

THIRRILI NEWSLETTER

November, 2021



THIRRILI



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INDIGENOUS SUICIDE POSTVENTION SERVICE

CALL 1800 805 801

24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK



MESSAGE FROM CEO, JACQUELINE MCGOWAN-JONES

As you are all aware, Thirrili has been funded until 2024 to deliver the Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service and we have been undertaking significant recruitment to several key roles in the organisation. This includes having recruited new Postvention Advocates in the NT and NSW – with positions still available in QLD, SA, NT, WA, NSW and Victoria. We have also recruited our new Deputy Chief Executive Officer – Ms Annette Vickery. Ms Lesley Radloff has joined our team as the Regional Coordinator WA/SA and Ms Felicity Fleming has joined as our Human Resources Officer. To find out more about our new staff, see their profiles in this newsletter (and in the December edition due out in January). We welcome these new people to our incredible team – and we are confident they bring a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to our team. If you would like to join our team, then you should email jobs@thirrili.com.au with a covering letter and a CV outlining your skills and experience.

Mob Supporting Mob

Our teams are currently planning their community engagement visits (and have already been out and about in Community) – if you, or your community, would like a visit from Thirrili to support the Community or to hear more about our service, please call 1800 805 801 telephone service to speak with an Advocate. Remember: our phone is answered 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and is always answered by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person. Our visits are important so that our families and communities know about our services that support you after a loss of a loved one to suicide or other fatal traumatic incidents.

Media

We encourage Indigenous media outlets to contact us to help us spread the word about our service – this ensures our families know we are here to support them. I recently had an interview with Cherbourg Community Radio (94.1FM) and had a yarn about our program, the services we deliver, and how we work with families and communities. Click [here](#) to listen to my interview with Arlene Langton.



CEO



As many of you will know, I have resigned from my position as the CEO of Thirrili and will finish work on 3 January 2022. We are currently recruiting a new CEO and our amazing new Deputy CEO (Annette) will act as CEO if a new person has not been appointed before I finish in the role. If you, or somebody you know, may be interested in the CEO role, please email Jacqueline.M@thirrili.com.au for more information. I will say farewell in our December newsletter, but I want to say that I am extremely honoured and feel privileged to have been able to lead Thirrili over the past 18 months – our services are critical for our families, and I believe our incredible team have demonstrated empathy, passion for their work, commitment and dedication to supporting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples every single day.

Take care and remember to reach out if you or somebody you know may needs help.

Jacqueline McGowan-Jones
November 2021



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Monday 8th November

The AGM, held on 8 November, was the first opportunity for the Board and Members to meet since Thirrili transitioned to Aboriginal Community Controlled status earlier this year.

Chair, Timothy Goodwin, welcomed representatives from our Organisational Members; Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service, Galambila Aboriginal Health Service, The Lowitja Institute, Indigenous Allied Health Australia, and Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service.

Membership attendance at the AGM reflects Thirrili’s continued journey and achievements during 2021, following the successful tender bid to deliver Indigenous Suicide Postvention Services to 2024, via the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). Mr Goodwin, who stepped down from the Board at this AGM having been a Board Director since 2017, acknowledged the tremendous efforts and commendable leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, and all Thirrili staff.

Mr Goodwin also thanked departing Board Directors Ms Belinda Duarte and Dr Janine Mohamed for their respective contributions, and welcomed three new Directors to the Board; Ms LaVerne Bellear (CEO Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service), Ms Tanja Hirvonen (Registered Clinical Psychologist) and Ms Jaki Adams (Director Social Justice and Regional Engagement, Fred Hollows Foundation). They join continuing Directors Ms Jacqueline Flynn (qualified CPA), Mr Indi Clarke (Executive Officer Koorie Youth Council Victoria), Ms Donna Murray (CEO, Indigenous Allied Health Australia) who accepted an Interim Chair appointment, and Dr Summer May Finlay (researcher & academic; University of Wollongong) appointed as Deputy Chair.

Thirrili Ltd will remain led and controlled by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with their perspectives included in all of its work to deliver critical supports to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities across Australia.

Introducing our new board



Donna Murray
Interim Chair
Chairperson



Summer May Finlay
Deputy Chair



Jacqui Flynn
Secretary



LaVerne Bellear
Director



Indi Clarke
Director



Tanja Hirvonen
Director



Jaki Adams
Director

"the voice of the community is a key component of ensuring we are working with the community and walking the path towards healing together"

Delivering the Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service

Call 1800 805 801, 24 hours, 7 days a week



OUR TEAM

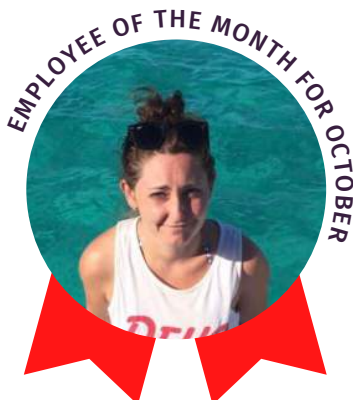
As our Thirrili Family grows so does our reach, please join us in welcoming our new staff to the Thirrili Family.

Thirrili is pleased to share with you the six new members to the Thirrili Family. To find out more about our new staff click on their photo to read their staff bio's.



CELEBRATING OUR STAFF

For October our Employee of the month goes to none other than our Policy & Governance Coordinator, Adelle Morgan.



Demonstrating Thirrili Values

- Providing Respectful & Responsive Support
- Honesty & Integrity in Our Relationships

'Adelle is tremendously helpful and always willing to take on the extra workload and do so without any complaint.'

'Adelle is always happy to help guide me through difficult tasks. Adelle is a great team member to the Thirrili organisation'



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OUR TEAM

As our Thirrili Family grows so does our reach, please join us in welcoming our new staff to the Thirrili Family.



Annette Vickery, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Annette is a Gunditjmara woman who lives and works with pride and respect on the land of the Wurundjeri people. Annette has extensive experience in the public and private sector, community and stakeholder engagement, organisational capability and capacity building and change management [...] [Read more](#)



Lesley Radloff, Regional Coordinator WA & SA

Lesley Radloff (Kairi Nation – Maternal, Springsure and Carnarvon Gorge region, Qld; Kooma Nation – Paternal, Dirranbandi, Qld) has joined Jacaranda Community Centre after many years as board member and most recently, a volunteer in Emergency Relief program and Second Bite (food program). [...] [Read more](#)



Felicity Fleming, Human Resources Officer

Felicity (Flick) Fleming is connected to Mamu Country in Northern Queensland. Flick started her career in Brisbane before moving to Canberra where she found her passion for assisting vulnerable community members during her time in the Australian Public Service (APS). Her APS career started at Services Australia where she then began her professional career in Indigenous Affairs at Aboriginal Hostels Limited. Flick's engagement with a Tiddas group on Ngunnawal Country [...] [Read more](#)



Stephen Smith, Indigenous Suicide Postvention Advocate - NSW

Stephen Smith is a proud Wiradjuri man from Wagga Wagga NSW. Over the last 22 years Stephen has respectively engaged with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Communities, advocating and guiding them to achieve their goals. Stephen's experience comes from working with peak Aboriginal organisations such as ATSIC, Aboriginal Affairs NSW and more recently Thirrili [...] [Read more](#)



Zachary Nix, Indigenous Suicide Postvention Advocate - NSW

Zac is a proud Wiradjuri man living in Wagga Wagga. I have a strong background in Aboriginal cultural heritage, Aboriginal community engagement and case management through my previous position for the last 11 years at Riverina Medical & Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed) [...] [Read more](#)



Erin Reilly, Indigenous Suicide Postvention Advocate - NT

Erin Reilly is an Eastern Arrernte-Alyawarr-Kija woman from Ayampe and Amplatawitja in Northern Territory and Halls Creek in Western Australia. Erin is very passionate about community-led systems change, driven particularly by First Nation peoples. Erin specialises in understanding and identifying trauma and the many layers associated with it and aims to address inequity and build on strengths in our communities [...] [Read more](#)



WE ARE VISITING OUR COMMUNITIES

Meet & Greet: Let's yarn about support after suicide

Thirrili and StandBy *Support After Suicide* will be traveling from 13 – 17 of December to Wollongong, Nowra, Bateman's Bay, Narooma, Bega, Eden, Cooma, Queanbeyan, Yass, and Goulburn communities. To yarn with our mob about our services and how we can help.

We also will meet with other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, service providers and the Government to continue our approach to collaboration across the service system to support individuals, families, and communities impacted by suicide or other fatal traumatic incidents.

What to expect

- Hear about Thirrili and the support they provide to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and communities after a death by suicide or other traumatic incidents.
- Hear about [StandBy *Support After Suicide*](#) and the range of support available to anyone across South Eastern NSW.
- Hear from those with a lived experience of being bereaved through suicide and the importance of timely and specialised support.
- Meet the teams providing postvention responses in your region.

The meet and greets will be followed by light refreshments and opportunities to connect further with supportive services in suicide prevention and postvention.

Dates, times and venues

We will visit Wollongong, Nowra, Batesmans Bay, Narooma, Bega, Eden, Cooma, Queanbeyan, Yass and Goulburn throughout the week 13-17 December. **If you would like more information about these events**, please click on the register here icon below.





NEWS STORIES

Australia's first suicide intervention training designed by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Last month our very own Regional Coordinator QLD and NT, was a guest speaker at LivingWorks Indigenous ASIST (I-ASIST), a suicide intervention training program built on decades of research and evidence-base, co-designed by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

I-ASIST was officially launched in November 2021 by the Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP. Click [here](#) for the media release.

Click [here](#) to read an article from the I-ASIST launch by NITV News. We thank the I-ASIST for all of their contributions to making this event and training possible.

Click [here](#) for information on the evidence supporting I-ASIST.



"When you're in that moment with somebody and you're not sure of what to say or what to do - do this training, because it will help you and it will help save lives" - Tegan

Jacaranda's NAIDOC event

Thirrili Ltd has an ongoing partnership with Jacaranda Community Centre in Belmont, we were invited to attend their community NAIDOC event last month. Lesley Radloff, our Regional Coordinator WA, and SA attended and had the opportunity to chat about Thirrili service with a wide range of community members and various service providers, exchanging information and resources.

The NAIDOC event had an attendance of at least 300 people and had over 30 stallholders and service providers – offering a whole range of information, heart and diabetic testing, vaccinations, free haircuts/styling for elders, and various live performances by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Like every other year, the event offered samples of traditional foods and for those not brave enough, a tasty sausage sizzle.

The Jacaranda's NAIDOC event was unlike the other times, with perfect weather and community engagement it was an event celebrated by all.



"The Jacaranda's NAIDOC event was unlike the other times, with perfect weather and community engagement it was an event celebrated by all" - Lesley

Moorditj Wirin Aboriginal Mental Health

Last month we were invited by Moorditj Koort an Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre located in Kwinana in WA to attend their Mental Health Expo. Vickey Hill our WA Advocate attended the event along with 30 other services offering information about mental health and suicide prevention awareness service providers in the Kwinana/Rockingham region.

The primary target group for the Mental Health Expo was the Aboriginal community but also extended the invitation to the wider community to attend. Vickey experience quite a lot of interest from her stall from families and service providers wanting to know more about Thirrili service and the support we offer mob.



As a result of the Mental Health Expo, Vickey will be engaging with service providers to deliver information sessions about the Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service

Delivering the Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service

Call 1800 805 801, 24 hours, 7 days a week



OUR SERVICES

Your call will always be answered by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person

We support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities to deal with grief and trauma experienced as a result of:

- The suicide of an immediate family member; and/or
- The death of an immediate family member because of a fatal traumatic incident other than suicide

National Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service can be contacted
24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1800 805 801

Proudly supported by the National Indigenous Australians Agency

WHO TO CONTACT - OTHER SERVICES?

If you, or someone you know, may be at risk of harm you can also contact any of the services listed below for help:

- [StandBy Support After Suicide](#)
- 1300 727 247
- [Lifeline](#) 13 11 14
- [Suicide Call Back Service](#) 1300 659 467 (cost of a local call)
- [Kids Helpline](#) 1800 55 1800
- [MensLine Australia](#) 1300 78 99 78
- [Beyond Blue](#) 1300 22 4636
- [Standby NT](#) 0418 575 680 OR (08) 8944 6666 (free of charge support)
- SA Virtual Mental Health Response 1800 841 313 (SA only)

CALLING CULTURAL & TRADITIONAL HEALERS

Join our register now!

Here at Thirrili, we work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities to support their cultural, social and emotional wellbeing following a loss to suicide or other fatal traumatic incidents. As part of our work, many of our clients request support and access to cultural and traditional healing. As a national service, that means we need to know who is available in what locations to support our people.

If you, or your organisation or business, provides cultural and/or traditional healing (you might even be a Narrative Therapist) – either to be delivered individually, or to a community, and you would like to be on our Register Of Healers, please send the following information to admin@thirrili.com.au

1. Name (individual and organisation)
2. Region where you work or provide supports
3. Do you offer group healing or individual or both?
4. ABN number (if no ABN, please advise)
5. Your hourly rates (exclusive of GST)
6. Types of Services you provide

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STATISTICS – SUICIDE DATA UPDATE

Thirrili recognises that each number reported above represents an individual and wishes to acknowledge the devastating effects suicide and self-harm can have on people, their families, friends, and communities.

The following tables shows a total of 118 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander completed suicides have been reported to Thirrili from 1 January to 30 November 2021, by jurisdiction, age and gender.

Jurisdiction	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Other	Total
Completed Suicide	21	14	24	13	28	0	18	0	0	118

Age	Under 18	18 - 24	25 - 34	35+	Not known at this stage	Total
Completed Suicide	14	31	34	20	19	118

Gender	Male	Female	Not known at this stage	Total
Completed Suicide	75	37	6	118

The following tables shows a total of 32 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fatal incidents have been reported to Thirrili from 1 January to 30 November 2021, by jurisdiction, age and gender.

Jurisdiction	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Other	Total
Other Trauma involving a Death	4	1	8	4	8	0	7	0	0	32

Age	Under 18	18 - 24	25 - 34	35+	Not known at this stage	Total
Other Trauma involving a Death	77	4	7	5	9	32

Gender	Male	Female	Not known at this stage	Total
Other Trauma involving a Death	16	11	5	32