



THIRRILI

# Thirrili Ltd

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## Chief Executive Officer Update

Hello Everyone

I am reminded daily of the importance of having Thirrili and the National Indigenous Postvention Service available to support our families and communities when they are experiencing grief, loss and trauma.

Worldwide, Australia ranks 64th for suicide rates, however the Indigenous Australian population ranks 12th.

The impact of a suicide is far reaching across immediate family, extended family and communities; and this is compounded by the transgenerational trauma experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In his keynote speech to the National Child Protection Conference in Brisbane (June 2019), Stan Grant spoke to the issue of transgenerational

epigenetic inheritance. In essence, this is the trauma of history that is written into DNA and impacts the physical and psychological wellbeing.



Stan Grant believes, among many others, that the child carries the trauma of their mother's life; their DNA becomes distorted – and this is what we are seeing in Aboriginal and Torres Islander children and young people today.

There has been much research in the field of epigenetics, including family linkage studies—for example ([Ryan, Chaudieu, Ancelin & Saffery, 2016](#)) — which investigated patterns of diseases within families, providing good

evidence for the heritability of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The research indicates that we inherit some trace of our parents' and even grandparents' experience, particularly their suffering, which in turn modifies our own day-to-day health – and perhaps our children's too.

A service such as Thirrili provides – an Indigenous organisation, employing Indigenous postvention support Advocates, and working closely with individuals, families and communities— is essential in providing culturally appropriate, safe and responsive services for Indigenous Australians.

A service with these characteristics may go some way to supporting families to not only navigate the service system when a traumatic death has occurred, but also to

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## COVID-19 information updated

The threat from COVID – 19 is still very real. In Victoria, not only are Stay at home directions in place for metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire until 11.59pm Wednesday 19 August, after 11:59 PM on Wednesday 22 July, Victorians must wear masks when outside their home in all but a few circumstances. Cases in New South Wales continue to 'creep up' and cases are being seen in jurisdictions where for weeks there has been none. 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 are updated as things change, usually every day.

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

## CEO update

*continued from front page*

build and restore the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to make change and reduce the number of Indigenous deaths due to suicide.

Our team provides such a service and I thank them all for their passion and commitment to supporting families during some of the most difficult periods of their lives.

We continue to focus on building solid partnerships and relationships with service providers, both government and non-government, and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to ensure a holistic approach to supporting our Clients.

If your organisation would like to find out more – please don't hesitate to contact me at

[Jacqueline.m@thirrili.com.au](mailto:Jacqueline.m@thirrili.com.au).

In this edition, please find reminders about Employment Opportunities with Thirrili and on this page, Our Community Grants Program.

Please take care— remember self-care is important — a healthy diet; regular sleep and exercise; and time with friends & family and for reflection are all important tools to manage our own social and emotional wellbeing.

Until next week,

Stay safe and well  
Jacqueline

**Jacqueline McGowan—Jones**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



## Grant Funding Opportunities

### 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

Application timelines are:

- ⇒ **Funding Round Now Open**
- ⇒ **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](#)

**CLOSING DATE EXTENDED TO 27/7/20****PRACTICE MANAGER****Full-time until 31 December 2020****Located in Darwin****The role**

The Practice Manager is a pivotal role in developing and implementing evidence-based best practice models for the National Indigenous Postvention Service (NIPS) to:

- enhance critical responses to suicide events, trauma or circumstances that could trigger suicide or other traumatic events by the development of tools and resources that support implementation of the practice model
- strengthen the knowledge base of effective approaches in supporting families and communities impacted by suicide or other trauma-related events
- contribute to research and advocacy efforts regarding best practice models for working with indigenous communities.

**Key requirements**

The successful candidate will be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; hold relevant experience and/or qualifications in strengthening the health and social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and 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.au](mailto:angela.t@thirrili.com.au) 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 is a genuine occupational requirement for this position.

**REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MANAGER****Full-time until 31 December 2020****Located in Perth area: CBD, Inner & Western Suburbs****The role**

The Regional Implementation Manager (RIM) manages the delivery of the National Indigenous Postvention Services (NIPS) ensuring individuals, families and communities are supported to deal with the adverse impacts of suicide. The NIPS program is delivered by locally based National Indigenous Postvention Advocates delivering within local communities and reporting directly to the RIM.

**The RIM will**

- strengthen local service system coordination and promote community capacity and resilience
- contribute to strengthening the knowledge base of effective approaches in supporting families and communities impacted by suicide or other trauma-related events

**Key requirements**

The successful candidate will hold relevant experience and qualifications in strengthening the health and social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Sound interesting?**

Contact **Angela Threlfall**, –Systems and Business Relationships Manager, Thirrili via email: [angela.t@thirrili.com.au](mailto:angela.t@thirrili.com.au) to obtain a copy of the Position Description and selection information.

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## In the news

### Remaking our newsrooms

In an opinion piece in The Saturday Paper 18/072020, Gomeroi woman and award-winning Indigenous affairs journalist Madeline Hayman-Reber writes:

*Australia is in the midst of a realisation, long overdue. It is a process, galvanised by the Black Lives Matter movement, that has revealed how deeply ingrained what could be called “unconscious” racism is in this country. Seemingly to the surprise of much of white Australia.*

*A fight for diversity has been reignited, with many people of colour harnessing the moment, while we have the country’s attention, to highlight issues and push for real, meaningful change.*

To read the rest of the article, go to:

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/opinion/topic/2020/07/18/remaking-our-newsrooms/159499440010130>

### ABC news online



**In an article posted online on 18 July, Wiradjuri man Victor Bartley discusses how the Vietnam War gave him his first experience of life without racism.**

Victor was 20 when Aboriginal people were finally recognised as Australian citizens, but he still had to lie about his nationality to be accepted into the Army.

But as a soldier he experienced life as an equal and without racial division for the first time, which changed the course of his life.

Now a Bourke Shire councillor and RSL president, Victor shares his life story and explains what makes him the man he is today.

To read this story, go to:



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-19/aboriginal-soldiers-experience-of-racial-equality-in-vietnam-war/12462118>

### NIAA provides new Indigenous Procurement Policy guidance

**Indigenous businesses have won more than \$3.14 billion in contracts over the past five years through the federal government’s procurement policy, according to the National Indigenous Australians Agency.**

NIAA said on Thursday (16/7/20) that from July 2020, the Indigenous Procurement Policy’s (IPP) minimum mandatory requirements (MMRs) for Indigenous participation would be expanded to include 11 extra industry sectors, bringing the total to 19.

As quoted in the *Mandarin*, the agency stated: “As a result, even more large businesses, across more industries, will be looking to engage Indigenous businesses and job seekers,” the agency said.

The new sectors range from environmental to healthcare services, and manufacturing to mining services.

To read the full story, go to:

[https://www.themandarin.com.au/136275-niaa-provides-new-indigenous-procurement-policy-guidance/?utm\\_source=TheJuice&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter](https://www.themandarin.com.au/136275-niaa-provides-new-indigenous-procurement-policy-guidance/?utm_source=TheJuice&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter)

## 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.**

The theme this year is:

**‘Always Was, Always Will Be’**

Go to:

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



**Always Was,  
Always Will Be.**

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

Updated 20/7/2020. After a week where we had no deaths reported to us, we have since received one report of the passing of a male person from suspected suicide.

	Gender			State or Territory*						
	Male	Not known at this time	Female	QLD	WA	NT	VIC	NSW	SA	Total
Completed suicides	46	2	16	21	14	10	8	5	6	64

  

Age range	17 and younger	18-30 inclusive	Older than 30	Not known at this time	Total
Completed suicides	11	32	17	4	64

  

	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

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

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