

THIRRILI NEWSLETTER

October, 2021



THIRRILI



IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from CEO
- Annual General Meeting
- Become an Organisational Member of Thirrili
- Join our team
- We are visiting our communities
- Celebrating our staff
- Community Recognition
- Our digital community
- Our Service
- Who to contact - Other Services?
- Register of Cultural Healers
- Statistics – Suicide Data Update

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS SUICIDE POSTVENTION SERVICE

CALL **1800 805 801**

24 HOURS PER DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK



MESSAGE FROM CEO, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones

We were delighted to be awarded the Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service tender in August this year. Our focus over the next 3 years will be to continue to respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities affected by suicide and other fatal traumatic incidents. Our Board will now commence work on reviewing our Strategic Plan for the next three years, with a view to releasing this in April 2022. In the interim, our one-year Strategic Plan continues to guide our work. To view our Strategic plan visit our [website](#).

Over the last months we have been recruiting for a broad range of positions across Australia to build and grow our team of dedicated, committed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff. We still have critical roles available for Postvention Advocates in QLD, NSW, VIC, NT, SA and WA. We also have two Regional Coordinator positions available (one for SA/WA and one for NSW/VIC) and a Practice Manager role. Other roles such as the People & Culture, Finance and Marketing & Communications Coordinator positions are also available. For more information visit our [website](#).

PROTECTING OUR MOB: ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GET THE JOB!

COVID-19 can cause very serious illness, especially for our Elders and our mob who have other medical conditions. When enough people in the community are vaccinated, it slows the spread of the disease. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are a priority group for vaccination because there is a higher risk of developing a serious illness for those with other illnesses such as chronic health diseases and overcrowded living conditions. It is important that you all get a vaccine to help keep yourself, and others and the community safe.

To find out the facts, have a yarn to your doctor, or health care worker, or visit health.gov.au



Jacqueline McGowan-Jones
November 2021



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 8th November

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday 8 November 2021 – some of our new organisational members have nominated for positions as Elected Directors on our Board and this is an exciting phase for our transition to Aboriginal Community Controlled status. We look forward to updating you all following the meeting.

BECOME AN ORGANISATIONAL MEMBER OF THIRRILI

Thirrili welcomes applications for membership from Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Organisations (ACCOs and ACCHS)

Thirrili is a not-for-profit organisation focused on contributing to the broader social, cultural and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the delivery of a culturally safe and responsive service supporting individuals and families affected by a suicide, or other traumatic incident causing death.

Thirrili also builds on the capacity of local communities and service providers to care for, and respond to, the impacts of suicides and other fatal incidents in their community, by strengthening individual, family and community resilience and social wellbeing whilst contributing to and addressing the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities.

We do not want to duplicate the amazing work already being undertaken by our ACCOs and ACCHS, rather we want to partner with our Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations, to support each other in the critical work we do. We want our communities to have a voice in the delivery of our services.

If your organisation would like to become a Member of Thirrili, please contact Adelle Morgan via email adelle.m@thirrili.com.au and she will send you additional information and a membership form.



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



JOIN OUR TEAM

We are Hiring: Full time roles available to 2024

Thirrili is now recruiting for people to join our team to deliver the National Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service. Our teams are based in key locations across all jurisdictions and provide case coordination and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities to help restore their resilience and capacity following a loss to suicide and/or other fatal traumatic incidents.

We have a range of opportunities for people to join our team – your experience in working with families and communities will be invaluable in our Postvention Advocate roles; and your leadership, experience and qualifications in health disciplines will be a key to success as our Regional Coordinator (WA/SA and also NSW/VIC). See the links below for more information.

- [Regional Coordinator's \(2 positions\)](#)
- [Indigenous Suicide Postvention Advocates](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED 12th November 2021



We work closely with existing Regional and State/Territory Prevention and Postvention Networks

Image description: Chenoa, Indigenous Suicide Postvention Advocate - QLD
Community engagement trip to Darumbal Nation (Rockhampton, QLD)



WE ARE VISITING OUR COMMUNITIES

Mob Supporting Mob

Our Team of dedicated Advocates will be visiting a number of regional locations over the coming weeks. We want to yarn with our Mob about our service and how we can help.

We also will meet with other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, service providers and 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.

Visits are occurring throughout QLD, NSW, and Western Australia in the coming weeks. If you would like to yarn with us, or would like to hear more about our service, please contact us on 1800 805 801 so we can include you and your organisation (or family/community) in our visits.

Partnering with Standby Support After Suicide

In December, we will partner with Standby to travel around NSW to meet and greet our communities and other service providers.

What to expect

- Meet some of the Thirrili staff and hear about the support we provide to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities after a death by suicide or other fatal traumatic incidents.
- Hear about [StandBy Support After Suicide](#) and the range of support available to anyone across Southeastern NSW.
- Listen to 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 Southeastern NSW.
- Access free hardcopy resources and information.

The meet and greets will be followed by a free BBQ 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.



[Register here](#)





CELEBRATING OUR STAFF

In July 2021, Thirrili started a new Employee of the Month Award. We congratulate our Winners of the Employee of the Month Awards for July, August and September.

INAUGURAL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR JULY



Demonstrating Thirrili Values

- Providing Respectful & Responsive Support
- Working in Trauma Informed & Culturally Safe Ways
- Honesty & Integrity in Our Relationships

'Tammy commitment and focus on the needs of clients and families during their Sorry time, whilst maintaining the positivity to support her colleagues during stressful times'



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST



Demonstrating ALL Thirrili Values

- Providing respectful and responsive support
- Working in trauma informed and culturally safe ways
- Honesty and integrity in our relationships
- Working collaboratively with communities, and
- Strengthening resilience and wellbeing of communities.

'Chenoa consistently working in collaborative, mature and respectful ways with clients and colleagues, and approaching her work with wisdom and patience'

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER



Demonstrating Thirrili Values

- Providing respectful and responsive support
- Working in trauma informed and culturally safe ways
- Honesty and integrity in our relationships
- Working collaboratively with communities, and
- Strengthening resilience and wellbeing of communities.

'Greg demonstrates a real commitment to the families and communities he has supported and engaged'.

'I appreciate him and as a young Aboriginal man in this space, I hold admiration, as we know our men do not always take up roles like this and anytime we have a male join our team, I believe we are blessed as a service'.



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Last month David Cox from [Top End Health Service](#) in the Northern Territory expressed a big thank you for the support we provided at the NAUIYU Community Health and Wellbeing EXPO.



OUR DIGITAL COMMUNITY

MOB SUPPORTING MOB

We connect and engage with community every day through our social media platforms and website. Over the last month, we have seen a significant increase across all of our channels.

Thirrili would like to take the opportunity to thank you for sharing our Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn posts regarding opportunities with Thirrili.

We look forward to sharing our progress and stories with you.



Followers 1,508

Our fans
86 % women
14 % men



Followers 107

Our fans:
86 % women
14 % men



Followers 224

Page views
158



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:

- [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

Proudly supported by the National Indigenous Australians Agency



National Indigenous Postvention Service Call 1800 805 801

24 hours per day, 7 days a week



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 97 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander completed suicides have been reported to Thirrili from 1 January to 31 October 2021, by jurisdiction, age and gender.

Jurisdiction	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Other	Total
Completed Suicide	17	13	21	11	26	0	16	0	0	104

Age	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35+	Not known at this stage	Total
Completed Suicide	12	27	32	18	15	104

Gender	Male	Female	Not known at this stage	Total
Completed Suicide	67	32	5	104

The following tables shows a total of 28 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fatal incidents have been reported to Thirrili from 1 January to 31 October 2021, by jurisdiction, age and gender.

Jurisdiction	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Other	Total
Other Trauma involving a Death	4	1	6	4	8	0	7	0	0	30

Age	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35+	Not known at this stage	Total
Other Trauma involving a Death	6	4	7	5	8	30

Gender	Male	Female	Not known at this stage	Total
Other Trauma involving a Death	15	11	4	30