



THIRRILI

# Thirrili Ltd

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## From the Chair

Hi Everyone

It is with great pleasure that I provide my first article for the Thirrili Newsletter.

The Thirrili Board has been focused on some significant pieces of work in recent months, including the search for our new CEO.

Since joining Thirrili, Jacqueline has worked closely with the Board to support us in our work, including the development of our new **Strategic Plan** and actioning one of our key priorities – **Board renewal**.

I am pleased to say that we had our first strategic planning session in July, and this is to be followed up with a Workshop on Saturday 8 August.

We believe that we need to consider the priorities for our current period of funding – to end December 2020, and focus on building an understanding that **Postvention is part of the cycle of Prevention**.



Tim Goodwin, Board Chair

On that basis, the Board is committed to ensuring Thirrili engages with all funding bodies to ensure their understanding of the role of postvention, and how Thirrili

have adapted a “throughcare” model and a model of care that has a sound cultural base to ensure quality supports and services to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities when they are experiencing grief and loss following the tragic death of a loved one.

As part of our focus on Board renewal, I am pleased to advise that Thirrili has welcomed two new members to our Board – both are highly respected Aboriginal people with a strong background in delivering of quality services and supports to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. They also bring a wealth of experience in leadership, governance and service delivery and are a welcome addition to the Board (**See page 2**).

Please note: these incidents are described as reported to us. The respective Coroner for each jurisdiction will ultimately determine the cause of death in each case. Please note further that not all suspected suicides of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are reported to us.

**NIPS Incident reports updated each issue**

### Gender

### State or Territory\*

|                    | Male | Not known at this time | Female | QLD | WA | NT | VIC | NSW | SA | Total |
|--------------------|------|------------------------|--------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Completed suicides | 49   | 2                      | 17     | 20  | 15 | 10 | 11  | 6   | 6  | 68    |

|                    | 17 and younger | 18-30 inclusive | Older than 30 | Not known at this time | Total |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|-------|
| Completed suicides | 11             | 33              | 20            | 4                      | 68    |
|                    |                |                 |               |                        | Total |

**Ms Janine Mohamed** is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Lowitja Institute and formally joined the Board on 23 July 2020.



**Janine Mohamed Director**

Janine is a proud Narrunga Kurna woman from South Australia.

Over the past 20 years, Janine has worked in nursing, management, project management, and workforce and health policy in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector.

Many of these years have been spent in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector at state, national and international levels, and most recently as the CEO at the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM).

Now based in Melbourne, Janine was awarded an Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity Fellowship in 2019, and, in January 2020, was awarded a Doctorate of Nursing honoris causa by Edith Cowan University.

**Ms Donna Murray** is a proud descendant of the Wiradjuri and Wonnarua peoples with kinship and family connections around the Murrumbidgee River and the Hunter Valley, NSW respectively.



**Donna Murray GAICD, Director**

Donna is the CEO and Company Secretary of Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA), a national Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander allied health peak organisation.

Donna is a member of, and has completed, the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) course.

Donna provides strong strategic leadership across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs and the wider health sector.

Donna brings over 25 years' experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and governance, Indigenous health, community development and engagement.

Donna is actively involved in the education sector in an Adjunct Senior Lecturer position with the Centre for Rural and Remote Health, James Cook University; and an honorary position with the University of Technology Sydney, Faculty of Health.

Donna also sits on several other Australian University Advisory and Governance Committees.

Hello Everyone

I am very pleased to be working with our Board on the development of their Strategic Plan to inform our work – not only for the period to end December when our funding currently ceases, but also to identify the value that Thirrili offers the suicide prevention and postvention space into the future.



**Jacqueline McGowan-Jones  
Chief Executive Officer**

It has also been an exciting time with our two new Board members commencing in July 2020 .

Our feedback has shown our newsletter is highly valued by our stakeholders and that is pleasing for all of us.

To ensure we are able to provide a quality Newsletter that informs you all about our activities and priorities, we have decided to publish on a fortnightly basis from the week commencing 3 August 2020.

Our focus will be on providing the quality data currently included; as well as showcasing our activities – for example our Scholarship Program and our Grants Program.

We are also keen to hear from our stakeholders about what is important to you so that we provide you with the updates and information you are seeking.

I look forward to sharing the results of our Strategic Planning with the Board and updating our Website to include our Strategic Plan.

Take care of yourself, and I look forward to our next edition in the week commencing 17 August 2020

Kind regards

Jacqueline

### **AFL public apology first step**

**The AFL has acknowledged it bungled the circumstances regarding a request by the Queensland Chief Medical Officer for Indigenous players to have a pneumococcal vaccination before travelling to Queensland for the ten week 'hub'.**

The AFL has suggested its 18 July apology to Indigenous footballers, their families, and club staff is a first step towards resolving the matter.

Reports suggest along with influenza vaccinations for all players, Indigenous players were requested by the Queensland Chief Medical Officer to also have a pneumococcal vaccination before travelling.

To read the full story by Giovanni Torre in the NIT, go to:

<https://nit.com.au/afl-says-public-apology-to-indigenous-players-first-step-in-resolving-vaccinations-scandal/>

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### NATIONAL INDIGENOUS POSTVENTION SERVICE



THIRRILI

#### VARIOUS ROLES, LOCATIONS FLEXIBLE ALL STATES/TERRITORIES

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.

We provide flexible working arrangements and extensive salary packaging opportunities for all employees. All salaries quoted are the base salary. Superannuation is additional. We support our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander staff with Cultural and Ceremonial Leave, as well as annual leave and personal leave.

#### Practice Manager

**(1 position available - \$87-91,000 pa)**

The Practice Manager is a pivotal role in developing and implementing evidence-based best practice models for the National Indigenous Postvention Service (NIPS), including Throughcare Planning and reviewing and enhancing the Model of Care.

#### Regional Implementation Managers

**(2 positions available - \$87-91,000 pa)**

These new roles will initially take on a “national focus” providing strategic community development and capacity building working.

#### National Indigenous Postvention Advocates (NIPA)

**(8 positions available - \$60-80,000 pa)**

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 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; 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](mailto:angela.t@thirrili.com.au) to obtain a copy of the Position Description and selection information. Applications must include: CV, Referees, Statement of Claims addressing the Selection Criteria.

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



## Survivors of Covid-19 show increased rate of psychiatric disorders, study finds.

The Guardian Australia reports that a study conducted in the wake of the Pandemic in Milan Italy, that "...more than half of people who received hospital treatment for Covid-19 were found to be suffering from a psychiatric disorder a month later".

The study included 402 patients of the San Raffaele hospital. To read the full story, go to:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/03/survivors-of-covid-19-show-increased-rate-of-psychiatric-disorders-study-finds>

## Evaluation of the National Suicide Prevention Trial

The National Suicide Prevention Trial has been funded by the Department of Health to develop and roll-out local community-led suicide prevention programs that draw on both local knowledge of what is needed in the community and the available evidence about what works, such as the ATISPEP.

Starting in 2017 and concluding in 2021, the trial is taking place in twelve regions across Australia, seven of which have a special focus on suicide prevention programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

The Trial has developed and rolled out a range of activities and programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in these seven regions: Kimberley, Mid- Western WA, Darwin, Central Queensland, Brisbane North, Western NSW, and Country South Australia.

Thirriili Ltd, in partnership with the University of Melbourne, is leading the evaluation of the Trial in those regions.

A key part of the evaluation is to conduct consultations with community members, Elders, staff from local services, and others to learn about how the Trial was planned and rolled out in each area, the challenges and success factors, and what kinds of outcomes stakeholders have observed.

While COVID-19 restrictions has forced some reworking of schedules along the way, experienced Aboriginal researchers have been in communities for several weeks now, undertaking the final round of consultations with stakeholders; including meetings with Traditional Owners and Elders in each community, yarning circles with program participants and community members, and individual face to face or videoconference meetings with stakeholders.

Meetings with Primary Health Networks and service providers holders are also underway— albeit largely by video conferencing— to ensure the evaluation captures the views and experiences of all stakeholders.

This evaluation will be important in helping our understanding of what works in preventing suicide, what does not work so well and what we can do better and capturing this knowledge will be critical towards reducing future suicides.

## National Closing the Gap Agreement

**On 30 July, a new Closing the Gap agreement was signed by the First Ministers of all Australian Governments, the Lead convenor of the Coalition of Peaks, and the President of the Australian Local Government Association.**

In the Press Release accompanying the announcement, Prime Minister Scott Morrison states: "Today finally marks

a new chapter in our efforts to close the gap – one built on mutual trust, shared responsibility, dignity and respect."

He added "This is the first time a National Agreement designed to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has been negotiated directly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives."

Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, said the National Agreement demonstrates the Government's commitment to work in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"The way all levels of government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives have come together to negotiate this National Agreement and collectively determine how we strive to close the gap demonstrates our commitment to working together through meaningful partnerships," Minister Wyatt said.

To read the full press release, go to:

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-agreement-closing-gap>

For more information about the Agreement, go to:

<https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement-closing-gap-glance>

## Upcoming events

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

For more information, go to:

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



## COVID-19 information updated

It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that COVID – 19 remains a threat to the health and wellbeing of those infected and in the worst cases, to their lives. As the Victorian situation continues to demonstrate, the so called 'second waves' of infection are proving difficult to deal with. In Victoria a 'State of Disaster' came in force at 6pm on Sunday 2 August and will last, at this stage, until Sunday 13 September. Take care of yourselves and your loved ones by following the advice of the NIAA and Commonwealth, State and Territory health experts. Links to each jurisdiction are below:

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

For tips for staying healthy and strong during the coronavirus outbreak, visit our friends at Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia. Go to:

<https://www.gayaadhuwi.org.au/files/gaaya-dhuwi-coronavirus-long.pdf>



## Crisis contact numbers

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

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