and organisational development, Max's leadership will be instrumental in guiding Link-Up [NSW] as we continue to grow and evolve in supporting of our clients and communities.

We are confident that his vision and guidance will empower our team and enhance the support we provide, ensuring that the voices and stories of Stolen Generations survivors remain at the heart of everything we do.

As we look to the future, we are excited for the direction Link-Up [NSW] will take under Max's stewardship and the positive impact his leadership will bring to not only the organisation, but to our Stolen Generations and broader community.



Max Duncan (Left) with Link-Up [NSW] Aboriginal Corporation Chair Person Aunty Lizzy May (Right)



FILMING OF THE LINK-UP [NSW] DOCUMENTARY

Over the weekend of February 14–17, 2025, Link-Up [NSW] Aboriginal Corporation hosted a meaningful retreat on Dharug land at Wisemans Ferry for Stolen Generations survivors who were invited to share their personal stories about their experiences as part of The Stolen Generation. These stories were captured and documented by the talented team at Earthstar Productions as part of the Link-Up [NSW] documentary.

This documentary will not only serve as a tool for healing, but will also be used for educational purposes, offering valuable insights into the experiences of the Stolen Generations and the impact of past government policies. It will provide a firsthand account of how these policies affected the Stolen Generation survivors, families and communities.

In addition to the filming of the documentary, all attendees were Welcomed on Dharug country, which included a Welcome Dance and Smoking Ceremony, by Djirabitty Dancers. Attendees also enjoyed the soothing music of Edgar Conlon, who travelled from Queensland specifically to honour the late Uncle Archie Roach with a beautiful acoustic rendition of his song “Took the Children Away” and candle and scented room spray making which was facilitated by Aunty Sylvia Barramarrany.

We look forward to sharing more information and updates throughout the coming months about the documentary.

LINK-UP [NSW] HEADS TO DUBBO, NSW

On Monday 17th February 2025, Link-Up [NSW] Aboriginal Corporation CEO, Max Duncan, and staff members, Krystle and Samantha, travelled to Dubbo, NSW to connect with local services and finalise details for Link-Up [NSW]'s upcoming Community Outreach Event in May 2025. During their visit, they collaborated with the Dubbo Regional Council to successfully secure Victoria Park as the venue for the event.

They engaged with several local services, establishing ongoing communication for future collaboration.

Visits to the Aboriginal Legal Service –
Aboriginal Child & Family Advocacy Service,
Dubbo Regional Aboriginal Medical Service



and Dhubu-Gu Local Aboriginal Land Council were important in extending Link-Up [NSW]'s outreach efforts in regional areas. Building strong connections with these local services is essential for fostering collaboration, ensuring the needs of the community are met, and strengthening support networks for future initiatives.

The team also visited the local radio stations, 2DUAM and ZOO FM, to spread the word about Link-Up [NSW] Aboriginal Corporation's initiatives and upcoming events.

Link-Up [NSW] is excited to host its Outreach Community Day on Wiradjuri country in Dubbo this coming May and looks forward to strengthening connections with the local community and services.

UPCOMING EVENTS



2025

COOEE FESTIVAL

WITH MC ISAAC COMPTON

TROY CASSAR-DALEY ◦ BARKAA ◦ KOBIE DEE
MI-KAISHA ◦ JARROD HICKLING

SATURDAY
24 MAY
2025

PETER VAN HASSELT PARK
SHALVEY NSW
10AM - 4PM



LINK-UP [NSW]
Aboriginal Corporation

TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE DHARUG PEOPLE



KEMPSEY COMMUNITY OUTREACH DAY 2025

**A LINK-UP [NSW]
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
EVENT**



MORE DETAILS COMING SOON...

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



LINK-UP [NSW] ABORIGINAL CORPORATION: ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL APOLOGY EVENT

Kevin Rudd's National Apology to the Stolen Generations was delivered on February 13, 2008. In this apology, the then Prime Minister expressed deep regret on behalf of the Australian government for the policies and actions that led to the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

Kevin Rudd's National Apology was a moment in the history of this country that served to acknowledge the injustice done to the Stolen Generations, promote healing, and encourage reconciliation.

Link-Up [NSW] Aboriginal Corporation hosted our annual National Apology Anniversary Event, this year taking the event to Mount Druitt Community Hall on February 13, 2025. The event allowed us to come together with the local community and organisations to watch Kevin Rudd's National Apology to the Stolen Generations and mourn the effects of past Government policies.

The day began at 10:00 AM with a powerful Welcome to Country by Rhiannon Wright, followed by a Smoking Ceremony led by Jessy McKinless. Our CEO, Max Duncan, along with Will Cooper from the Healing Foundation, spoke meaningfully to the community before the Yangkay Cultural Connect Dancers took to the stage.



Following the meaningful speeches and performances, a replay Kevin Rudd's apology was shown for all attendees of the event. This served as a moment for everyone to pay their respects to the Stolen Generations and reflect on the pain and suffering that was caused.

The event was once again a meaningful and successful gathering for all involved, concluding with a BBQ lunch allowing for the Mt Druitt community to come together.





YABUN FESTIVAL

On Sunday, 26 January, Link-Up [NSW] staff had the honor of attending the Yabun Festival for the first time, where we had the opportunity to promote our services and upcoming events, including the COOEE Festival.

Our team engaged with the community throughout the day, building connections and distributing merchandise. With an incredible amount of community-engagement, attending Yabun opened the door for Link-Up [NSW] to build and strengthen connections with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Despite the day's significance as a time of mourning, it was truly moving to witness the unity and solidarity of the community.



NGROO: DOONSIDE PS COMMUNITY INFO DAY

Link-Up [NSW] Aboriginal Corporation staff members, Lachlan and Sheraya, attended the Doonside Public School Community Information Day hosted by NGROO Education Aboriginal Corporation on Tuesday, 18 February 2025.

The Information Day allowed our staff to connect and build relationships with the community and other services in the Doonside area while also promoting the services we provide and giving out some free Link-Up [NSW] branded merchandise.

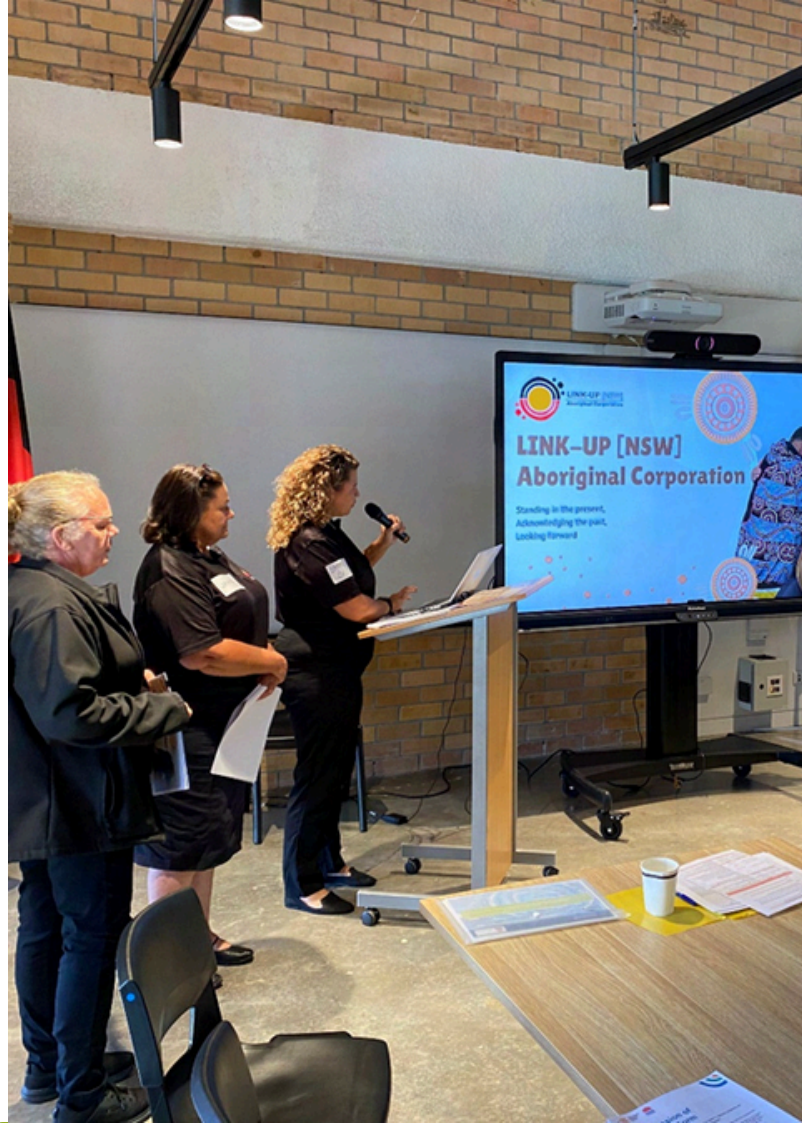
NGALIYARRALA NG YIYURA DAY

On Tuesday, 18th March, Link-Up [NSW] was invited to attend Ngaliyarralang Yiyura Day (“Our Mob”) hosted by DV West.

Our staff members, Samantha, Jayne and Karen, presented to attendees; sharing information about our programs and services with local community and organisations in Western Sydney.

The provided a platform for organisations to talk about their services, connect with one another, share stories, and celebrate culture.

It was an excellent opportunity to engage with the community and local organisations.



INTERNATIONAL WOMAN’S DAY MORNING TEA

On Saturday 8th March, GWS Ngaliya Project Coordinator, Krystle and Project Officer Lachlan-James, attended the International Woman’s Day Morning Tea – Mount Druitt Police at Mount Druitt Westfields.

The Morning Tea allowed our staff to interact, connect and build relationships with the community and other services in the Mount Druitt area.



Donna Carroll
Senior Redress Counsellor

STAFF PROFILE



My name is Donna Carroll, and I am a proud Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi woman, born and raised in Sydney, NSW. My heart is deeply connected to my family, culture, and heritage, and I am passionate about giving back to my Aboriginal community.

With over 20 years of experience in Community Services, I have had the privilege of working across both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal services, supporting families and children through various roles. From Disability Family Support Coordinator and Early Intervention, to Carer Support, Advocacy, Case Management, and Youth Work, I have been dedicated to improving the lives of others, particularly through running TEI Cultural Support programs.

For the past two years, I have been a part of Link-Up [NSW] as the National Redress Scheme – Redress Senior Counsellor. In this role, I am honored to help my community on their healing journey, providing support, care, and advocacy, while working to strengthen community connections and promote healing.

I am deeply committed to ensuring my mob has the resources and support they need to thrive, and I continue to advocate for positive change within my community.

**“Guided by our
ancestors, fueled
by community
and driven by
love of the land.”**



LINK-UP [NSW]
Aboriginal Corporation

About Link-Up [NSW]

Link-Up [NSW] Aboriginal Corporation has been reuniting Stolen Generations Members with family, community, culture and identity since 1980. Today, our services expand beyond reuniting clients; seeing us conducting family history research and identifying culture for our kids in out of home care to embed a sense of identity and belonging. Building strength in our communities, as well as counselling and addressing trauma in our people. We offer mentors, self-empowerment and always strive to prove that the Aboriginal community can do more than “just survive”!

Contact Us



1800 624 332
(not free for mobile phones)



(02) 9421 4700



(02) 9673 4740



linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au



www.linkupnsw.org.au



4/2 Central Place, Ropes Crossing
NSW 2760



PO Box 185
St Marys NSW 2760

Social Media
@linkupNSW



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