



THIRRILI

Thirrili Ltd

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Chief Executive Officer Update

This is the start of my third week with Thirrili Ltd, and while experiencing loads of challenges, I am pleased to say Thirrili continues to grow and develop our people, our work, and our connections.

We have just advertised National Indigenous Postvention Advocate (NIPA) positions for Queensland, NSW/ACT, South Australia, Victoria/Tasmania, the Northern Territory and Western Australia (see below and [page 2](#)).

We also have seen the commencement of Adelle Morgan as the Executive Assistant to the CEO and the Board – read more about Adelle [here](#).

I am very pleased to advise that

the South Australian Government has also asked if we could extend our services in South Australia for the Covid-19 response, and we have accepted that offer – the length of time for the additional work is under negotiation.



I want to thank Rachael Schmerl and April Barry for their efforts in ensuring our Indigenous South Australians have support at this crucial time.

Their commitment to the work of

supporting our most ‘at risk’ groups is to be commended.

We have also had a number of conversations with our major funding partner – the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) – in relation to the critical need for Indigenous specific postvention services, and we continue to collaborate with them to ensure Thirrili delivers a sustainable, meaningful National Indigenous Postvention Service.

The NIAA is keen to ensure that services for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are timely, meaningful and culturally secure and responsive.

We are very pleased to be able to continue to work with the Agency

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Multiple employment opportunities inside

Thirrili is currently hiring multiple Postvention Advocates across Australia to be part of our important work. For further information including how to apply, go to [page 2](#).

COVID-19 information updated

With much of the country returning to normal activities, it would be easy for complacency to set in and for us to believe that COVID-19 is no longer the threat it was. That would be a mistake. We should take the high numbers of new cases in Victoria every day for the last week as a startling reminder that until a vaccine is found, vulnerable people and communities in particular, are not yet in the clear. Please continue to follow the advice of officials from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and your state or territory below:

- [NIAA](#)
- [ACT](#)
- [Commonwealth](#)
- [NSW](#)
- [NT](#)
- [QLD](#)
- [SA](#)
- [TAS](#)
- [VIC](#)
- [WA](#)



T H I R R I L I

National Indigenous Postvention Advocate
Multiple Locations – WA: Kimberley, Midwest/Murchison, Gascoyne;
Far North Queensland; NSW/ACT; Victoria/Tasmania;
South Australia; Central Australia
Full-time
(fixed term to 31 December 2020)

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 is a not for profit company and operates from a strengths-based approach delivering on its mission of “supporting our people and communities to stem suicide and trauma.”

Thirrili employs a dedicated team of professionals to provide support across all states and territories in Australia.

The Role:

Positions are available across Australia in multiple locations. The National Indigenous Postvention Advocate (NIPA) will be responsible for leading the delivery and implementation of tasks and activities under the National Indigenous Postvention Service (NIPS).

The NIPA 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.

The primary responsibility to the NIPA is to make contact with the affected family members to understand their needs, be their advocate and take responsibility to connect affected individuals and families with support services and regularly check in with those affected to ensure they continue to be supported in all phases of their grief.

It is expected that NIPA will possess a good knowledge of the services and organisations within the local regions and will develop a positive reputation and relationship with non-government services, government organisations, including Police, National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) staff in local areas and Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations.

The NIPA will support achievement of community capacity objectives by working with local communities and service providers to:

- ◆ enhance their delivery of local critical responses to suicide events and/or other trauma or
- ◆ strengthen local service system coordination and promote local community capacity and resilience, and
- ◆ contribute to strengthening the knowledge base of effective approaches in supporting families and communities impacted by suicide or other trauma-related events.

Key requirements:

- ◆ **you are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander**
- ◆ you hold relevant experience and/or qualifications in strengthening the health and social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- ◆ you are able to demonstrate and provide statements addressing the Selection Criteria outlined in the Position Description.

Sound interesting?

Contact Angela Threlfall, –Systems and Business Relationships Manager, Thirrili via email angela.t@thirrili.com to obtain a copy of the Position Description and selection information.

To discuss the role in more detail, please contact Rachael Schmerl, Executive Manager – Policy and Programs, on 0418 482 050.

Special Conditions

Being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is mandatory as it a genuine occupational requirement for this position.

The filling of this position is intended to constitute a special/equal opportunity measure under the relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation.

Applications must be received addressing the selection criteria no later than **5.00 pm, Friday 10 July, 2020.**

All applicants/employees are required to undergo a National Police Check, Working with Children Check and referee checks with previous employers.

Meet our Scholarship participants

Over the next 3 weeks, we will introduce the participants in Thirrili's first ever Scholarship Program



My name is Vickey Hill. I'm a proud Whadjuk yorga. My ancestral heritage is connected to Whadjuk, Baladong, Gnarla Karla Boodja, Yued and Wardandi (South West Boojarah).

I'm a single Mother of 6 children and also a Grandmother of 6 grandchildren.

I have a strong and consistent work history in both Commonwealth and State Government, as well as not-for-profit organisations. Most of my career was spent working in the public service in Departments such as Commonwealth Employment Service, Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Abstudy, Social Security and Centrelink.

I've developed my skills through additional training and education to increase my knowledge and work with various community organisations.

I'm a registered Counsellor and also a qualified Trainer. I'm also a studying Bachelor Arts (Psychology) part-time.

I'm passionate about supporting and advocating for my people and am currently focusing on the issues of Trauma, Suicide and Families.



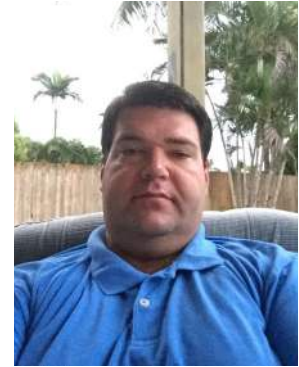
My name is Thomas Mckeen (Bush).

I am an indigenous Male from the Ngukurr (Roper River) Ngalakan clan. I am glad I went through Cultural LORE.

I spent my youth on Groote Eylandt and numerous Arnhem land remote communities, as well as Darwin.

I have 20 years experience in the Alcohol and all other Drugs sector, including injectable substances and Blood born Viruses. I have worked with prisons in Darwin and Perth and have been employed in suicide support, mental health, as well as physical health care across terminal, chronic and acute.

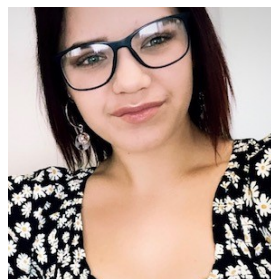
I'm very happy to be accepted to participate in the Thirrili Scholarship Program. It will be great to expand my knowledge and qualifications including learning and working with good people. Most of all, I want to support and assist people across all of Australia with my Scholarship.



My name is Joel Andreassen and I am a proud Gangulu man from Central Queensland.

I am a Health Worker by trade who enjoys working with organisations and people to better my community for all of its residents.

After spending more than 10 years working for my community, I relocated to Townsville to broaden my experience and learn new skills that I can take back and use in my community.



My name is Lina and I am a 32yo proud Kaurareg woman.

I have been an Advanced Indigenous Mental Health Worker for Queensland Health for the past 7 years.

I applied for the Thirrili scholarship program and education course because I wanted to make a difference, improve my education and knowledge, address cultural issues and raise awareness.

Most of all, I want to continue to comfort and support my people in hard times during and after sorry business in relation to suicide.

I recognise that providing support to the family/carers/friends of loved ones passed is a important part of the grieving process.

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"My name is Vickey Hill...I'm passionate about supporting and advocating for my people and am currently focusing on the issues of Trauma, Suicide and Families".

National Indigenous Postvention Service (NIPS) notifications 2020: updated every issue

Updated 29 June 2020. Fortunately we have had a week where no suicides have been reported to us. While that is great news, we have again received 10 reports of incidents involving trauma. Thankfully, none of these 10 incidents involved a death. We further understand that of the 10 incidents, 2 of these were reported as suicide attempts.

	Gender			State or Territory*						Total
	Male	Not known at this time	Female	QLD	WA	NT	VIC	NSW	SA	
Completed suicides	44	2	16	21	13	9	8	5	6	62

Age range	17 and younger	18-30 inclusive	Older than 30	Not known at this time	Total
Completed suicides	11	31	16	4	62

	Total
All other incidents include attempted suicides and/or traumatic incidents with or without fatalities	53

Crisis contact numbers

- ⇒ Lifeline: 13 11 14
- ⇒ Suicide call back service: 1300 659 467
- ⇒ Coronavirus mental health support line 1800 512 348
- ⇒ Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800
- ⇒ MensLine Australia: 1300 78 99 78
- ⇒ Beyond Blue: 1300 845 745
- ⇒ GriefLine: 1300 845 745 (midday to 3am AEST 7 days a week)
- ⇒ Thirrili After Suicide support 1800 805 807

Thirrili Ltd ABN 617 635 828

Administration:
 PO Box 2115
 Richmond 3121



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Website: thirrili.com.au Telephone: (administration only) (03) 8578 1414

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I look forward to what the program has to offer, along with the opportunity to further develop my skills and enhance my abilities to ensure suicide postvention is both recognised and utilised as a vital part of providing culturally appropriate support and care.



Program flying high

A partnership between Headpace and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is ensuring that students from schools such as Oodnadatta Aboriginal School don't miss out on mental health services.

Previously practitioners would have to drive for 9 hours to reach the school.

To read the full story go to SBS news:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/royal-flying-headspace-program-giving-mental-health-support-to-remote-outback-schools-in-australia>

Significant Community events



Coming of the Light

Wednesday 1 July 2020

Go to:

<https://www.qm.qld.gov.au/Find+out+about/Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+Cultures/Gatherings/Coming+of+the+Light+Torres+Strait+Islands>

NAIDOC Week

POSTPONED UNTIL 8-15 November

Go to: <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

Also, see article back page

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day

Tuesday 4 August 2020

Go to:



<https://aboriginalchildrensday.com.au/>

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

Sunday 9 August 2020

Go to:

<https://www.regions4.org/events/international-day-of-the-worlds-indigenous-peoples-2020/>

Meet Adelle Morgan

Adele has recently joined us as Executive Assistant to the CEO. Below, she tells us a bit about herself. Welcome Adelle!



Originally from Bristol in the UK, I have lived in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Vietnam and now call Australia my adopted home.

I arrived in Darwin 10 months ago to join my partner stationed here with the Army, having spent the last seven years in small-town dusty Meekatharra in Mid-West WA, seven hours from Perth, where

I ran the Community Resource Centre for five years.

A significant part of the role of the Centre was to connect and facilitate resources and support to members of the community, so I completed a Cert IV in Mental Health last year to better recognise the effects of trauma in the community, after a number of suicides and sudden deaths.

It is important that I belong to an organisation that acts with integrity, puts doing the right thing into practice and works alongside people to access resources that improves their wellbeing and participation in community life, wherever that community may be.

I look forward to supporting the great work and reputation Thirriil has built.

I do love the vast and eclectic Darwin dining options, the open-air markets, taking a dip in our local Springs down the road... and that I no longer have to drive six hours for a haircut!

In the news

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is leading an innovative program focused on the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fathers in improving Indigenous adolescent mental health.

This program promotes parenting skills to impart knowledge and empower men in Aboriginal communities and is funded by a \$1.7 million grant from the Indigenous Health Research Fund.

To read the full story by Rachael Knowles in the National Indigenous Times (NIT), click the link below:

<https://nit.com.au/mental-health-program-focuses-on-role-of-first-nations-fathers/>

The NAIDOC Committee has determined National NAIDOC Week 2020 celebrations will be held from the 8-15 November!!!



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and focus on the implementation of responses to the recent evaluation of the (then) National Indigenous Critical Response Service. The Thirrili Board is also committed to ensuring we address the challenges in the evaluation and we have now scheduled a Strategic Planning Day to focus on the priorities for the next six months, and beyond.

National NAIDOC week

While the National NAIDOC Committee has postponed all events planned for the week commencing 5 July 2020 (due to Covid-19) **(to 8-15 November)**, many local and regional areas may still proceed with NAIDOC events that are respectful of the various restrictions across Australia. We encourage all of our staff and stakeholders to participate in events that may be scheduled in your local area (see next week's newsletter for planned events).

FEEDBACK

I am pleased to advise that we will shortly commence a Survey for our clients and stakeholders to provide feedback to Thirrili on our services and supports.

We will also have paper forms for our NIPA team to provide to Clients and stakeholders in the event they don't have access to a computer or internet.

We want to know what are we doing well? What are we not doing so well? What do you think would help us improve our services.

If you would like to be included in the Survey, there will be further details in our next newsletter.

Stay safe, stay connected and care for you and your family.

Kind regards

Jacqueline

History and significance of NAIDOC

Please note that the information regarding the history of NAIDOC and reproduced here has been obtained from the <https://www.naidoc.org.au> website.

Before the 1920s, Aboriginal rights groups boycotted Australia Day (26 January) in protest against the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. By the 1920s, they were increasingly aware that the broader Australian public were largely ignorant of the boycotts.

Acknowledging the need for the movement to be active to make progress, organisations such as the Australian Aborigines Progressive Association (AAPA) and the Australian Aborigines League (AAL) emerged to fill this role in 1924 and 1932 respectively. Their efforts were largely overlooked, and due to police harassment, the AAPA abandoned their work in 1927.

In 1935, William Cooper, founder of the AAL, drafted a petition to send to King George V, asking for special Aboriginal

electorates in Federal Parliament. The Australian Government believed that the petition fell outside its constitutional responsibilities.

On Australia Day, 1938, protestors marched through the streets of Sydney, followed by a congress attended by over a thousand people. One of the first major civil rights gatherings in the world, it was known as the Day of Mourning.

Following the congress, a deputation led by William Cooper presented Prime Minister Joseph Lyons with a proposed national policy for Aboriginal people. This was again rejected because the Government did not hold constitutional powers in relation to Aboriginal people.

After the Day of Mourning, there was a growing feeling that it should be a regular event. In 1939 William Cooper wrote to the National Missionary Council of Australia to seek their assistance in supporting and promoting an annual event.

More information about the Day of Mourning can be found at the AIATSIS website [here](#).

From 1940 until 1955, the Day of Mourning was held annually on the Sunday before Australia Day and was known as Aborigines Day. In 1955 Aborigines Day was shifted to the first Sunday in July after it was decided the day should become not simply a protest day but also a celebration of Aboriginal culture.

Major Aboriginal organisations, state and federal governments, and a number of church groups all supported the formation of, the National Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NADOC). At the same time, the second Sunday in July became a day of remembrance for Aboriginal people and their heritage.

In 1972, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs was formed, as a major outcome of the 1967 referendum.

In 1974, the NADOC committee was composed entirely of Aboriginal members for the first time. The following year, it was decided that the event should cover a week, from the first to second Sunday in July.

In 1984, NADOC asked that National Aborigines Day be made a national public holiday, to help celebrate and recognise the rich cultural history that makes Australia unique. While this has not happened, other groups have echoed the call.

With a growing awareness of the distinct cultural histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, NADOC was expanded to recognise Torres Strait Islander people and culture. The committee then became known as the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC). This new name has become the title for the whole week, not just the day. Each year, a theme is chosen to reflect the important issues and events for NAIDOC Week.

During the mid-1990s, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) took over the management of NAIDOC until ATSIC was disbanded on 15 April 2004.

Over the period from 2004 to 2005 there were interim arrangements, with former Senator Aden Ridgeway chairing the Committee until 2008.

The National NAIDOC Committee has made key decisions on national celebrations each year and has representatives from most Australian states and territories.