







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:



# HAMPSON REUNION

ARMIDALE, NEW SOUTH WALES





A family reunion for Ricky Hampson was held in Armidale on Aniwan Country from Wednesday, 30 April to Friday, 2 May 2025. During the reunion, Ricky was joyfully reunited with three of his paternal cousins Kay, Rhonda, and John.

The reunion began at the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place, where the group was welcomed by Uncle Steve Widders, a highly respected local Elder, and Shaun Cohan, who delivered the Welcome to Country and led a smoking ceremony.

Uncle Steve is a gifted speaker who took the time to connect personally with attendees as they introduced themselves and shared their family histories. He also gave a rich and informative history of the Keeping Place and spoke about the cultural significance of the area.

Following the ceremony, the group moved to a private space for family research discussions and conversations about their ancestors' roles in supporting and leading local Aboriginal communities.

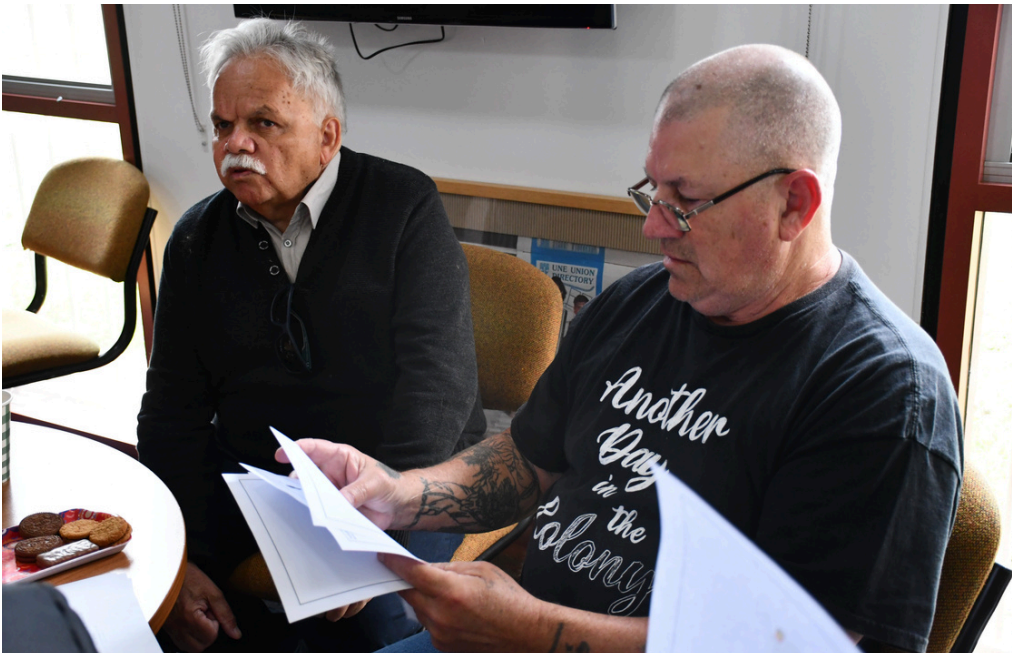
Ricky and his cousins engaged in a heartfelt conversation with Uncle Steve, while other participants observed. Ricky experienced a mix of emotions where at times he felt overwhelmed, but also deeply excited particularly when new discoveries were made through family research.

With Ricky's permission, Uncle Steve shared his family tree with other Elders attending an art session. Afterward, the group went for lunch. Following lunch, everyone was invited on a guided tour of the Cultural Centre and Keeping Place, led by the Centre's CEO, Aunt Pat Roselock.

Later, Ricky, Kay, Rhonda, and John visited the local cemetery to visit and pay their respects at family graves.

Before departing, Ricky sincerely thanked the Link-Up NSW staff for their efforts, sharing that it had been one of the best days of his life and that he had learned more about his family than he ever imagined.







# 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:*

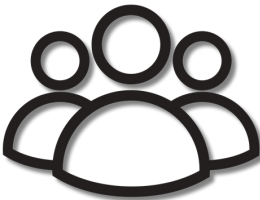
- *Northern Territory, before 1 July 1978 or*
- *Australian Capital Territory, before 11 May 1989 or*
- *Jervis Bay Territory.*



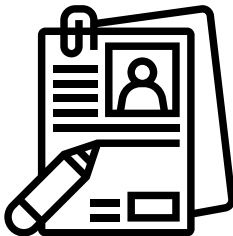
# NATIONAL REDRESS UPDATE:

The Redress Counsellor and Caseworker attended the RSS Workshop in Coffs Harbour and participated in several key sector meetings, including the NSW/ACT RSS Community of Practice, NSW/ACT RSS Network, ACT/NSW Bimonthly, and DSS Bi-Monthly meetings. These engagements supported professional development, collaboration, and updates on the National Redress Scheme.

Outreach activities were also conducted in Port Macquarie, Taree, Grafton, and Coffs Harbour to connect with individuals and groups who may need assistance from programs such as Redress Support Services.



78 Total Applicants



12 Applications in process



# YOUTH AND COMMUNITY:



## FAMILY LINK UPDATES & MORE

*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] employs a Targeted Early Intervention Caseworker (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:

The Family Link team delivers vital family history research services for young people in Out-of-Home Care, referred through the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).

Throughout this quarter, the team has demonstrated a strong commitment to service delivery, successfully completing 43 referrals. Notably, the confirmation of Aboriginality rate has reached 20%, reflecting a 3% increase over the past 12 months. This progress highlights the team's continuous efforts to strengthen identity outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people in care.

While the majority of referrals continue to be received from DCJ - particularly from the Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains districts - there has been a notable rise in referrals from ACCOs, a trend we anticipate will continue as more young persons are transitioned from DCJ and NGOs to ACCOs. In addition to their core responsibilities, the professional development of team members remains a priority.

Two senior Family Link researchers have recently completed their final examinations for the Society of Australian Genealogists' Certificate of Genealogy. Another team member has recently commenced the course, reinforcing our commitment to maintaining high standards of research expertise and cultural integrity in our work.

The team's dedication and ongoing development directly support better outcomes for Aboriginal young people in care, by helping them build stronger connections to family, culture, and Country.





# TEI UPDATE:

The Link-Up [NSW] TEI Case Worker has been actively engaging with community members and services to build strong, culturally respectful relationships that enhance support for young people, their families, and the broader community.

A key initiative currently in development is the “Footsteps to a Healthier Me – Cooking on a Budget” program. This eight-week program is designed to support young mothers and community members by transforming their favourite recipes into healthier, budget-friendly alternatives. The initiative aims to promote improved health and wellbeing through practical, culturally relevant education around nutrition and meal preparation.



In addition to developing this program, the TEI Case Worker is working collaboratively with other Link-Up [NSW] staff to strengthen community engagement and service delivery across Western Sydney and the Nepean Blue Mountains regions. These efforts continue to foster connection, empowerment, and support within Aboriginal communities through a holistic approach.





# CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS CO-ORDINATOR:

The Cultural Partnership Coordinator continues to play a vital role in enhancing cultural knowledge and awareness, both within Link-Up [NSW] and across the wider community.

Recently, the Cultural Partnership Coordinator attended several key events aimed at promoting the education and understanding of Aboriginal culture. Notably, they participated in a youth luncheon at Parliament House, Sydney, where they shared cultural insights and experiences with emerging young Aboriginal leaders, contributing to the development of the next generation.



In their ongoing role, the Cultural Partnership Coordinator provides cultural mentoring and guidance to Link-Up [NSW] staff, ensuring that services are delivered in a culturally safe, informed, and respectful manner.

As a respected Elder, the Cultural Partnership Coordinator holds a position of significant influence not only within the Western Sydney region but also across broader NSW communities. Their contributions are instrumental in preserving cultural knowledge, fostering identity, and promoting connection to Country for Aboriginal clients and communities.





# NSW PARLIAMENT YOUNG ABORIGINAL LEADER CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

The Cultural Partnership Coordinator, alongside our GWS Ngaliya Project Coordinator, was honoured to be invited to attend the celebration luncheon for the Young Aboriginal Leaders Program at the Parliament of NSW this past Friday.

Developed as part of the Bicentenary of the Legislative Council celebrations, the program was designed to empower and further inspire young Indigenous leaders through culturally grounded experiences, connection, and learning, and was completed by 20 exceptional young Aboriginal leaders from across the state, each of whom brought their own voice, strength, and vision for the future.

Link-Up [NSW] is committed to supporting and walking alongside emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders. Events like this align strongly with the purpose of the GWS Ngaliya Project - building partnerships, strengthening cultural identity, and nurturing leadership within our communities. Celebrating these young leaders reminds us of the importance of investing in future generations to ensure they are equipped, connected, and empowered to lead the way forward.





# ORGANISATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



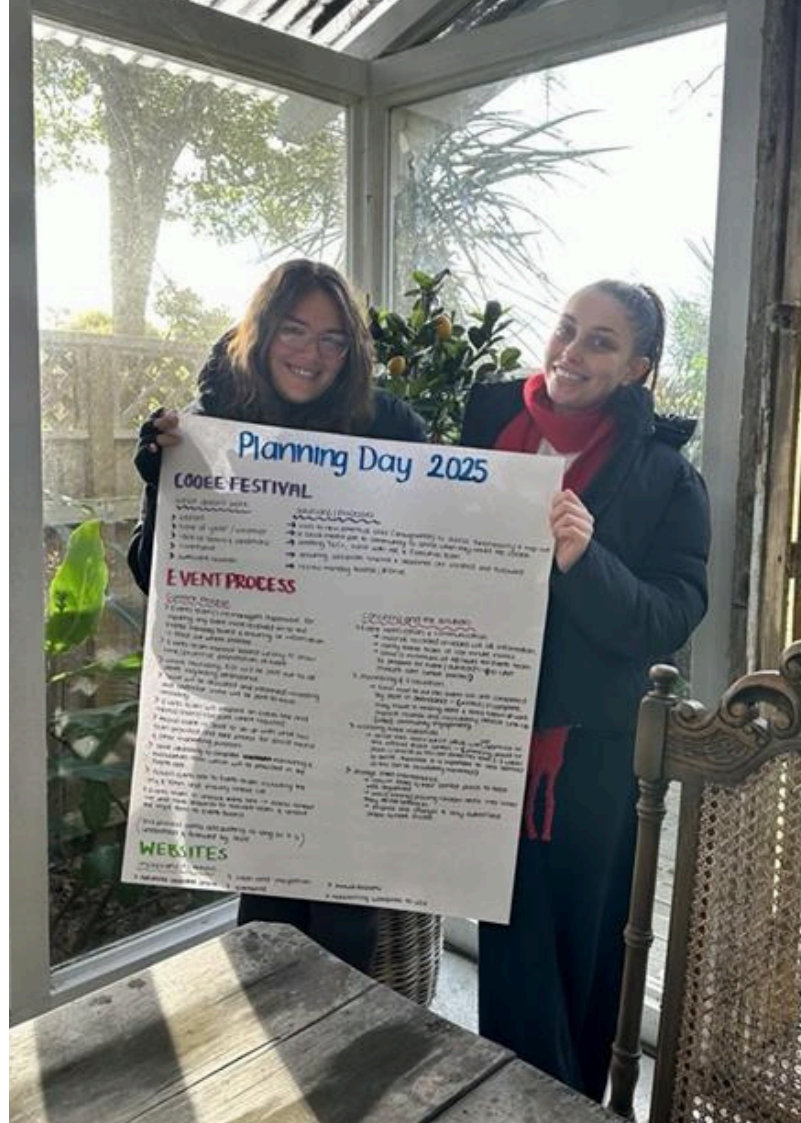


# TEAM PLANNING DAYS

Link-Up [NSW] staff came together for a planning day with their respective teams as an opportunity for strengthening our shared vision, aligning team goals, and ensuring our services remain responsive and culturally grounded.

These planning days provided space for open dialogue, strategic thinking, and continued commitment, which are all critical to the continual improvement of our work. Most importantly, they reaffirm our dedication to supporting the healing journey of our Stolen Generations and broader community.

Through collective planning, we honour the past, listen to the present, and build a stronger future for those we support.





# HISTORIC SIGNING OF TACCO AND TRC MARA NGALI AGREEMENT

In May, our Link-Up [NSW] CEO, GWS Ngaliya Project Coordinator, and Cultural Partnerships Coordinator travelled to Tamworth to witness the historic signing of the Mara Ngali Partnership Agreement between Tamworth Regional Council and the Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (TACCO).

Held on Gomeroi Country on May 9, this agreement marks the first time in Australian history that a local council and an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation have formally partnered to advance Closing the Gap goals.

Meaning "our two hands" in Gomeroi language, Mara Ngali symbolises collaboration and shared leadership in driving better outcomes in health, education, housing, employment, cultural recognition, and community wellbeing.

"We're setting the path forward and I believe this approach will become the standard across local governments." Cr Marc Sutherland, Gomeroi man and Tamworth Councillor.

We were honoured to support TACCO in this groundbreaking initiative and are inspired to pursue similar partnerships with councils in Western Sydney.



**“The Mara Ngali agreement is historically significant, not just locally, but nationally.”**

**Aunty Catherine Trindall, TACCO Board Member**





## MALA MUDYIN MENS GROUP

The Mala Mudyin Aboriginal Men's Group is a culturally safe space for Aboriginal men to come together, share stories, support one another, and strengthen their connection to culture, community, and Country.

Held on the last Friday of every month, the group provides opportunities for men of all ages to participate in a range of activities including yarning circles, cultural workshops, guest speakers, men's health and wellbeing sessions. It's a place where respect, identity, and brotherhood are at the core.

Mala Mudyin encourages healing through connection, offering a supportive environment to talk about challenges, celebrate achievements, and walk alongside each other on the journey of life, culture, and empowerment.

Whether you're seeking cultural reconnection, community involvement, or simply a place to yarn, Mala Mudyin is open and welcoming to all Aboriginal men in our community.



# PENRITH AND MOUNT DRUITT NSW CAPO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION

On May 1, 2025 and May 20, 2025, representatives from Link-Up [NSW] were proud to support and assist in the facilitation of the NSW CAPO Community Engagement Sessions held in Mt Druitt and Penrith.

These sessions play a critical role in strengthening the connection between government and community by providing a culturally safe and accessible space for Aboriginal people to engage directly with the progress of Closing the Gap initiatives. Attendees were given the opportunity to hear important updates on the work being led by NSW CAPO and its member organisations, as well as share their own lived experiences, concerns, and ideas for shaping better outcomes at the grassroots level.

Link-Up [NSW] values its ongoing partnership with NSW CAPO and recognises the importance of community voice in informing policy and practice. Both events were well attended and sparked meaningful dialogue, with community members contributing insights that highlighted local strengths, challenges, and aspirations. The sessions also served as an opportunity to build deeper local networks and foster ongoing collaboration between services, community leaders, and families.

We thank NSW CAPO for inviting us to be part



of these vital sessions and commend the community for showing up and making their voices heard. It is through continued engagement like this that we move closer to achieving real, lasting change for our people.



# UPCOMING EVENTS







**LINK-UP [NSW]**  
**Aboriginal Corporation**

# LINK-UP [NSW]

## 45TH ANNIVERSARY

## GALA DINNER

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CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF  
REUNITING THE STOLEN GENERATIONS

**SATURDAY**

**18 OCTOBER 2025**

**6:00PM - 11:00PM**

WESTERN SYDNEY CONFERENCE CENTRE  
MULGOA ROAD, PENRITH 2750

8 SEATS PER TABLE  
3 COURSE MEAL PROVIDED  
SOFT DRINKS PROVIDED



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT







## DUBBO COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Link-Up [NSW] held a successful Community Outreach Day at Victoria Park, Dubbo on Saturday, 3 May 2025. We want to thank the Dubbo community and surrounding regions for the warm welcome and incredible turnout. The day was filled with cultural pride, highlighted by powerful performances from local dancers, Dinawans Dancers and engaging live entertainment that brought the park to life.

A special thank you to Aunty Sandra Riley and Uncle Ralph for her powerful welcome and smoking on to beautiful Wiradjuri country, plus all the service providers who joined us. Your presence and support made the event truly meaningful. This Outreach Day was more than a gathering. It was a day filled with connection, culture, and community.

Events like these are vital to the work of Link-Up [NSW] as they strengthen relationships, increase access to support for the community and reaffirm our ongoing commitment to the healing journey of our Stolen Generations and Aboriginal communities.

Link-Up [NSW] is looking forward to going back to Dubbo in the future to continue to engage with the community.







# DARAMU COMMUNITY CONNECTION HUB

Link-Up [NSW] staff members, Lachlan and Tania, had the pleasure of attending the Daramu Community Connection Hub event. It is a fantastic initiative that brought together a range of services and organisations in one space to support our community.

The day provided a valuable opportunity for community members to connect directly with support services, gather information, and engage in meaningful conversations around health, wellbeing, education, housing, and more. The event was well attended, with a strong community presence and plenty of cultural pride on display.

It was great to see so many organisations working together to deliver holistic and culturally safe support to our people. Events like this play a vital role in breaking down barriers and strengthening community ties.

Link-Up [NSW] is looking forward to being part of future Daramu Hub days and continuing to walk alongside our community.





# RECONCILIATION WALK

Link-Up [NSW] staff members Taylah and Mary attended Mt Druitt Reconciliation Walk on Saturday, 7 June.

Attending the walk allowed our staff to interact, connect and build relationships with the community and other services in the Mount Druitt area while coming together to honour the importance of Reconciliation, acknowledge the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and support ongoing healing and unity.



## KINGSWOOD PARK PS NAIDOC

Link-Up [NSW] staff members Uncle Dennis and Vickie attended NAIDOC Celebrations held at Kingswood Park Public School on Friday, 26 June.

Uncle Dennis showed the children his collection of artefacts, sharing their names, purposes, and the history behind them while Vickie handed out flyers and free Link-Up [NSW] merchandise.

The Children and Community enjoyed learning about traditional Aboriginal artefacts.



*Taylah Saunders*  
*Events & Media Administrator*

# STAFF PROFILE





My name is Taylah Saunders, and I proudly have connections to Darkinjung Mob. I was born and raised in Western Sydney on Dharug land.

I was fortunate enough to complete my education in 2021, and since then have worked management roles in retail as well as in the banking industry. In these roles I found very little fulfillment and always felt a strong pull towards community - work that had a meaningful impact and allowed me to connect to my roots.

I found my feet at Link-Up [NSW] in January of 2024, and since have strengthened my connection to my culture, community and sense of belonging. I have not only had the opportunity to grow professionally but also culturally.

At Link-Up, I am proud to play a part - no matter how small - in helping our Mob reconnect with family, Country, and culture. I find fulfilment in contributing to an organisation that does such critical and healing work. Through assisting in the organisation of events and outreach opportunities, we are able to share the services we offer with Mob, while also creating safe spaces for cultural celebration, remembrance, and unity.

Being a part of this work is more than just a job to me - it's a way to honour my ancestors, give back to my community, and help the Stolen Generations find their path home.





**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***



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