

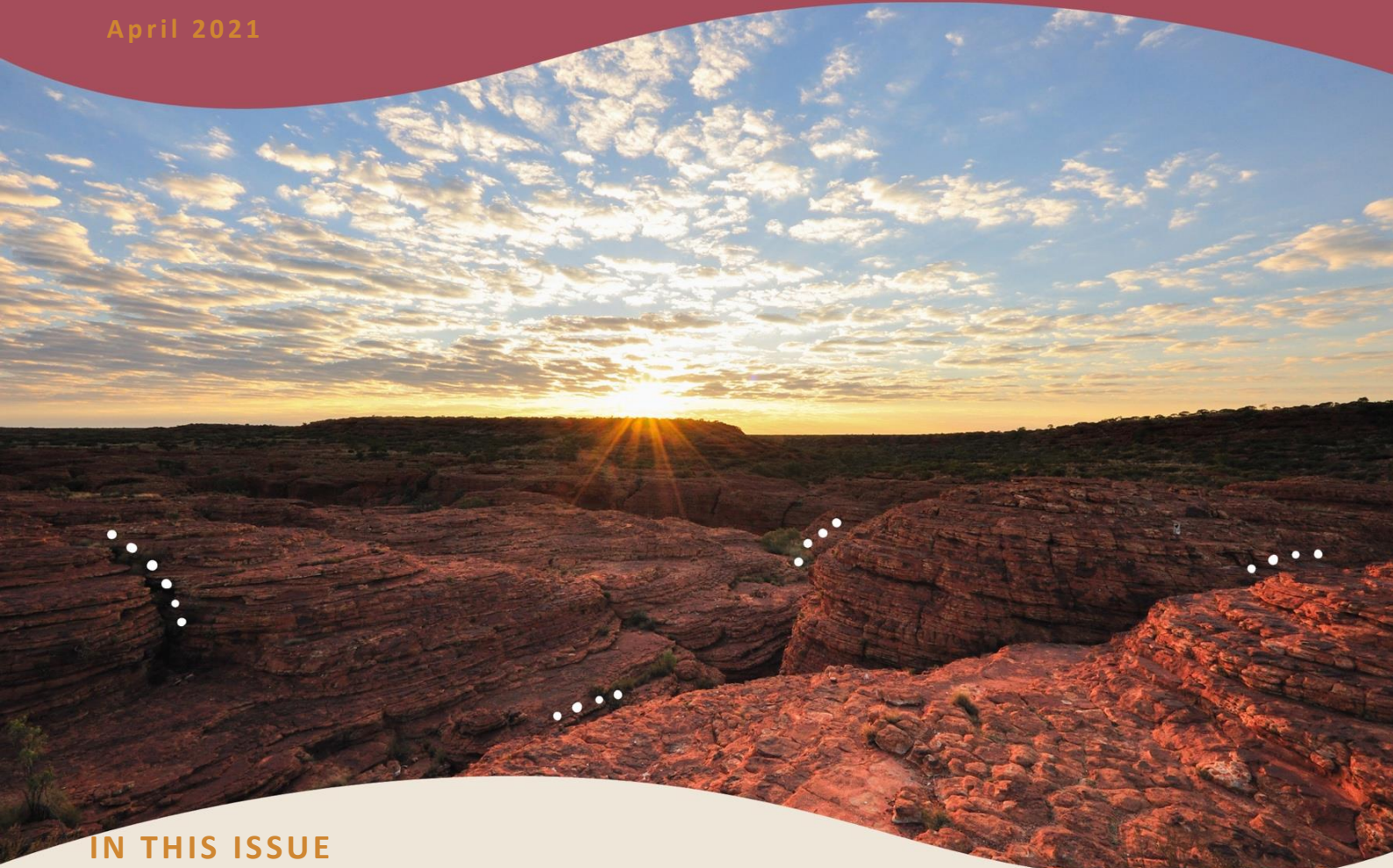


THIRRILI

NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

From the desk of our CEO

Our Social Media Presence

Meet more of our staff

Building Awareness of the National Indigenous Postvention Service

News from our teams in the field

An ANZAC Story

Who to contact- Other Services?

You can contact us 24 hours a day, 7 days week

The National Indigenous Postvention Service is funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency

If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter, please contact John Balmforth at john.b@thirrili.com.au

National Indigenous Postvention Service Call 1800 805 801

From the desk of our CEO



I am very sad to report that our numbers of suicides have increased recently demonstrating how valuable and critically important it is to provide culturally responsive after suicide support services. Thirrili Board and Staff send our condolences to those experiencing loss, and we are thinking of you all during these difficult times. Our families and communities continue to experience grief, loss and trauma that is compounded as each loss occurs.

Partners in service delivery

As part of our response to ensuring we provide quality supports and services to our families and communities, we have entered into two new partnerships in Western Australia. I am very excited to announce our partnerships with Derbarl Yerrigan Aboriginal Health Service and Wungening Aboriginal Corporation : these partnerships will provide increased staffing and collaboration to deliver the National Indigenous Postvention Service. Both organisations have qualified, experienced staff available and training from Thirrili will occur over the next two weeks. *Please note that neither Wungening nor Derbarl Yerrigan should be contacted directly – all contact for the National Indigenous Postvention Service is via our 24/7 service – 1800 805 801 – your call will **always** be answered by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Postvention Advocate*

We have also entered into a number of informal partnerships with WA State Government agencies that will see us have strong “cross referral” processes for our families and communities. WA State Government will seek engage with us when they are working with individuals and families experiencing loss from suicide or other fatal traumatic incidents, so we are able to connect with their clients to support them. We will also be able to engage with the various Government departments when advocating on behalf of our Clients.

These collaborations are critical to our work and I thank the following:

- Department of Communities
- Department of Education
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- WA Police
- Department of Justice
- Department of the Premier & Cabinet
- Child and Adolescent Community Health Services, Department of Health
- Commissioner for Children and Young People

It is heartening to see the commitment from the Western Australian Government to ensuring improved responses and supports for our communities.

We have also been engaged with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS) and the National Secretariat for the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services to develop cross-referral pathways that will ensure a cohesive, holistic approach to working with our families and communities. We have also established some protocols with Jacaranda Community Services, and this will be finalised over the coming days.

It is also very exciting that we are engaging with Headspace Schools for a National MOU to support cross referrals to enhance support to Aboriginal children and young people impacted by suicide.

If you would like to discuss how we may partner with your organisation to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples impacted by grief, loss and trauma, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, Chief Executive Officer



Our Social Media Presence

How We Are Getting Our Message Out

As part of delivering an integrated communications platform, we have engaged a professional Public Relations organisation Lisa Burling Public Relations Group (LBPR), to work with Thirrili to broaden our message and reach across all media platforms. Since the engagement commencement in April, the development of an integrated Public Relations program to lift Thirrili's profile in the Indigenous and non-Indigenous sectors has commenced.

One of the key components of this work is building Thirrili's social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn which will deliver a consistent message about our service across all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia.

Over the coming months Thirrili is being positioned as Australia's Primary Indigenous Postvention Service and the leading advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing.

Our desired outcome is to lift Thirrili's profile in the wider community, communicating the vision and mission of the organisation to our target audiences.

By posting content across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, we can ensure we're communicating about Thirrili's postvention services with the right people and advocating for change on a broader scale.

Creating opportunities and fostering strong connections

The rate of suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is double that of non-Indigenous people in Australia, and it has reached a crisis point – particularly amongst the young.

LBPR is proud to be working with Thirrili to reverse this unacceptable trend.

Part of the commitment LBPR has agreed, is to work in close partnership to provide support across marketing and comms strategy, editorial media campaigns, stakeholder engagement, content creation, digital influencers, copywriting, graphic design and social media management.

Links to our Social Media Pages are listed below for your reference:

- Facebook –active link noted below for reference:
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=108993524657274&id=104616835094943
- Instagram - active link noted below for reference:
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CN6J40ONUJu/>
- LinkedIn - active link noted below for reference:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/thirrili/>



Meet more of our staff

Greg Cusack



Greg Cusack is a Warlpiri & Anmatijere on his grandmothers' side and his grandfather's side he is Gurindji.

Greg has worked with several Aboriginal organisations, local government and the federal government services in and around the Northern Territory working with Aboriginal people in their communities across the Northern Territory and in Central Australia.

Greg is passionate about working with his people to better their lives and building their capacities to lead their communities to a brighter future for the next generation of youth within their community / communities.

"Since working with Thirrili Ltd, I have had the privilege in meeting other passionate Aboriginal people, who are supporting their communities to build more opportunities for their community members and building their communities capacity."



Karen Dodd

Karyn has an extensive history working with Government departments such as Qld Corrective Services, Qld Health and Qld Child Safety.

"In my working life I have enjoyed working with various Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients from many varying backgrounds and nations. I have also worked in remote areas which I found very rewarding. I am looking forward to this new adventure in my role as the FNQ advocate."

"I have always had a great passion for gaining the best outcomes for my people. I have been privileged to have worked many years within the area of human services."

"Being an advocate, I seek to enable the best outcomes for the families and supporting them through this tragic time in their lives".



Catherine Elvins - Farewell

Our Executive Manager for Corporate Services, Catherine has been with Thirrili since we started in 2017 and has provided much valued support and guidance to our teams during this time, making lasting friendships. Catherine took on a range of roles during her time including developing the Online Records System, supporting our Board; undertaking and leading key projects and, most recently, held the role of Executive Manager, Corporate Services.

At a dinner on 20 April 2021, Catherine was presented with a Wautharong Glass platter thanking her for everything she has contributed to our organisation and her commitment to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Rachael Schmerl is shown in the photograph after we presented Catherine with her plaque. The plaque has an Aboriginal design and Catherine was delighted to receive a gift that acknowledges her passion to glass work; has Indigenous importance; and the colour apparently matches her personal glass collection.

Catherine has resigned from Thirrili to pursue her passion for glass making and while we were sad to see her go, we wish her well for her future endeavours. Thank you, Catherine, from all of us at Thirrili for your friendship, guidance, and work during your time at Thirrili – you will be missed.



Left - Rachael Schmerl, Executive Manager-Service Delivery and Catherine Elvins, Executive Manager Corporate at Catherine's Farewell Dinner



Wautharong Glass platter presented to Catherine at her farewell dinner.



Building Awareness of the National Indigenous Postvention Service

Our Continual Commitment to Stakeholder Engagement

As we continue to engage at National, State and Local levels focusing on building awareness of our service across the entire service system, both at Government, non-Government and with not-for-profit organisations, and, critically, ensuring at all times, our families and communities know we are here to help them in their times of grief and loss.

As part of building our on-going commitments, we have been partnering with the Primary Health Networks (PHNs) nationally to share our information with the GP and Allied Health Networks and these meetings have been of tremendous value and are building solid partnerships across the service system.

This in turn, is also creating a service platform that provides access points for PHN's and the Allied Health Networks to identify and support cross-referrals and identify gaps so that by these lines of open communications and touch points will only further improve engagements with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities to ensure that at all times they are fully supported in their times of need.

Currently, major engagements have and are being established across the entire service system with a National MoU with Head Space established with Referrals and Cross referrals to support our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders.

Major work continues to engage and establish MoU's and partnerships in all jurisdictions to both broaden and increase working relationships. On-going connections have been and are still occurring across Australia with Community Service providers, various Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS), the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council NSW to deliver Social and emotional wellbeing activities.

Engagement Protocols are now established, and for those organisations already engaged, substantial agreement to share information on the National Indigenous Postvention Service with a longer-term approach to increase working partnerships across relevant sectors and community-based organisations have been implemented or in development with key aligned providers,

At the local community level, our Advocates continue to engage with stakeholders and communities across Australia working in their respective Regions to engage with and facilitate workshops with stakeholders to respond to trauma and addressing suicide and self-harm in communities. Some examples are:

- Our Postvention advocates, Greg Cusack and Karen Dodd held meetings with key stakeholders who provide services in the community. Workshops have been agreed to be undertaken with community and families. The agreed objectives and outcome is to have action plans that provide strategies on how to respond and implement training in the community
- Chenoa Dowling and Regional Implementation Manager Tegan Scheffe engaged with Redcliffe Hospital Emergency Department staff to implement strategies to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and support patients at risk of suicide. Presentations are scheduled to deliver to staff in Emergency Departments in understanding and providing



culturally sensitive awareness protocols.

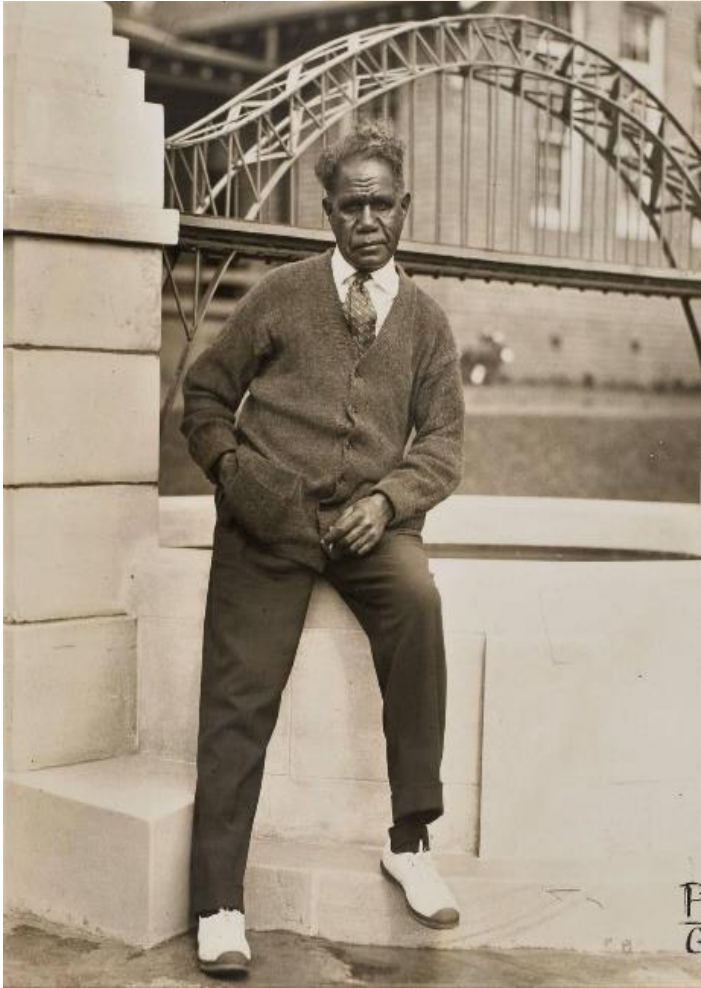


An ANZAC Story

A Serving Aboriginal story from The Great War

In recognition of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who served in WWI, WW2, and all other conflicts we pay our respects for their service in times of conflict and thank them. *More than 5000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples served in the Second World War.

Douglas Grant was orphaned in a tribal battle or some say, in punitive action. He had a good education and became a clever draughtsman. After working at Mort's dock, he enlisted twice in the AIF and because of bureaucratic rules for Aboriginal Australian's, eventually joined the 13th Battalion. He was taken prisoner at Bullecourt.



Douglas Grant

He worked in several locations when he returned until the time of this photograph, when he was a clerk at Callan Park Hospital. He built the pond and bridge shown here as a war memorial to his fallen comrades.

A popular member of his battalion, Grant had also impressed his German captors as a man of superior intellect; to his fellow prisoners he was aggressively Australian. His attainments included a wide knowledge of Shakespeare and poetry and considerable skill as an artist and bagpipe-player. He was an exceptional man.

Source: State Rail of NSW - used by permission.

*Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics



JOIN OUR TEAM: INDIGENOUS POSTVENTION ADVOCATE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Thirrili Ltd (Thirrili) delivers the National Indigenous Postvention Service across Australia and has taken a national leadership role in the provision of suicide postvention support and assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities. Thirrili employs a dedicated team of professionals to provide support across all states and territories in Australia.

We provide flexible working arrangements and extensive salary packaging opportunities for all employees. We support our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander staff with Cultural and Ceremonial Leave, as well as annual leave and personal leave.

Locations

We have opportunities available in multiple locations and we are flexible within each of the Regions in which we operate. In particular areas such as the East Kimberley, Central Australia (Alice Springs), the Great Southern region of WA and Far North QLD, to be based in Cairns.

We are also keen to discuss flexible opportunities for job-share arrangements with other Indigenous organisations - or secondment opportunities that will provide the opportunity for staff to build their skills and experience in the postvention space.

National Indigenous Postvention Advocates (\$60-80,000pa, plus super)

The National Indigenous Postvention Advocates (NIPAs) will act as a local response contact point for critical incident needs, and as required, leads local critical responses to suicide events, trauma or circumstances that could trigger suicide or other traumatic events by the provision of practical support to individuals, families and communities, and support colleagues attending incidents with them.

Providing bereavement support to families and communities; and engaging with services to support our Clients, you will need to engage with Aboriginal community led and controlled organisations; Government agencies; and other services and supports available in local and regional areas.

The key requirements are that you are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person

You hold relevant experience and/or qualifications in strengthening the health and social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

That you are able to demonstrate and provide statements addressing the Selection Criteria outlined in the Position Description.

Sound interesting?

Contact **Angela Threlfall**, via email angela.t@thirrili.com.au to obtain a copy of the Position Description and selection criteria information.

Applications must include: CV, Referees, Statement of Claims addressing the Selection Criteria.

APPLICATIONS OPEN – JOIN OUR TEAM!

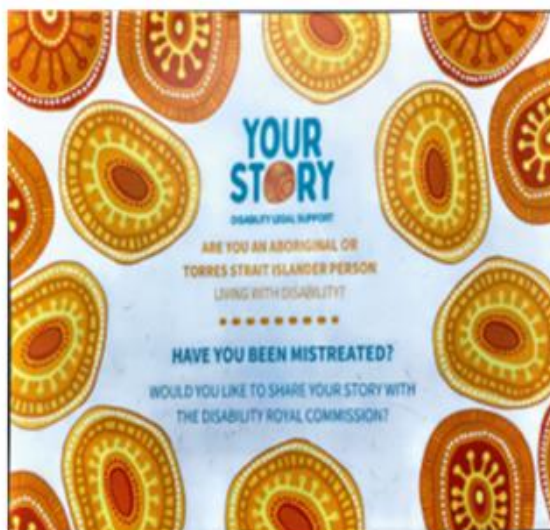


Disability Royal Commission

Have Your Say - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People - Share your Story with the Disability Royal Commission

The Disability Royal Commission has been set up to find out about violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people living with disability. The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service is working with Your Story Disability Legal Support to provide a free legal service for our mob living with disability, their family, carers and supporters.

You can share your story either in person, in writing, at a community forum or public hearing. If you would like support to share your story, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service can assist.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE call 1800 77 1800

Source Link: [Disability Royal Commission | Legal Aid WA](#)

Suicides reported to us

The following tables shows a total of 43 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alleged/completed suicides have been reported to Thirrili from 1 January to 27 April 2021, by jurisdiction and age.

Not all the tables I have presented allow me to enter the data into them, so have replicated.

Jurisdiction	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Other	Total
Completed suicide	8	3	8	5	11	0	8	0	0	43

Age	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35+	Not known at this stage	Total
Completed suicides	5	12	12	7	7	43

Gender	Male	Female	Not known at this stage	Total
Completed suicides	23	11	9	43

Annual Report

You can read our annual report at: http://thirrili.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/19-20AnnualReport_Final_HR.pdf

Strategic Plan

A copy of our strategic plan is available at: <http://thirrili.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/STRATEGIC%20PLAN%20-%20FINAL%2011092020.pdf>



Who to contact - Other Services?

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

Our service is available 24/7 and you can call us at any time because you or someone you know has suicidal thoughts and you can also contact any of the services listed below for help:

- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Headspace National Office 03 9027 0100
- 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.

The crisis support services above can be reached 24 hours a day.

National Indigenous Postvention Service can be contacted 24 hours a day on 1800 805 801.

We support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to deal with grief and trauma experienced as a result:

• the suicide of an immediate family member; and/o • the death of an immediate family member because of a fatal traumatic event other than suicide

Our phone line is answered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advocates.

