



THIRRILI

# Thirrili Ltd

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## INSIDE:

Chief Executive update continued	2
Small Grant opportunities	2
Reminder: NIPA, vacancies!	3
Significant events	3
New wellbeing website launched	3
600km call for help	3
More Scholarship Participants!	4
In the news	5
Cumulative Statistics 2020	6
Crisis contacts	6
Contact us	6

## Chief Executive Officer Update

Hello everyone

This is your last chance to share our current vacancies – or to apply – with Thirrili. We are seeking **National Indigenous Postvention Advocates (NIPAs)** in all States and Territories and need your help to ensure we get applications from quality candidates.

We have also just advertised the **Regional Implementation Manager and Practice Manager roles** – both of which are critical to our ongoing service delivery.

If you, or people you know, may be interested in any of our roles, please don't hesitate to contact Rachael Schmerl at:

[Rachael.S@thirrili.com.au](mailto:Rachael.S@thirrili.com.au) to have a discussion. You can obtain copies of the position description and selection criteria from [Angela.T@thirrili.com.au](mailto:Angela.T@thirrili.com.au)

Over the past week I have had discussions with many of our team

members and our stakeholders – it is always gratifying to hear of the great work Thirrili people undertake in our communities and with our families. Well done to all of our people – you are the key to



our success and to supporting individuals, families and communities to navigate a very complex service system and the feedback I am receiving suggests you are doing this well.

Our first Staff Wellbeing Survey closed on Monday and our response rate was simply amazing for a survey of this nature: almost 100% of staff completed the Survey.

The results are very pleasing in most areas – our teams have responded well to the changes introduced over the past few months and our people are proud to work for Thirrili and believe the work we do is important.

Our people get a sense of accomplishment from our work. It was very heartening that our people believe the leadership is keeping them informed and that their respective Manager's are great role models

I also was pleased that the majority of our people feel there is transparency in decision making; that the regular meetings and staff co-design workshops are very helpful for keeping our staff team connected to each other and ensuring they are able to have a voice in the organisation.

[\*continued next page\*](#)

## COVID-19 information updated

Whilst not wanting to be alarmist, it is clear that the threat from COVID – 19 is still very real. In Victoria, Stay at home directions remain in place for metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire until 11.59pm Wednesday 19 August. New South Wales is experiencing new clusters linked to two south-western Sydney hotels. Suffice to say, the threat has not passed. Do all you can to stay safe and keep informed by clicking the links relevant to your location below. These links take you to websites that have updated information every day.

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

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As with all People Surveys, we have some areas where we can improve and these will form the basis of our monthly 'Pulse Checks' going forward. Our Board is keen to review the survey outcomes and ensure we continue to build upon the positive steps already taken. We are also planning a co-design workshop to ensure our People are involved in identifying opportunities for improvement.

### **New temporary team member**

I am pleased to announce that Mary Limperis will start with Thirrili on 14 July 2020, for two days per week. Catherine Elvins will be working on the Evaluation of the Suicide Prevention Trial Sites for 2 days each week up to the end of August. Mary will cover Catherine's role for the two days each week during this period.

Mary has extensive experience in the area of Corporate Services, and particularly in relation to Human Resources – Mary will focus on our policy review and development as well as supporting strategic projects in our People & Culture areas .

This will include leading a co-design workshop as part of a review of our Corporate Values & Behaviours; aimed at refreshing and refining our Values and ensuring our People are



at the forefront in developing and presenting these for the Board to endorse and implement. I am sure you will all get the chance to meet Mary at a meeting soon.

Thank you to the staff team for all for the work you do every day – it is difficult and demanding work, but very rewarding when we see the positive impacts our families and communities.

Until next week,  
Stay safe and well

**Jacqueline**

Jacqueline McGowan—Jones  
Chief Executive officer



## **Thirrili Program Development**

### **Grant Round**

Applications are being sought from organisations to Thirrili's Small Grant Funding round. The Grants are aimed at developing projects and activities that will assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to build capacity within their communities to respond to trauma involving death; and specifically related to suicide.

The funding has to be linked to a discreet and defined activity or project. The funding will be competitive and be assessed for funding by the CEO and Board.

Organisations must be registered and able to receive funds and acquit those funds within 60 days of completion of the project. All funding is to be used and acquitted no later than 31 January 2021 or within four weeks of the completion of the project, whichever is the earlier.

Applications are being sought from organisations that may include:

- ⇒ Engagement of people with lived experiences;
- ⇒ Are based on co-design and build capability in trauma competent approaches;
- ⇒ Facilitate regional self-help approaches;
- ⇒ Provide expert advice and supports from within community;
- ⇒ Extend and engage our partners in culture led practices;
- ⇒ Facilitate cultural healing

### **Number and quantum of grants**

Small Grants rounds will be offered for the following amounts:

- ⇒ Small Grant Round (Single community or location x 5 grants only) @ \$2 000
- ⇒ Medium Sized Grant (One off project or activity – 3 grants only) @ \$10 000
- ⇒ Large Grant Round: projects that involve multiple communities or organisations – 2 grants only) @\$50 000

### **Program timelines**

Applications timelines are:

- ⇒ 14 July 2020 Funding Round Opens
- ⇒ 30 July 2020 Funding Round Closes
- ⇒ 31 August 2020 Successful applicants notified and published in the next Thirrili newsletter (1 September 2020).

For more information, [click here](#)



## Don't miss out!! Closing 17 July

### National Indigenous Postvention Advocate (NIPA)

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)

Contact Angela Threlfall, –Systems and Business Relationships Manager, Thirrili via email [angela.t@thirrili.com](mailto: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.

Job advertisement and Position Description are also available at <https://thirrili.com.au> . Come and join the team!

## Significant events

**Don't forget– coming up on August 4 is National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day**

Go to:

<https://aboriginalchildrensday.com.au>



**August 9 is International Day of the World's Indigenous People**

Go to <https://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/>



**NAIDOC Week Celebrations have rescheduled and now to be held on 8-15 November 2020.**

**'Always Was, Always Will Be'**

Go to:

<http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

## New wellbeing website launched

**This morning I received an email telling me about a deadly new website called 'WellMob'.**

I'm told that the inspiration for the WellMob website came from frontline health and wellbeing workers, who said they needed a one-stop-shop to easily access culturally relevant resources to use with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.

The site has over 200 videos, apps, podcasts and other websites in the one place and is free to access.

Kudos for the development of the website goes to eMHPPrac (e-mental health in practice) in partnership with the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet.

I've had a quick look and it looks like a great new resource. Go to:

<https://wellmob.org.au/> or checkout the promotional video here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=305446370840182>



## 600 km call for help

**Many of you will be acutely aware that high rates of suicide are present in First Nation's communities across the world.**

In Canada, from 2011 and 2016, the suicide rate among First Nations people was three times higher than among the non-Indigenous population. A 2019 report from the provincial auditor of Saskatchewan puts that province's rate at nearly three times higher than the Canadian national average.

Tristen Durocher— a First Nation's young man with lived experience of suicide among family and friends— has set of on a 600km journey to call for help.

He describes the walk as "...a death march of the departed, grieving spirits who want us, the living, to show them we're doing everything we can to make sure no more children are joining them."

On arrival at his destination, the legislature of the Saskatchewan government legislature building, he plans to begin a hunger strike which will continue until the members of the Legislature Assembly (MLAs) are recalled and pass meaningful legislation to address the suicide crisis in the province.

To read the rest of this story, go to:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7173209/advocate-legislation-indigenous-suicide-rate-saskatchewan/>

## Meet more of our Scholarship participants

**This week we introduce the remainder of our deadly participants in Thimil's first ever Scholarship Program**



**Erica Kyle**

My name is Erica Kyle. I am a Ngaro woman of the Birri Gubba tribe with traditional ties to the Bowen and Whitsundays. I am also a Bwngcolman woman, with historical ties to Palm Island. I am the proud mother of two sons.

I love to help people and I have worked and volunteered in community organisations since 2014.

I volunteered at the Deeragun Community Hub in North Townsville for 18 months, where I was a member of the Indigenous women's group. My duties at the community hub included administration, helping people with emergency relief services such as food boxes, clothing from the second hand shop at the hub and finding them other help.

Since 2016 I have been working at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Women's Legal Services NQ ("ATSIWLSNQ") in Townsville.

Although I am employed as an Admin officer, my role is more than admin.

I am a front line worker and I provide support to many women who are distressed, self-medicating or who have suffered personal trauma and family tragedy.

I am passionate about helping and supporting my mob and to advocate for their needs and the provision of appropriate services.

*"I am passionate about helping and supporting my mob and to advocate for their needs and the provision of appropriate services".*

I also believe in continuous improvement to help me with all aspects of my work and my life.

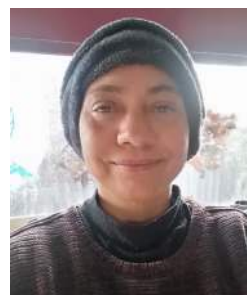
In 2019 I completed a Justice of Peace course. I am not a JP yet, but I am looking forward to being able to help our mob when they have documents to sign.



**Fiona Wright**

Fiona Wright has recently completed a Bachelor of Public Health in Health Promotion and Public Health Nutrition at Griffith University. Fiona chose this degree because as a proud Kamilaroi woman she is passionate about contributing to closing the gap and improving the social and emotional wellbeing of Indigenous Australians.

Through her studies and work experience in the community, Fiona recognises that there is a need for considerable involvement of Indigenous people who are not only sensitive to the cultural values and beliefs, but are better able to advocate for improved health outcomes of Indigenous Australians.



**Charmain Cole**

Charmaine Cole is traditionally

connected to Kaneang/ Koreng/ Wiilman Noongar Nation of the South West of Western Australia.

Charmaine is Perth based and she has been a carer, tutor and mentor for 20 years. She is also a cultural dancer and is currently learning about bush medicine and making healing remedies.

Charmaine has previously worked as a seasonal lecturer with the North Metropolitan Tafe, Curtin University and for the Ministry for Justice as a mentor for various Indigenous programs. She has also been an Aboriginal guest speaker and AIEO for the Department of Education WA for 30 years.

Charmaine is a single mother and she has first hand experience of hardship, trauma and loss.



**Sharelle Spratt:**

My name is Sharelle Spratt.

I am a Lamalama descendent from Coen, Far Northern Queensland.

I am a single mother of three children.

I am also a Land Trust steering committee member in our Organisation (Yintjingga Aboriginal Corporation) in Coen.

I have lived in Townsville since 2005.

## In the news

### Death in custody

**A New South Wales Deputy Coroner has been told that an Indigenous man who died in custody may have had multiple seizures and was distressed to be separated from his cellmate on his last night in remand.**

The Inquest was told that young man, who had been on remand for two years, attended court on the day of his death and returned to the correctional facility "happy as can be" as he was confident of being acquitted.

To read the full story as told in the Guardian Australia, go to:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jul/13/indigenous-man-in-nsw-custody-may-have-had-multiple-seizures-before-he-died-inquest-hears>



### Sydney City Council to consult on statues

**In a letter to the editor of the *Saturday Paper*, Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore has acknowledged that for many Sydneysiders and people across Australia, James Cook symbolises the lie of terra nullius, and the onset of violence against First Nations peoples, and centuries of dispossession.**

In her letter, Councillor Moore announces the intention of the Council to consult with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and local elders in relation to the future of colonial statues within Sydney city.

To read the full letter, go to:

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/2020/07/11/sydney-council-consult-statues/159438960010100>



### Food Security Inquiry

**A national inquiry into food security in remote Aboriginal communities has heard that poverty is the single greatest contributor to food insecurity, and that raising income is essential to stop people going hungry.**

The inquiry heard that in 2019, 26% of Indigenous people nationally lived in a household which, in the previous 12 months, had run out of food and could not afford to buy more.

To read the full story as told in the Guardian Australia, go to:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jul/13/lack-of-money-43-of-aboriginal-people-in-remote-communities-have-gone-without-food-in-past-year>

### Store burns

**In related news, the only major grocery store in the remote town of Tennant Creek, 500 kilometres north of Alice Springs, has been forced to close after a fire on Sunday night.**

Initial reports suggest the blaze spread from a bins and pallets burning at the rear of the building

To read the full story, go to:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-13/fire-closes-tennant-creeks-only-grocery-store/12448670>

### Is this the ultimate in stupidity?



### Man dies after attending COVID party

**A 30-year-old patient died after attending a "COVID party", believing the virus to be a hoax, a Texas medical official has said.**

"Just before the patient died, they looked at their nurse and said 'I think I made a mistake, I thought this was a hoax, but it's not,'" said Dr Jane Appleby, the chief medical officer at Methodist hospital in San Antonio.

A "Covid party" is a gathering held by somebody diagnosed with coronavirus to see if the virus is real and to see if anyone gets infected, she explained.

To read the full story, go to:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/13/30-year-old-dies-covid-party-texas>

### RIP cowboy...



**And if anyone is still not convinced as to the need to protect oneself from COVID -19, the following from *The Telegraph* in the UK should persuade the doubters...**

### Coronavirus can damage the heart

**According to a major new study, Coronavirus can damage the heart, with more than half of hospitalised patients' scans revealing abnormalities.**

A survey of 69 countries, funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF), found that 55 per cent of 1,261 patients studied had abnormal changes to the way their heart was pumping, with around one in seven showing evidence of severe dysfunction.

To read the full story, go to:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/12/coronavirus-can-damage-heart-major-study-finds/>

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

Updated 13/7/2020. They say that 'no news is good news'. This week we had no reports so our tables remain unchanged from last week.

	Gender			State or Territory*						
	Male	Not known at this time	Female	QLD	WA	NT	VIC	NSW	SA	Total
Completed suicides	45	2	16	21	14	9	8	5	6	63

Age range	17 and younger	18-30 inclusive	Older than 30	Not known at this time	Total
Completed suicides	11	32	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**

PO Box 41855  
Casuarina  
NT 0811.



**T H I R R I L I**

**Website: [thirrili.com.au](http://thirrili.com.au) Telephone: (administration only) (03) 8578 1414**