



.LINK-UP [NSW]
Aboriginal Corporation



LINK-UP (NSW) NEWSLETTER

Issue 10 | October 2024 - December 2024



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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



KYLIE BEREYNE REUNION

After a 35 year journey, Link-Up (NSW) client, Kylie Bereyne, got in contact with our staff in 2021 as she was ready to finally return home.

Her father, Alan Bereyne and Grandfather, Mervyn Passfield, were born and raised in Moree, NSW, so on Sunday, 27th October 2024, our Link-Up (NSW) staff members Luke and Natasha took her back to country and to visit her Grandfathers resting place and begin her journey back home.

Link-Up (NSW) staff and clients headed to Moree Cemetery to have a graveside reunion at the site of Kylie's Grandfather's resting place. They were Welcomed by Uncle Lloyd Munro; who kindly shared many stories about Moree and what it was like growing up in the town, and Paul, who did a Smoking Ceremony.

The ceremony was beautiful and the clients were overwhelmed with emotion.

Following the ceremony, Uncle Lloyd took the party on a tour of Moree, including a visit to the mission and shared stories aligning with all of the streets.

Our client, Kylie, was fortunate to be able to meeting a relative, Aunty Noelene

Briggs, who is a respected Elder in the community. Aunt was overjoyed when the party arrived and welcomed everyone into her home with open arms. Hours were spent yarning, sharing stories and looking through family photographs. It was a beautiful day for everyone involved in the day.

This reunion was an amazing outcome for Kylie Bereyne, who expressed her thankfulness and gratitude towards Link-Up (NSW) for answering all of her unanswered questions.

Kylie Bereyne is very excited to return back to Moree in the future with her family and cannot wait to continue walking this journey, guided by her ancestors.







MARUMALI TRAINING

Cultural appropriation and awareness is imperative when supporting with Stolen Generations Survivors, and at Link-Up (NSW) we continue to maintain this when walking with and alongside our clients and community during their healing journeys.

From November 12 - 15, our staff were honoured to participate in the Marumali Program workshop hosted by Stolen Generations Survivor, Aunty Lorraine Peeters and her daughter, Shaan Peeters. Having started in 2000, the Marumali Program has delivered an evidence based, trauma and culturally informed healing program. The program aims to enhance supports for Stolen Generations, their families and communities and the people who work with them.

This program allowed our staff to gain additional knowledge that will assist in deepening our understanding of Stolen Generations Survivors and the experiences they faced in order to provide a culturally safe environment for our clients and community.

We want to thank Aunty Lorraine and Shaan for their knowledge, vulnerability and hospitality throughout the 4 day program.



GWS NGALIYA FORMAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Tuesday, 26 November 2024, marked a special day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Greater Western Sydney with the signing of the GWS Ngaliya Formal Partnership Agreement.

The partnership has been established to improve outcomes towards Closing the Gap and addressing disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the area.

Attendees included leaders from the GWS Ngaliya partnership Aboriginal Organisations and representatives from the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NSW CAPO) along with representatives from Penrith and Blacktown LGA Mayors offices, the Hon. David Harris, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Closing the Gap Director for Partnerships and Governance.

Current partnership members include: Marrin Weejali Aboriginal Corporation, Goodradigbee Cultural and Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Employment Strategy, Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation, Butucarbin Aboriginal Corporation, Yarning Crescent, Yana Yirabana Aboriginal Corporation, Greater Western Aboriginal Health Service (Mt Druitt and Penrith), Ngroo Education Aboriginal Corporation, and Merana Aboriginal Community Association.

Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation



STAFF CULTURAL DAY

At Link-Up (NSW) the importance of cultural connection and awareness amongst staff is recognised and practised. We acknowledge its importance in supporting our staff to be able to deliver the best quality service to our clients and community.

On the 29th of November 2024, our Link-Up (NSW) staff attended a cultural day held in La Perouse, NSW. We were hosted by Gujaga Aboriginal Corporation, an early childhood education service who support the learning of language and culture in young children. We were welcomed to La Perouse by Uncle Lloyd Walker, the deputy chair of La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council. He took us on a walking tour beginning at Yarra Point; pointing out the significance of different landmarks and locations to the local aboriginal people of La Perouse throughout the tour.

Staff spent the day learning about stories of the land, not only broadening their cultural knowledge but also taking the opportunity to bond with their colleagues. The day received positive feedback and Link-Up (NSW) is now determined to introduce Cultural Days as an annual initiative in strengthening staff's connection to culture.

UPCOMING EVENTS



COOEE FESTIVAL

COOEE FESTIVAL IS RETURNING IN 2025!
WITH MC ISAAC COMPTON!

MAY 24 2025

PETER VAN HASSELT PARK
SHALVEY NSW 2770

10AM - 4PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
CULTURAL WORKSHOPS
RETAILERS
FOOD
AND MORE





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.

Link-Up (NSW) have been supporting Aboriginal people on their healing journeys for over 40 years. We support survivors of child sexual abuse who are thinking about making an application to the NRS.

We can:

- have a yarn with you about what happened.
- provide you with counselling on this journey.
- provide you with information about the NRS and the different paths you can take.
- help you fill out the NRS application form.
- assist you with getting access to your records.
- link you up with other services or legal advice.
- act as your 'assistance nominee'



75

Current Clients



17

New Applications



07

Client Outreach Visits



TERRITORIES REDRESS

The Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme (TSGRS) is a scheme that is funded by National Indigenous Australia Agency (NIAA) running between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2026. The Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme is a financial and wellbeing package for Stolen Generations Survivors who were removed as children from their families or communities in the Northern Territory, Jervis Bay Territory or the Australian Capital Territory before self-government.

Link-Up (NSW) is currently in the promotion phase of the program. The TSGRS Caseworker is Robert 'Bob' Leslie who has been working extensively with communities, mob, NIAA and individuals.



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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



1800 624 332
(not free for mobile phones)



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