



**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**

# LINK-UP [NSW] ABORIGINAL CORPORATION CEO: Lynne Kinghan

On behalf of Link-Up NSW Aboriginal Corporation, our Board of Directors, and our dedicated team, I warmly welcome you to our July-September newsletter. I acknowledge that our work takes place on the traditional lands of Aboriginal Nations across New South Wales.

I pay my deepest respects to Elders past and present, and to the emerging leaders who continue to guide us into the future with strength, wisdom, and courage. I also extend heartfelt acknowledgement to members of the Stolen Generations, whose connections to Country, community, and culture were so painfully interrupted. The journey to reclaim identity, healing, and belonging has been long and difficult, and we are truly honoured to walk beside you.

Our programs continue to provide professional, confidential, and culturally safe research and wellbeing services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by past removal policies - supporting survivors and descendants of the Stolen Generations on their journey home. We also provide research and support for Aboriginal youth and children at risk of entering out-of-home care, and our Targeted Early Intervention program strengthens links between Aboriginal families, children, and communities. Through these programs, and by assisting clients with applications for the National Redress Scheme and the Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme, we continue to advocate for the Stolen Generations and Aboriginal peoples across NSW.

In July, our team proudly attended more than 15 NAIDOC events across our communities, celebrating 50 years of honouring the next generations of Indigenous leaders. This year's theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy," highlighted the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples while looking ahead to a bright and united future. Also in July, our staff came together for our annual retreat, themed around the 1980s, where we enjoyed games, team building, trivia, and creative activities that strengthened connection, collaboration, and understanding.

This quarter also marked the completion of our Stolen Generations documentary, a truth-telling project where courageous clients shared their stories so all Australians can hear the truth. Produced with great care by Fran Dobbie and Earthstar Productions, the film will be released in 2026 alongside a ten-part truth-telling series on our social media platforms.

As we move into the final quarter of 2025, our Events Team is preparing for our 45th Anniversary Gala Dinner on 18 October, a special evening that will honour the resilience, strength, and enduring spirit of our people. We would be honoured if you could join us. In October we will also host the National Leadership Group biannual meeting, bringing together leaders from Link-Up Services across Australia to strengthen collaboration and advance shared priorities for the Stolen Generations.

Our team was also active in key sector forums this quarter, including the Absec Forum in August, which focused on "Building Bridges and Collaboration for Community Impact," and the First Nations Women's Leadership and Legacy Summit in Sydney during September. Both events provided opportunities for learning, leadership, and strengthening voices for change.

As I close this message, I acknowledge with respect that many Stolen Generations survivors are still waiting to go home. We honour those who are not yet reunited, and we remember those who never made it home.

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# REUNIONS:



# GARVEN REUNION

MOREE NEW SOUTH WALES





On Friday, 22nd September 2025, the reunion of Sharyn Garven held in Moree, New South Wales. The reunion began with a smoking ceremony at the Moree Cemetery, where Uncle Lloyd welcomed everyone to Country and joined Brother Paul and the Link-Up [NSW] team in locating family graves. Flowers were placed on an unmarked family grave before the group travelled to Mungindi.

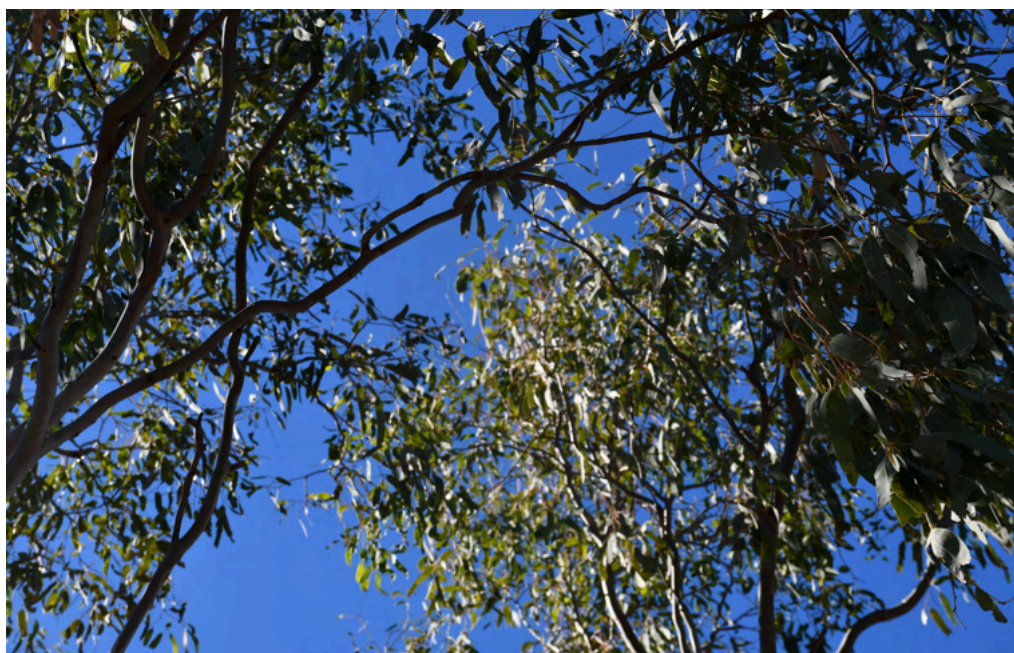
At the Mungindi Local Aboriginal Land Council, Brother Paul shared cultural knowledge through a walk and talk. The family then enjoyed lunch and joined a Family Research Activity with Link-Up [NSW] researcher Patrice via phone call, where Sharyn was excited to learn more about her family tree.

The day concluded with the presentation of Link-Up merchandise and a boomerang symbolising reconnection with Country. Before returning to Moree, the family stopped for a photo at a roadside log marked "Mungindi."

Back in Moree, the group toured local sites, learning about the Top Mission and Bottom Mission communities, and concluded the day with a shared dinner together.

The reunion wrapped up the following morning, with everyone reflecting on two full and emotional days that successfully reconnected Sharyn and her family with Country.











# 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

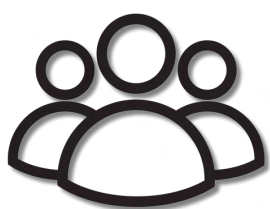
*The Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme provides support to Stolen Generations survivors who were removed from their families or communities, and whose removal took place in the:*

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

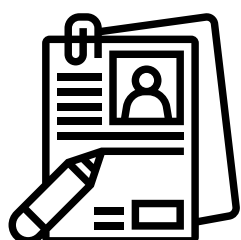
# NATIONAL REDRESS UPDATE:

Over the past period, the Redress Caseworker and Redress Counsellor continued to support both clients and applicants through targeted outreach and active participation in sector meetings. Outreach visits were conducted in Tamworth, Port Macquarie, Grafton, Cessnock, Gorokan, and Wards River, allowing the team to engage directly with local communities, build referral pathways, and provide face-to-face support where needed.

In addition to outreach, both staff participated in a number of key sector meetings, including the NSW/ACT Redress Support Services Community of Practice and Network Meetings, the ACT/NSW Bimonthly Meeting for the National Redress Scheme, and the Department of Social Services (DSS) Bi-Monthly Meeting. These forums provided valuable opportunities to collaborate with other services, stay informed of national developments, and advocate for improved outcomes for survivors.



83 Total Applicants



16 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 continues to play a critical role in supporting young people in Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) by providing detailed, evidence-based family history research that strengthens identity, belonging, and cultural connection. This work is especially significant for Aboriginal young people, as it supports confirmation of Aboriginality and creates pathways to cultural knowledge and reconnection. Research traces a child's parental lines as far back as possible, with all findings and supporting evidence provided to the referring agency. When Aboriginality is confirmed, the team shares relevant cultural details, such as totems (e.g., the gonna totem for the Wiradjuri mob) and Country information.

Referrals are consistently received from caseworkers across the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), non-government organisations (NGOs), and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), reflecting strong confidence in the team's expertise and commitment.

This year, the team welcomed a new researcher, Ben, whose passion and dedication have already made a positive impact. He completed his first case within a month, enabling the team to operate at full capacity and improve their ability to manage growing referral numbers.

To date, the team has received 28 referrals and finalised 21 cases, with 36% resulting in confirmed Aboriginality. These outcomes highlight the team's thorough research and vital role in preserving cultural identity in the OOHC system.



Beyond research, the team values reflection, planning, and relationship-building. A recent planning day allowed them to review progress, celebrate achievements, and set future priorities through open discussion and innovative thinking. Additionally, a team-building luncheon helped strengthen professional relationships, build trust, and acknowledge collective efforts—fostering a unified, motivated team dedicated to delivering the best outcomes for children and young people in OOHC.





## TEI UPDATE:

The Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) program provides proactive support, education, and referral pathways for at-risk young people and their families, aiming to strengthen protective factors, build resilience, and promote culturally informed engagement.

This year, the program expanded its community reach, continuing school-based education and introducing a Cooking on a Budget initiative for parents and grandparents.

Collaboration with local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) has enhanced the program's impact. Participants accessed health checks via a health bus before and after the program, and yarning sessions were incorporated to focus on self-care, social and emotional wellbeing, and referral information. These holistic supports address both practical needs and emotional and cultural wellbeing, strengthening family and community connections.

Looking ahead, the TEI worker is organising a youth camp in Dubbo for 16 participants aged 12–15. Open to both male and female attendees, the camp will provide cultural education, traditional practices, and opportunities for mentorship, identity-building, and positive peer relationships. Through these initiatives, the TEI program continues to build resilience, support families, and help young people make positive life choices.



# ORGANISATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS





# LINK-UP [NSW] ANNUAL STAFF RETREAT

From Wednesday 23 to Friday 25 July, the Link-Up [NSW] team gathered for our annual staff retreat at the beautiful Kalinya Estate in Bargo, NSW. This retreat is a valuable opportunity for our staff to step away from the office, focus on team building, and connect with culture.

We began with a heartfelt Acknowledgement of Country and Smoking Ceremony led by Raymond Weatherall, who shared a powerful and thought-provoking message that set the tone for the days ahead.

The first day continued with a creative session designing team shirts in preparation for the Traditional Indigenous Games and trivia. These activities encouraged connection, creativity, and some friendly competition among staff.

The afternoon saw a calming shift into wellness and reflection during a Traditional Healing Workshop with Deb Munson from Baagi Milaygiin, who guided staff through self-care practices rooted in cultural knowledge.

Day two opened with the Traditional Indigenous Games. Traditional Indigenous Games are interactive activities based on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practices once used to teach survival skills, strength, agility, social cohesion and also a deeper understanding of cultural knowledge systems. They offer valuable educational insight into the diverse ways Indigenous communities passed down traditions and taught younger generations through play.



Retreats like this are more than just a break from our everyday routine. They are an investment in the wellbeing of our staff. They strengthen our team, deepen our cultural competency, and ensure we return to our work re-energised and grounded in the purpose that drives Link-Up [NSW] which is supporting Stolen Generations survivors and their families on their journey of healing with cultural pride, compassion, and respect.







# WALL OF STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

During NAIDOC Week 2025, Penrith Community Corrections hosted the Wall of Strength, Vision and Legacy. This was a special installation celebrating the NAIDOC theme “The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy.”

The display honoured Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, advocates, and organisations making significant contributions to justice, equity, cultural preservation, and community wellbeing.

We are pleased to share that two Link-Up [NSW] staff members, Krystle and Bob, were proudly recognised for their outstanding community work, particularly within the NSW CAPO space.

Congratulations Krystle and Bob!



# NSW CAPO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Between June and August 2025, the Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (CAPO) conducted a series of Community Engagement Sessions across New South Wales. Locations included Queanbeyan, Wollongong, Ballina, Lismore, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera, Kempsey, and Taree. Attendance varied between sessions, ranging from six participants to approximately 50, and included a diverse mix of community members and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).

These engagement sessions were undertaken as part of CAPO's responsibilities under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The sessions provided opportunities to share information with local Aboriginal communities, receive feedback on implementation, and ensure community input informed Joint Decision-Making Bodies, state and national priorities, and Implementation Plans.

Discussion at the sessions focused on key priority reforms outlined in the National Agreement. These included partnership and shared decision-making, strengthening the Aboriginal community-controlled sector, transforming government systems, improving data access and transparency, and advancing employment and economic prosperity.

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap includes a range of accountability mechanisms to track progress and outcomes. These mechanisms include annual progress reports tabled in parliament, Jurisdictional Partnership Forums in New South Wales involving Aboriginal peak bodies, and independent monitoring through the Productivity Commission and Aboriginal-led reviews.





# FOOTSTEPS TO A HEALTHIER ME

Footsteps to a Healthier Me was a friendly and practical cooking program designed particularly for busy mothers in our community. It featured easy, nutritious recipes that fit into hectic schedules. More than just cooking, this program was a great way to meet new people, share ideas, and learn time-saving kitchen tips and techniques. Whether you're looking to cook smarter or just want to connect with others on the same journey, this program helped to take simple steps toward a healthier, more connected life.





# 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







## NAIDOC WEEK 2025 - THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION AND LEGACY

For Link-Up [NSW] Aboriginal Corporation, NAIDOC Week offers a significant time to be out in community, sharing stories, connecting with families, and celebrating culture, resilience, and identity.

This year's NAIDOC week theme, The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy, resonates deeply with the core values of Link-Up [NSW] as we continue to walk alongside Stolen Generations survivors and their families by supporting healing, reconnection, and cultural strength for today and tomorrow.

Link-Up [NSW] was honoured to have the opportunity to attend more than 10 NAIDOC week events across the Sydney region. Being present during NAIDOC reflects our ongoing commitment to truth-telling, empowerment, and standing proudly with mob across generations. It's an opportunity to honour the strength of our Elders, the resilience of our people, and the powerful legacy that continues to shape future generations.









## PCYC: NATIONS OF ORIGIN 2025

PCYC Nations of Origin is an annual youth event in NSW hosted by PCYC (Police Citizens Youth Club) uniting young Indigenous people to compete in sport while strongly celebrating and embedding Aboriginal cultural identity and reconciliation.

On Tuesday, 15 July and Wednesday, 16 July, Link-Up [NSW] had the privilege to attend the two day PCYC Nations of Origin Rugby League tournament. Seeing teams proudly wear their Nation's colours and perform cultural dances and ceremonies before games was a moving reminder of the strength and resilience of community.

For Link-Up [NSW], being present at Nations of Origin was a valuable opportunity to engage directly with community in a positive, high-energy environment. Our team thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere of pride, unity, and joy that filled the grounds. From cheering on the teams to connecting with community members and service providers, the event was a true celebration of culture and connection.

We are grateful to have been part of such a significant event for another year and look forward to continuing to support and walk alongside our communities at future Nations of Origin tournaments.



*Mary-Anne Frail  
Senior Counsellor*

# STAFF PROFILE





Mary-Anne was raised in a strong, culturally grounded household led by her mother. As the eldest of eight children and two stepsiblings, Mary-Anne took on responsibility early. Her childhood, marked by poverty and instability, these humble beginnings instilled in her the values of respect, compassion, and kindness. Her mother would move every year to different towns and states. Some of the towns she lived in include Bega, Whyalla, Broken Hill, Armidale, Katoomba and Dapto just to name a few.

Mary enjoys dancing, working out, laughing, travelling, sports, clothes, self-care, and compliments.

Mary's family motto is "you can do anything" and their achievements in life is a testimony of that motto. Mary is proud of all her families' achievements and loves watching her Aboriginal people excelling in life.

Mary-Anne has spent the majority of her working career in Aboriginal community-controlled organisations or in roles directly supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. She was a receptionist for 9 years at the Inner West Aboriginal Community Company (IWACC) and at night and on weekends she would DJ for Koori Radio, Sydney's home of Indigenous community radio, and at private events.

Mary has worked at the Women's Legal Service NSW, working on programs that supported Aboriginal women to learn about their human rights. She worked at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in a team researching the lack of safety in clinical settings for pregnant Indigenous women when disclosing domestic violence.

Mary has completed her advance diploma in Counselling, specialising in Aboriginal trauma. She also has an Advanced diploma in Drug and Alcohol and mental health. She now works as a senior Counsellor in Link-Up [NSW] and has been there for 11 years, travelling across Australia and connecting members of the stolen generations with their Country, family and Culture. Securing her future in the Social Emotional and Wellbeing sector where she aspires to make our community feel safe, loved and supported.





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## ***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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(not free for mobile phones)



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*Thank you to our funders:*



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**NIAA**



Communities  
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