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Runway success

STYLE UP STARTS PAGE 9



Picture: Jarred Cross

'HAPPENING EVERY DAY'

Mourners on the streets in outpouring of grief for Jayda

DECHLAN BRENNAN & JARRED CROSS

Hundreds of mourners gathered in Naarm (Melbourne) this month to pay tribute to Jayda Lou-Eve Allen Bonner and call for justice following her death.

Ms Bonner, 21, was found dead in a fifth-floor apartment in a complex on Cardigan Street in the inner-north suburb of Carlton at about 1.45am on October 10 after emergency services were called.

There has been an outpouring of grief following the 21-year-old's death, with the wall outside the apartment where she was found covered in letters and images.

On October 14, homicide detectives announced they had charged a man with the murder of Ms Bonner. He was remanded in custody.

On Saturday, October 17, a smoking ceremony was held to honour the Yagera woman's life before the crowd marched to State Parliament. There were chants of "Jayda" from the crowd, with many holding posters with her face and slogans reading "Justice for Jayda" as well as calling for a national registry for domestic violence offenders.

Ms Bonner's aunt, Kelly Carter-Bell, told National Indigenous Times her niece had a "heart of gold and a soul for Country".

"She meant so much," Ms Carter-Bell said.

"She was a fierce fighter. She was a warrior girl, and she really deserves to be here."

Ms Carter-Bell said Ms Bonner's life "could have been saved" but "it wasn't".

"We weren't listened to. Jayda wasn't listened to until it was too late," she said. "You need to understand that domestic violence doesn't always look like bruises — it doesn't discriminate.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

REPARATIONS PACKAGE PROVIDES PATHWAY TO HEALING P3

McGrath makes inaugural speech

JARRED CROSS

Yolngu man Yiwarr McGrath plans to use his time in NT Parliament to bring the community's voice into decision-making as "government cannot deliver these things alone".

The new Labor member for Mulka was sworn in and delivered his inaugural speech in Parliament on October 13.

Mr McGrath, a former NT Young Australian of the Year, father of three, trained Aboriginal Health Practitioner and registered nurse, was elected as MP for the majority Indigenous north-east Arnhem Land seat in September's by-election, after the shock retirement of independent Yiniya Mark Guyula.

In his first speech Mr McGrath said what he could once only describe as a "deep" feeling of "being lost," as a child of "mixed-race heritage" orphaned by the death of his Yolngu mother and father of Irish heritage, is now a "double power or double consciousness."

"This is moving through the Yolngu world and the Western world," Mr McGrath said. "That knowledge is what I now carry with me into this role as I take my place as the member for Mulka."



Member for Mulka, Yiwarr McGrath, delivering his inaugural speech to NT Parliament. Picture: Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

Mr McGrath spoke of the cultural knowledge passed down, rites of passage and ceremonies undertaken after being taken in by his aunty and her husband. He wore the same dilly bag he received during this time around his neck while delivering his inaugural speech.

He noted his entry into Parliament comes in a "time of significant change in East Arnhem Land for both Yolngu and Balanda (non-Indigenous)" people, adding he intends to "shift the dial" for its communities.

Mr McGrath identified the need for appropriate and affordable housing, central services, small businesses, food security, investment in infrastructure, education and health services as key issues, as well as the future for Nhulunbuy as a central hub for the region.

He also noted the approaching end to bauxite mining on the Gove Peninsula.

"We need a transparent transition plan in place, with clear investment priorities and genuine engagement with people who live and work in the region, to ensure future confidence," Mr McGrath said.

"I will sit across a table from the ministers, public servants, businesses and leaders to advocate confidently for the people of East Arnhem Land, but I will not back down when I know something is not being done right. It is what came before and will remain long after the transition. That is Yolngu law, culture and kinship.

"I know that Government cannot deliver these things alone. The people know their communities, they know what works, they know what needs to change, and they deserve to have a genuine voice in the decisions that affect their lives, their families and their Country. That is the kind of representation I intend to provide."

In recent years, Mr McGrath became Arnhem Land's first Yolnu registered nurse, the role in which he was working before being elected. He said this milestone raises the question: "Did Yolngu people fail the system, or did the system fail Yolngu people? I'll tell you why I'm the first registered nurse... because the system for too long has been measured on a dominantly Western system that does not cater for someone like me."

"I basically had to put my Yolngu culture on pause to succeed in the Western world for five years in university. That is not how it should be," he said.

"It demonstrates that Australia and its curriculum are not ready to meet First Nations halfway and to walk together."

Mr McGrath thanked his family, Labor colleagues, Mr Guyula and others in his speech.

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Aaron Nannup's artwork Maarbakoort Bilya (pictured below) reflects the meeting of river and sea on Wadandi Country, a place of deep cultural significance where freshwater and saltwater sustain life. It honours the enduring connection between people, water and Country.

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Woodside Energy

Reparations bring relief

DECHLAN BRENNAN & JARRED CROSS

You can clearly see it has an impact, Ian Hamm says.

The Yorta Yorta man, who was removed from his family when he was three weeks old, spoke to National Indigenous Times this month about the experiences of survivors who have accessed Victoria's Stolen Generations Reparations Package and have been able to share their story.

He recalled one survivor who spoke at a Reconciliation Week event a couple of years ago.

"He went out and bought two chainsaws and a ute, and I thought, 'Where's this going?'" Mr Hamm said.

"And he said, 'Now I get to drive down to Country, to where I'm from, and I collect trees that have fallen down, and I take it home, and I make things. I make things with my hands with wood from my own Country.'"

For another survivor, the package meant being able to buy a new car for the first time.

Mr Hamm — who chaired the committee that developed the package and now chairs its independent assessment panel — recalled her telling him: "It's the first time I've really ever had anything new in my life, and I bought myself a little car."

"I could just see the look on her face," he said. "It wasn't so much about having a set of wheels; it was about 'I got something new, not second-hand.'"

Victoria's Stolen Generations Reparations Package, which commenced in 2022, recognises the trauma and suffering experienced by Aboriginal children who were forcibly removed from their families, culture and Country.

Designed by the Stolen Generations Steering Committee — which was made up of members of the Stolen Generations and their descendants, as well as community-controlled support organisations — the package applies to Aboriginal children who were removed in Victoria before December 31, 1976.

Along with a $100,000 lump-sum payment, recipients receive a personal signed apology from the Premier and the opportunity to share their story.

"It's like a letter of apology to them," Mr Hamm said.

"It's an acknowledgement of their story, and it's signed by the premier of the day. And people see that, and they say, 'This is really important. I feel like I've been heard by my own State about my story.'"

While the 2008 national apology delivered by then prime minister Kevin Rudd was vitally important, Mr Hamm noted a personal apology carries its own weight.

"You can see the real impact it has on people's lives ... the acknowledgement of their own story," he said.

"People don't often talk about it. They just keep it to themselves. That's really important for them internally."

For survivors, he noted, being heard also means being able to speak about their experiences without having to defend them.

"I'm not getting pushback on it, I'm not getting fought over, I'm not getting anybody else's opinion — I'm just speaking, and somebody's listening," Mr Hamm said. "That's incredibly important to people."

Beyond the payment and apology, the reparations package also provides access to healing programs, including family reunions, opportunities to reconnect with Country and language, and access to State records relating to a person's removal.

The Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency, through its Link-Up Victoria program, partners with the Victorian Stolen Generations Reparations Unit to deliver the package, bringing an understanding of survivors' healing needs to the process.

So far, three reunions have brought together 27 survivors.

During one trip, two survivors discovered they were cousins. Others have found the resting places of their mothers, grandparents and great-grandparents.

"Before the trip, I was living," one survivor said. "Now, I'm alive."

VACCA told National Indigenous Times healing from trauma takes time and survivors needed to be supported throughout the process.

"For many survivors, speaking about their experiences of forced removal and its lifelong impacts is an incredibly difficult process," they said. "Trauma can be suppressed, and revisiting it takes courage, strength and trust. Survivors must be supported to engage with the process in their own time."

While the reparations package will close to applicants in March next year, Link-Up Victoria has committed to continuing support for survivors and holding reunions until October 2027.

But as the program approaches its end, the legacy of child removals remains a pressing concern. Victoria has the highest rate of Aboriginal child removals in the country, at almost double the national rate. In 2024, Coroner Simon McGregor said the State's child protection system was suffering from systemic racism, after a 17-year-old Wemba Wemba child took her own life after multiple requests to connect with her Indigenous culture were ignored by those responsible for caring for her.

Many mothers lose their children at birth, with hundreds of unborn notifications — a mark against a mother's name by a Government official or police officer, often for minor or unproven reasons — made against Aboriginal mothers in Victoria each year.

It has prompted some experts to say the Government is creating another stolen generation.

The peak body for Indigenous children and families, SNAICC – National Voice for our Children, supports the reparations package.

However, chief executive Catherine Liddle says recognition of past harms must be matched by action to prevent future damage.

Despite decades of reports, she noted First Nations children remain vastly over-represented at every stage of the child protection process, spend longer in care and are less likely to be reunified with family.

The "vast majority of recommendations" from inquiries such as the 1997 Bringing Them Home report — which made recommendations to address the experiences and ongoing impacts of the forced removal of Indigenous children from their families — remain "unimplemented and underfunded," the Arrernte and Luritja woman told National Indigenous Times.

Ms Liddle said the Victorian government needed to listen and act on the evidence from Aboriginal people, "who have long been clear about the reforms needed to keep children safe and connected to family and culture," to protect future generations.

"That means investing in Aboriginal community-led solutions, strengthening family supports, and expanding early intervention to support families before they reach crisis point."

With the reparations package set to close early next year, some eligible survivors have yet to access the support available to them.

Mr Hamm is urging everyone eligible to apply.

"There are people I know who still struggle with their own experience, their own trauma in dealing with it," he said.

"I would encourage them to consider one way of finding a small amount of relief is to apply for the package."

Hundreds mourn 'fierce' Jayda and call for justice

FROM PAGE 1

"It's happening behind closed doors every day, more than ... a lot of people would ever understand. It's just horrific, and it's really, really, really hard to leave."

Antoinette Braybrook, chief executive of Aboriginal family violence service Djirra, told National Indigenous Times the organisation joined the vigil to support Ms Bonner's family and call for justice for the 21-year-old.

"We want to know why the system can so easily lock us up (and) take our children away," Ms Braybrook said, "but not immediately connect us to services for our safety, to save our lives."

She said they were "tired of hearing" about so many women who have been killed.

Ms Bonner was at least the 55th woman and the seventh Aboriginal woman killed in Australia in 2026.

"There is so much more work that governments and funders can do to support Aboriginal organisations," Ms Braybrook said.

"When we see tragedies such as this, we often see more resources going into police and government agencies, but that's not the solution," she said.

"The solution is frontline services, and for Aboriginal women-led services for safety."

On October 16, more than 25 organisations and individuals issued a statement arguing the alleged circumstances of Ms Bonner's death couldn't pass "without accountability," stating it was "entirely preventable, not inevitable".

Ms Bonner's death highlights "widespread systems failure, especially of the management of (alleged) high-risk family violence offenders," as well as the "management of offenders leaving prison and how we support Aboriginal women and their families to be heard and believed," the organisations said in a statement led by Djirra.

"We are furious that despite years of cultural safety training and daily work alongside Victoria Police, Corrections, Courts and the Department of Justice and Community Safety ... Djirra and other specialist Aboriginal family violence, justice and health services remained invisible to the system.

"All the red flags were there, yet we were not called to help."

1800 Respect (1800 737 732)
Lifeline (13 11 14)
13YARN (13 92 76)
Yarning Safe'N'Strong (1800 959 563)
Beyond Blue (1300 22 46 36)



Picture: Jarred Cross

AG orders inquest four years after child deaths



WA Attorney General Tony Buti. Picture: Richard Wainwright (AAP)

GIOVANNI TORRE

After a long campaign by Yamatji-Wajarri woman Dorothy Papertalk, Western Australia's Attorney-General this month called for an inquest into the deaths of her three grandchildren in 2022.

Jamelia Hawke,10, Arnda, 7, and Kelvin, four months, were killed in Port Hedland by their mother the day after she was turned away from a women's refuge.

Ms Papertalk has long fought for an inquest to examine why her multiple warnings to authorities did not lead to the removal of the children for their safety. She had asked repeatedly to become the permanent carer for the children but was dismissed in the years and months before their deaths.

Margaret Hawke is serving life in prison for the murders.

Former WA Governor Malcolm McCusker and former president of the WA Children's Court Denis Reynolds wrote to WA Attorney-General Tony Buti twice, arguing his office had the discretion to order an inquest.

On October 5, after receiving their first letter, Dr Buti had told National Indigenous Times he had "sought further legal advice today and was again advised" he was "unable to direct that an inquest be held once a decision to refuse an inquest has been made by a Coroner, unless there is fresh evidence not previously considered by the Coroner's Court".

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy had also called on the WA Government to ensure an inquest into the deaths was carried out. On October 15, Dr Buti said he had reviewed files related to the children's death, which he described as "heartbreaking", the ABC reports, and had written to the current Coroner requesting an inquest.

"I'm now satisfied there is new evidence and circumstances that were not considered by the former coroner Philip Urquhart in his decision not to conduct an inquest," the Attorney-General said. "This tragedy is unspeakable and my thoughts have and always will be with the family members who are grieving." The Attorney-General also announced a broader review into the laws guiding coronial inquests, saying they needed to be "as easy to navigate as possible". The review is expected to be completed by the end of next month, and the legislation is expected to be introduced into Parliament in 2027.

On October 12, the WA Government had announced the appointment of Janelle Marr as Senior Coordinator for the Pilbara, a role set to oversee multi-agency work and report to the State's Child Protection Minister.

Also this month, the National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, Sue-Anne Hunter, released the Terms of Reference for the Review of the Regional Child Protection System in the Pilbara.

The independent targeted Review will examine whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the Pilbara receive timely, coordinated support - and whether child protection, health, education, housing, police, justice and other services are meeting their responsibilities to uphold children's rights.

Commissioner Hunter said the WA Government must make immediate improvements that impact the daily lives of children and young people, rather than providing short-term solutions to band-aid reported problems.

"Governments must be held accountable for delivering material improvements in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, not simply the level of activity they report," she said.

"Children's rights must be reflected in their everyday lives - in their safety, the conditions they need to grow and develop, their connections to family and culture, and their influence over decisions that affect them."

The Review comes after concerns raised by Pilbara Elders, families, community members, leaders, experts and organisations, and the National Commissioner's visit to the region in September.

Lifeline (13 11 14)
13YARN (13 92 76)
Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800)

'Remote allowance too low'

GIOVANNI TORRE

Central Land Council representatives have travelled to Canberra to confront legislators with the stark reality of living costs in remote and regional Australia.

Council members Roxanne Kenny and Maryanne Malbunka, joined by CLC general manager Josie Douglas, went to the capital during Anti-Poverty Week, from October 11 to 17, to explain to members of Parliament how families are struggling to survive amid soaring prices for fuel and household goods.

The Land Council said many people "can no longer afford to drive hundreds of kilometres to town to find cheaper options and shop around to make ends meet".

"In remote communities, living costs are 40 per cent more than in the nearest town. Kids are going hungry. People can't afford to keep their power on over long hot desert summers," they said.

"CLC members believe substantially lifting the remote area allowance for the first time in more than 25 years will make a difference to their families. They have been calling for this for a long time, but their voices go unheard."

The Hawke Government introduced the allowance in 1984 to help compensate for the higher living costs out bush — $7 a week. Forty-two years later it pays $9.10 a week, when diesel costs up to $4 a litre in some areas.

The Australian Council of Social Service and the Economic Justice Alliance are two of 30 organisations from throughout the country backing the call to lift the allowance to $121.30 a week. On October 16, ACOSS and the EJA joined the Central Land Council for a press conference in Parliament's Mural Hall.

"Our people are suffering," Ms Kenny said at the time. "Fuel can be up to $4 or more and the community shops are so dear. You walk in with $100 you come out with just one plastic bag."

New laws harm Aboriginal kids: Commissioner

DECLAN BRENNAN

"Punitive shifts" in Victoria's youth justice system have led to worsening outcomes for Aboriginal children, who remain over-represented in the system, the State's First Nations Children's Commissioner said this month.

The comments, made in the annual report of the Commission for Children and Young People tabled in Parliament on October 16, come amid a series of bail and justice law changes introduced by the State Government which has been heavily criticised by legal and human rights groups.

"The evidence shows that youth detention is damaging children and young people as it also erodes rehabilitation and community safety," Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People Dallas Widdicombe said.

"Of great concern is that these impacts continue to hit Aboriginal children and young people at rates well beyond their representation in the population."

Highlighting the "with us, not against us" inquiry, tabled earlier this year, the report notes the consultation the commission had with children and young people under the age of 14 who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

It made 15 recommendations aimed at addressing the underlying factors contributing to their involvement. These included raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 and developing alternative approaches that respond to cumulative trauma, disengagement and disadvantage, which can increase the risk of offending.

Detention could also restrict children's access to programs and support services critical to rehabilitation, it said.

Victoria's Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People, Tracy Beaton, said independent evidence was essential to improving outcomes for children.

"A crucial part of that evidence is the voices of children and young people themselves," she said.

The report noted serious incidents in youth justice increased by 53 per cent, including reports of physical and sexual violence, while the average monthly number of young people in detention rose by 35 per cent. There was a 36 per cent increase in the number of un-sentenced children and young people held on remand, in line with the expectations from experts concerning changes to Victoria's bail laws.

"Together these changes to sentencing and bail laws have increased and will continue to increase the population in youth justice custodial centres," the report said.

AFTER THE VOICE

Three years on from the referendum, Indigenous affairs are 'going backwards', write **Dechlan Brennan & Jarred Cross**



Travis Lovett at Parliament House after his Walk for Truth. Above, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Senator Lidia Thorpe. Pictures: Dechlan Brennan, Mick Tsikas, Bianca De Marchi

Three years after the Voice referendum defeat, the Labor Federal Government's efforts in Indigenous affairs continue to draw criticism from First Nations leaders, who say the Government has moved away from its promises.

The referendum defeat on that Saturday in 2023 followed a campaign many considered disastrous. While the overwhelming majority of Indigenous people voted Yes, more than 60 per cent of the overall population voted against an enshrined First Nations voice in the Constitution.

Three years on, the political response from senior members of the Government, including the Prime Minister, has drawn the ire of leaders throughout the country.

The Government's political capital took a significant hit in the 12 months that followed, and it was only an inept 2025 election campaign by the Coalition, marked by faux pas and culture wars, which saw Labor regain the electoral high ground.

A political mandate going to waste

However, despite its massive majority in Parliament, the Government has refused to enact significant reforms called for by Indigenous leaders. Despite committing to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, two of its key elements — truth-telling and treaty — remain off the table.

Former Yoorrook Justice Commissioner Travis Lovett walked from Melbourne to Canberra this year to call for a national truth-telling body. He told National Indigenous Times, three years on from the referendum defeat, "all we hear from the Government is about Closing the Gap".

"But we will never close it if we refuse to confront why it exists.

"Communities across the country have called for a national truth-telling process. We walked all the way to Canberra to deliver that message. Yet the Government continues to fall short of the action needed to confront the systems that harm First Peoples. We are left waiting yet again."

Thorpe: Labor 'completely abandoned First Peoples'

Senator Lidia Thorpe left the Greens in 2023 in part over their support for the Voice. The Gunnai, Gunditjmara and Djab Wurrung woman says since the referendum defeat, the government have "completely abandoned First Peoples".

"Constitutional recognition was never our priority," she said. "When our people marched across the Harbour Bridge in the year 2000, we were calling for Treaty. Labor has shown it does not work in the interests of First Peoples; it does not care about justice for us."

She told National Indigenous Times the Government's opposition to issues such as shackling during childbirth and banning of strip searches bills (the Government says they are issues for the States) is evidence of their lack of care for the concerns of many First Nations people.

"Their Closing the Gap framework has gone backwards under Labor," Senator Thorpe said. "They're cutting tens of millions from the National Indigenous Australians Agency, and this country has become more racist than ever, while those profiled in the Yes campaign have been handed board and commissioner roles at the expense of grassroots self-determination."

'Since the Voice, there's been very little'

Former minister for Indigenous affairs Ken Wyatt, who quit the Liberals over their opposition to the Voice, has also been critical of the direction the Government has taken.

"What statements have you seen from the Minister for Indigenous Affairs (Malarndirri McCarthy) that are proactive since the Voice? And what has come from the Prime Minister? He was very active during the Voice. Since the Voice, there's been very little," Mr Wyatt told The Australian last month.

Since the referendum, the Government has focused on economic empowerment for First Peoples, as well as jobs and remote housing. Earlier this year, the Prime Minister told Parliament that the Government wanted "land to be a basis for prosperity and economic sovereignty, not a barrier to it".

"In energy and construction, tourism and fashion, hospitality and technology, Indigenous Businesses are winning awards — and creating jobs," he said.

"Indeed, they are between 40 and 100 times more likely to employ Indigenous Australians. We are boosting the financing capacity of Indigenous Business Australia — backing more entrepreneurs to get their great ideas off the ground."

Albanese vowed to pursue 'better outcomes for Indigenous Australians and their children'

The Prime Minister and members of his Government maintain that they want a better future for First Nations people, with Anthony Albanese previously committing to "continue to seek better outcomes for Indigenous Australians and their children and the generations to come", while also promoting the Closing the Gap agreement as a key element of his Government's agenda.

Landmark policies such as the Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program — which superseded the failed, Coalition-era Community Development Program — and the 10-year, NT, Commonwealth joint remote housing deal have been widely welcomed.

Furthermore, the Government can rightfully point to unglamorous but vital reforms such as its Low-Cost Essentials Subsidy Scheme — led by Senator McCarthy — which has reduced prices on 30 essential grocery items across 225 remote stores nationwide, and the legislating of a First Nations child commissioner — long called for by advocates — as just some of the work it is doing for Indigenous Australians.

However, people who have spoken to this publication have argued Senator McCarthy has often been sidelined from some issues she cares about, or asked to take on a cultural load for matters not in her portfolio. When a child protection scandal erupted in WA, it was the Yanyuwa woman forced to answer questions, rather than the Federal social services minister, prompting a rare defence of the minister from Senator Thorpe. While Labor has a strong, passionate, and proud First Nations caucus that has led inquiries into racism and youth justice, some have observed that since the Voice, the Government has rarely enacted anything that could be deemed even slightly radical in the First Nations space.

The results are going backwards

The latest Productivity Commission data shows only four Closing the Gap targets are on track to be met, with five improving but not on track and two showing no change.

Four key measures — suicide, incarceration, developmental outcomes and children in out-of-home care — are worsening.

Furthermore, racism and violence towards Indigenous people have become commonplace but largely ignored by the mainstream media. The Government has also ignored legal advice to intervene in the justice systems of States and Territories that are incarcerating children as young as 10, telling Parliament they are free to govern as they see fit on matters of law and order.

Mr Lovett argued that First Peoples have "been left increasingly exposed to racist pile-ons and devastating acts of violence" since the referendum, citing the alleged January 26 terror attack in Boorloo (Perth), the booing of Welcome to Country ceremonies and the "murdering of our women".

"The gap can never be closed without confronting the truth, and the Government cannot claim to be building social cohesion while First Peoples are left to bear the brunt of racism and injustice," he said. "Three years on, we are still waiting to see leadership and action from the Government."

Shelter closure backlash



Advocates warn that closing the shelter will lead to a spike in rough sleeping. Picture: Lloyd Jones (AAP)

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The Northern Territory Government's decision to close Darwin's YiSSA homelessness accommodation facility and relocate residents to Batchelor — 100km away — has drawn criticism from Aboriginal organisations, health services and human rights advocates over access to essential services, housing and consultation.

YiSSA, operated by Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation, housed up to 400 mainly Aboriginal people, including domestic violence survivors and people from remote communities who needed access to life-saving medical treatment such as kidney dialysis.

The NT Government's decision to end the existing arrangement came after unsuccessful negotiations over the purchase of the property, with Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro arguing that retaining the facility would be a "waste" of taxpayer money.

The Commonwealth had offered about $3.5 million towards purchasing the demountable buildings — owned by Ausco — with the NT Government contributing $3 million, but the proposal was rejected. The NT Government instead announced plans for a replacement respite and recovery facility in Batchelor, about 100km south of Darwin.

The Government said up to 150 residents would be relocated to Batchelor, while others would be supported to find alternative accommodation. Children and Families Minister Robyn Cahill said the new facility would provide structured case management to assess residents' long-term needs.

The saga has seen an extraordinary fallout between the NT and Commonwealth Governments, which have publicly criticised each other.

Ms Finocchiaro told Mix 104.9 this month that the "Government's not in the business of providing holiday accommodation for people," adding that "we need to be talking about people who genuinely do not have a home and need a roof."

The Territory has the highest rate of homelessness in the country, at almost 12 times the national average. Aboriginal people make up 87 per cent of the Territory's homeless population.

Danila Dilba Health Service, along with several other Aboriginal organisations, opposed YiSSA's move, warning that relocating residents away from Darwin would make it harder for them to access healthcare.

The dispute has raised broader questions about the involvement of Aboriginal-controlled organisations in delivering services to Aboriginal people and the NT Government's commitments to self-determination and partnership. "The situation is exacerbated by the selection of a non-Aboriginal organisation to manage the facility, without any discussion or tender, despite the availability of Aboriginal-controlled organisations with demonstrated competency and capacity in supporting our most vulnerable Territorians," DDHS chair Carol Stanislaus said.

The Federal Government defended Yilli Rreung's role in running YiSSA, with Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy labelling it a "well-respected and highly effective Aboriginal community-controlled organisation that had been operating the facility for years."

The CLP Government's "cruel decision" would have a "devastating impact on the lives of so many in need," she said. "When we see more homeless people on our streets, we will know who put them there."

Aboriginal organisations called on the CLP to "urgently convene a public forum to provide clarity and detail on their strategy, planning and costs, to listen to the concerns held by Territorians and respond to the people directly impacted by this decision."

It also attracted scrutiny from the Australian Human Rights Commission.

"We are concerned that this decision will leave people who are already facing hardship at greater risk of poor living conditions and further disadvantage," Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Katie Kiss said.

INPEX

Environment plan consultation: *Opportunity for relevant persons to provide feedback*

INPEX is a global energy company committed to sustainable and responsible resource development.

INPEX Ichthys Pty Ltd (INPEX) is developing the Ichthys Field (WA-50-L) in the Browse Basin, approximately 220 kilometres off the coast of Broome, Western Australia and 820 kilometres south west of Darwin, Northern Territory.

INPEX has operated the existing Ichthys offshore facilities since 2018. The following Environment Plans (EPs) are currently being developed to support the ongoing safe operation of these facilities:

1. Ichthys Offshore Facility Operation – five-year revision EP

Revision of the EP for ongoing operation and maintenance of the Ichthys offshore facilities, support vessels, and subsea systems, including operational updates and planned maintenance activities.

2. Ichthys Gas Export Pipeline (GEP) Operation – five-year revision EP

Revision of the EP for ongoing operation, inspection if required, repair of the GEP, maintenance, and potential repair of the gas export pipeline, including updates from operational improvements.

3. Proposed Ichthys Umbilicals, Risers and Flowlines and Subsea Production System Construction EP

New EP for expansion of the Ichthys subsea production system, including installation of new subsea infrastructure and seabed surveys to support future development.



Contact us

We wish to hear from relevant persons whose functions, interests and activities may be affected by the work that we are planning. These may include cultural and spiritual connections, commercial or recreational activities offshore, tourism or local community interests. Your feedback may contribute to further understanding the existing operational environment and the identification of potential new risks and impacts, assisting INPEX in refining and enhancing its management measures.

Via email: consultation@inpex.com.au
Via website: www.inpex.com.au
Via phone: 1800 705 010

INPEX kindly requests feedback by 9 December.

Beloved Elders transformed conversation on cultural ownership

Community mourns icons

GIOVANNI TORRE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this article contains the names and images of people who have died, used with the permission of their family.

Indigenous leaders and other community members around Australia have been paying their respects to Arnhem Land Elders Mr and Mrs T and C Yumbulul, pictured right, following their deaths in September.

They leave an extraordinary legacy for the artistic world and beyond.

Mrs Yumbulul migrated from Italy with her family as a child, later moving as a young woman to Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island), off the coast of Arnhem Land.

She married Mr T Yumbulul, who became a world-renowned artist and played a key role in standing up for the rights of Indigenous artists.

"Terry and Clely were both strong-willed people who were very firm in their beliefs," family members said in a statement to National Indigenous Times.

"Behind his public life, Terry worked in the background … He co-ordinated ceremonies, advised on business and mediated family disputes. He shared stories of Arnhem Land and of the Wessels, and in quiet conversations he educated people about the Yolngu and Warramiri world and worldview."

Vince Wangurra, a family member, said of Terry: "I witnessed no equal to him."

He worked tirelessly, the family noted, "believing that you earn your keep".

"He was proud, and I think that pride came from knowing exactly who he was: the Warramiri chief of the Wessel Islands, a title given to him by his father, David Burrumarra MBE. That pride was something both he and Clely shared.

"They both had a very clear idea of how the world should be. They fought for it and advocated for it, and they established, built and founded the programs, committees and organisations to carry out that vision."

The family noted that art held a profound significance in Mr Yumbulul's life. "For Terry, art was never decoration. It was Country, law, story and ceremony, and it carried responsibility. His work was exhibited across Australia, the United States and Europe. He took Warramiri stories and ancestral knowledge far beyond East Arnhem Land, across bark, canvas, sculpture and ceremonial poles," they said.



"What made his impact lasting was the purpose behind it. His whole life was about education and recognition. Through his art, people outside the Yolnu world could come to understand it, on Yolnu terms. Clely travelled with him to those exhibitions, and she was often the intermediary between Terry, his art and culture, and the audiences. Terry carried the knowledge, and Clely helped people understand it."

In 1988, the Reserve Bank of Australia used one of Mr Yumbulul's artworks — without permission — on a special edition $10 note commemorating 200 years of European "settlement" in Australia.

The image depicted the sacred morning star poles.

While Mr Yumbulul's legal action against the RBA was ultimately unsuccessful, the judge's comments set a new legal precedent.

"The Reserve Bank case put Terry at the centre of a national conversation about who owns culture," his family told National Indigenous Times.

"On one side was the Western idea of individual copyright. On the other was the Yolngu understanding of ownership, responsibility and authority. That conversation mattered for every Aboriginal artist who came after him. It challenged the assumption that our designs and stories are there for anyone to use. And it made space for a much broader recognition of Indigenous cultural and intellectual property."

Mr and Mrs Yumbulul also made a massive and enduring contribution to public health in their community.

"Their work in health spanned decades and took many forms. In Galiwin'ku, they helped establish the community night patrol, and they patrolled together. Terry also served as town clerk there, during a time of enormous change," the family noted.

"At Miwatj, Terry was part of the executive team and was instrumental in the negotiations to regionalise its health services. He advocated for the health and wellbeing of Yolngu people right across East Arnhem, and Clely was right beside him, working in the local clinic and transporting patients."

Mr and Mrs Yumbulul were both founding members of Mikan. Established in 2017 as the Mikan Child Protection Reference Group, Mikan brought Yolngu Elders and senior community members together to work alongside the child protection system, one of the first groups of its kind in the region.

They also worked tirelessly to protect the environment and cultural heritage, two things they saw as strongly connected.

Later in life, Mr and Mrs Yumbulul established their home on Wigram Island.

"Terry and Clely were both founding members of Garngirr Fishing Aboriginal Corporation, one of the earlier ventures in East Arnhem around aquaculture and Yolnu people operating fishing licences. Terry negotiated pearling ventures on Warramiri Country. He maintained relationships with politicians, business owners, CEOs and cultural leaders, so that Yolnu people had a seat at the table when decisions about our sea Country were made.

"Together, Terry and Clely worked with historians and researchers looking into early contact across the Wessel Islands. They didn't simply let people come in and interpret Country however they liked. They stayed part of the process and kept Traditional Owner authority at the centre."

While Mr Yumbulul's exhibitions and art "put him front and centre", much of the other work and advocacy they did together happened out of the spotlight, the family told National Indigenous Times.

"People may not know the origins of what we see in our communities today. Dig a little deeper, though, and you'll likely find both of them there.

"Everything they did, whichever way you look at it, was done with the greater good in mind. Whether it was art, health, sea Country or community, the principle was the same. Yolnu people should have a voice over our own affairs, culture should be respected, and Traditional Owners should never be outsiders in decisions about our own land, sea and communities.

"Their goal was never fame … It was simply what was right, and at its core it was always about genuine acknowledgement and respect.

"The biggest lesson they leave us is to fight for what you believe is right, and to be fearless in its pursuit. They didn't wait for permission. What they built lives on in their family, in the organisations they founded, in the rangers caring for sea Country and in the children growing up connected to their kin. It is now up to us to carry that forward with the same courage and conviction."

NT child reforms condemned after review findings

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Aboriginal organisations say they are "deeply concerned" about the direction of the Northern Territory Government's reforms impacting women, children and families, warning decisions are being made without meaningful consultation with Aboriginal communities.

The concerns follow the release this month of the independent Webb-Shanahan review into the Department of Children and Families' handling of five-year-old Kumanjayi Little Baby's case before her death. The report identified extensive failings and called for a system-wide reset. Kumanjayi Little Baby died in April after being allegedly abducted and murdered by Jefferson Lewis, 47. He has not entered a plea and is being held in custody.

In accepting all 45 recommendations of the report, Children and Families Minister Robyn Cahill blamed decades of limited progress in child protection on Labor Governments that had "put so-called progressive beliefs ahead of child safety". "A child's culture matters but it can never come before safety," she said. In response, North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service chief executive Cindy Torrens said the tragedy should not be used to advance a political agenda "without evidence that the proposed changes will prevent further harm".

"Child protection is not a silo," she said. "It is an intersection of housing, justice, education, social services and health."

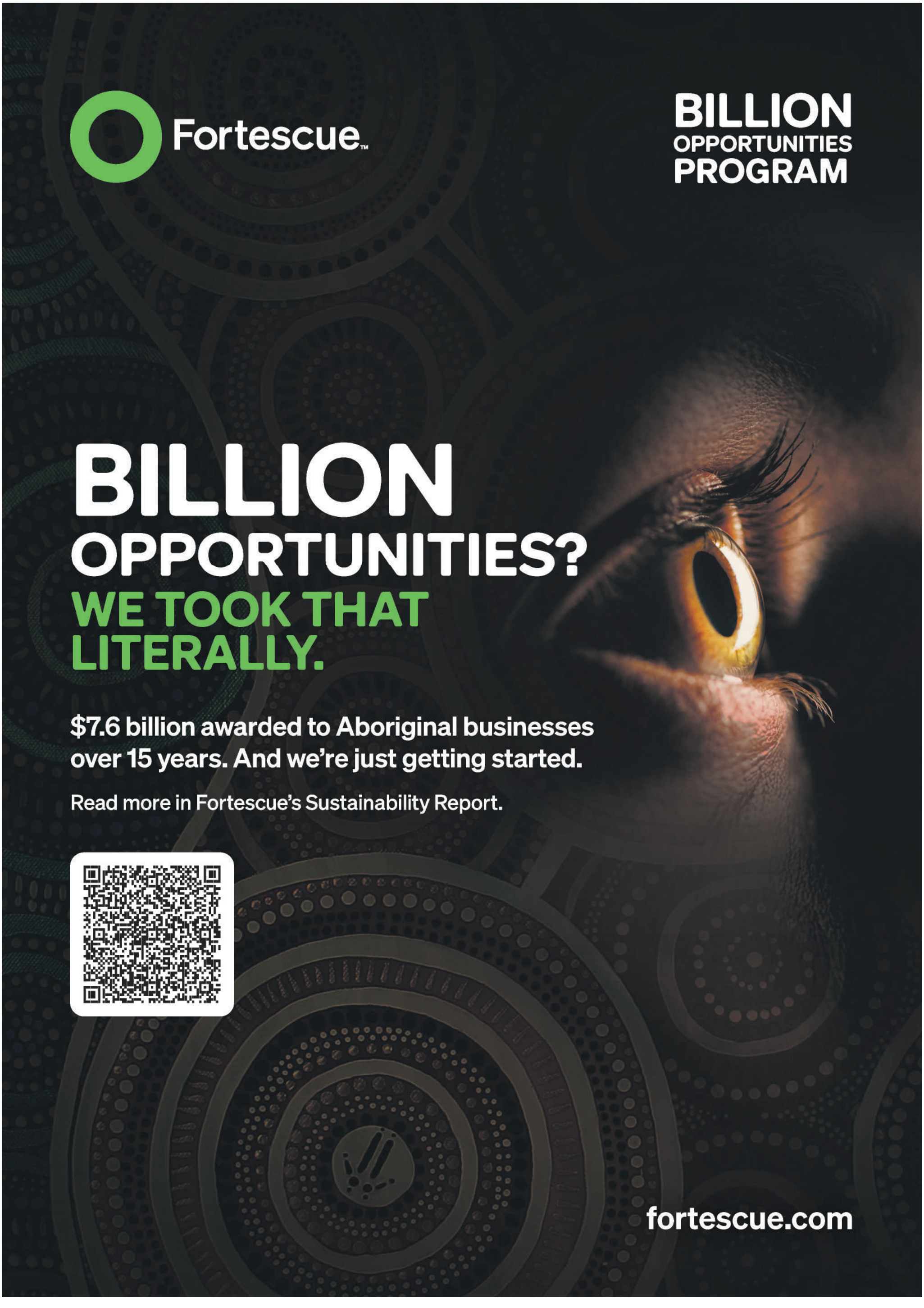
She accused the Government of "doing everything to move Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the fringes".

"We cannot continue to be excluded from any decisions and anything that's impacting our people," she told the ABC.

A coalition of NT legal organisations said the CLP's reforms — including a weakening this year of the child placement principle — reflected "a troubling pattern of significant decisions being made without meaningful engagement with the people most affected".

SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children chair Muriel Bamblett said the review did not identify the child placement principle as a factor in Kumanjayi Little Baby's death, yet weakening it had been the Government's only substantive response. "To blame culture and the (principle) for what are plainly failures in family, child and community safety is a deflection of the NT Government's responsibility to keep children safe and connected to family, culture and community," she said. The report highlighted Kumanjayi Little Baby's mother's extensive experience of domestic and family violence. The legal groups warned these experiences "must not be misrepresented as the cause of her child's death".

National Commissioner for Indigenous children, Sue-Anne Hunter, said she was "deeply concerned" about how the report treated Kumanjayi Little Baby's mother. "No woman should have to read her own history of violence in a Government report, and no woman who seeks help should fear that this is the price of asking."


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STYLEUP

FASHION, BEAUTY & LIFESTYLE

Runway Our way

First Nations designers star at Melbourne Fashion Week

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Picture: Naomi Rahim

Symbolic storytelling hits runway

Aboriginal designers command the Melbourne stage on their own terms, writes **Phoebe Blogg**



Renowned for spotlighting the industry's top First Nations designers, in 2026 Melbourne Fashion Week returned with culture, creativity and craftsmanship at its core.

This year's theme, Wear The Moment, celebrated self-expression and the inclusive spirit of MFW, inviting everyone to be part of the moment, on and beyond the runway.

The week kicked off with the all-Indigenous ganbu marra (in Woi Wurrung "one mob") runway.

Held on October 19 at the National Gallery of Victoria, the runway took over the Gandel Hall.

Dedicated to First Nations designers, ganbu marra featured the likes of Delvene Cockatoo-Collins, Ebony Noire, Kaninda, Marnin Studio, Atyene Clothing, OUT OF HAND x Lisa Waup, Rowland Vision, Saretta The Label, Van Ermel Scherer, and Yapa Mali.

Taking on the role of creative director and runway stylist, proud Wiradjuri and Waiben Island man Lindyn Rowland infused his own aesthetic into the runway while staying true to each designer's niche and inspiration.

Speaking to Style Up, Rowland explained he wanted audience members to feel the emotion of the runway before they understood it, which on the night resulted in Rowland creating a high-energy symbolic runway.

"There are a lot of subliminal messages throughout the vision," he said.

"I think that's very Scorpio of me, having these incredibly deep hidden emotions that don't always get spoken about directly, but somehow find a way to come through.

"I want people to feel something before they necessarily understand what they're looking at."

This year, popular swim and resortwear house Van Ermel Scherer made their MFW debut.

Founded by designer Verity van Ermel Scherer, the brand, which launched at Australian Fashion Week this year, pays tribute to Scherer's late grandmother, Valerie van Ermel Scherer (Mattie Frith), a Stolen Generations survivor whose creative legacy lives on through the house's signature kaftans and bespoke textile storytelling.

"Following our Australian Fashion Week debut, being part of the ganbu marra runway feels like a natural next step for the brand," van Ermel Scherer told Style Up.

"I'm particularly excited that my first Melbourne Fashion Week experience will be alongside other First Nations creatives.

"Opportunities like this allow us to share our individual stories while contributing to something much bigger than ourselves."

Debuting a variety of the brand's signature free-flowing silhouettes, the collection featured both men's and womenswear.

"The collection brings together swimwear and resortwear, featuring expressive prints, earthy tones and fluid silhouettes," van Ermel Scherer said.

"What makes this runway particularly exciting is the theme, Ghetto Opera, and the creative vision of Lindyn Rowland, who is leading the creative direction and styling for the show.

"I love the idea of seeing my work through another creative's lens and being part of something that pushes boundaries and celebrates individuality."

First Nations designers also appeared on other runways during the week including Ngali, Gammin Threads, Clothing The Gaps, Grace Lillian Lee, LIANDRA and EDITION x Sarrita King.

First Nations models were also spotlighted during the week including Billie Jean Hamlet, Elaine George, Savannah Kruger and Cassie Black. Executing yet another high-energy ganbu marra runway, Melbourne Fashion Week proved once again that First Nations design is no longer fighting for the spotlight, but creating a significant space of its own.



Picture: Gemma Thomas



Picture: Naomi Rahim

■ Melbourne Fashion Week took place October 19 to 25, 2026.



Picture: Naomi Rahim



Picture: Naomi Rahim



Picture: Kyle Archie-Knight



Picture: Kyle Archie-Knight

Carrolup art goes on show

PHOEBE BLOGG

Landmark truth-telling exhibition Once Known is now on Menang Country at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

Presented by John Curtin Gallery and Gorenang Moortabiin Aboriginal Corporation, the new iteration of the exhibition opened to the public on Thursday, October 22.

Once Known offers an opportunity to see artworks created by Aboriginal children forcibly taken from their families and detained at the Carrolup Native Settlement in the 1940s.

A selection of the Carrolup artworks made their way to the United States and were rediscovered by chance at Colgate University, New York, in 2004. This collection, known as the Herbert Mayer Collection of Carrolup Artworks, comprises 127 pieces, 23 of which are included in Once Known.

John Curtin Gallery director Professor Susanna Castleden said she was grateful to work with Gorenang Moortabiin to bring such an important exhibition to the region.

"Through the Carrolup Centre for Truth-telling Reference Group, Noongar Elders have gently guided the care, use and priorities of the Carrolup artworks and we are honoured to share this exhibition on Menang Country," Professor Castleden said. The artworks were moved from Old Perth Boys' School in St Georges Terrace to the Albany Entertainment Centre — with future exhibitions set to launch at the new purpose-built gallery space at John Curtin Gallery in 2027.



Main: The golden road, 1946-50, pastel on paper.
Inset: an untitled piece. Pictures: Supplied



Warning as artists face AI counterfeit threat



RONAN O'CONNELL

Chern'ee Sutton is one of a growing number of Indigenous artists whose work is being copied and sold using AI, which experts warn is worsening Australia's huge problem with counterfeiting of Aboriginal art.

Australian Indigenous-style souvenirs sell for $250 million annually, but more than 60 per cent are fake, a 2022 investigation by Australia's Productivity pCommission found.

The 2022 report found Indigenous artists earn just $1800 from their art a year, on average. A key reason for the low level of this income was because of the market being flooded by fake Aboriginal paintings made overseas, imported to Australia and then mostly sold to tourists by non-Aboriginal businesses.

Now the future of Aboriginal artists is facing an even greater challenge because of AI technology which can copy or mimic any type of Aboriginal design, as Ms Sutton has discovered. A Kalkadoon woman from the Mount Isa area of north-west Queensland, she and her sister Brooke are considering legal options after recently discovering AI versions of Brooke's art being sold online by an Australian website.

"People need to realise that just because they're buying a piece of art or a product that has Indigenous art on it, does not mean that it is art created by an Indigenous artist," Ms Sutton told National Indigenous Times.

"The best way to ensure that you know exactly where the art is coming from is to ask who the artist is and if there's no artist mentioned, there's generally a reason."

The counterfeiting of Aboriginal art is now "on steroids" because of the impact of AI, according to Dr Louise Buckingham, chief executive of the Arts Law Centre of Australia, the country's only community legal centre supporting artists.

Dr Buckingham said the centre offered free services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, who frequently reported concerns about counterfeiting.

"I'm not aware of any more recent study conducted along the same lines (as the 2022 investigation into counterfeiting) but all evidence points to it being way, way worse now, thanks to generative AI running roughshod over culture and law," she said.

Dr Buckingham said the Federal Government needed to make AI companies, as well as businesses selling fake Indigenous art, legally responsible for any role they played in facilitating fraud against Indigenous artists.

"(They must be made) accountable for their theft and authorisation of mass copyright and moral rights infringement, as well as existing encroachments on ICIP and First Nations culture," she said.

"We know it's happening at an inconceivable scale. We need regulation and the law to step up. Anything less is a denial of sovereignty and a denial of these works being a means of self-determination and economic gain for community. It's shameful."

A spokesperson for the Federal Government told National Indigenous Times they did not have data on how commonly AI was being used to copy Indigenous Australian art, but recognised concerns about the impact of AI on creators.

The spokesperson noted that in 2023 the Government pledged $13.4 million over four years to help develop new legislation to protect Indigenous traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.

"The Government is progressing measures to strengthen protections for First Nations traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, including action to address fake Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, merchandise and souvenirs," they said. "An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander expert working group is helping ensure First Nations knowledge, expertise and lived experience inform this work."

For now, however, there is limited legal protection for Aboriginal artists like Emrhan Tjapanangka Sultan. A Western Arrarnta, Luritja and Kokatha man, raised in Mparntwe / Alice Springs he is the is co-founder of Solid Lines, an independent creative agency which represents Indigenous artists. Mr Sultan said he knew several Aboriginal artists whose work had been used without permission.

He had also noticed many fraudulent artworks for sale that appeared to be mimicking the style of a particular region. Especially the dot art of Australia's Western and Central Deserts, which was commonly manipulated on AI platforms.

"AI adds another layer of worry, making it even more difficult for Aboriginal artists with a deep cultural connection to their storytelling that impacts their way of making a living or a small wage," Mr Sultan said.

"Personally, AI hasn't changed the way that I create art as my designs are traditionally rooted my strong culture and connection to country. Although it has made me extra cautious that AI can steal and manipulate what is Aboriginal art very easily and that people who are prompting AI to create Aboriginal art, it should be made aware that it isn't right or fair to the artists."

Ngarabul and Torres Strait Islander artist Lauren Rogers has been outspoken on how counterfeiting of Indigenous works robs artists and devalues Aboriginal culture. These worries are now deepening due to the use of AI to replicate Indigenous artistic languages. "What concerns me most is how quickly AI can create something that looks like Indigenous art without any of the cultural knowledge, relationships or lived experience that sits behind the work of an Indigenous artist," Ms Rogers said. "When those elements are scraped, reproduced or imitated without consent, attribution or cultural understanding, there is a real risk of cultural appropriation being accelerated by technology."



Chern'ee Sutton with one of her works, and top, Ngarabul and Torres Strait Islander artist Lauren Rogers.

Acclaimed artist to lead Parrtjima as new festival curator

PHOEBE BLOGG

Parrtjima announced this month the appointment of acclaimed First Nations artist, designer and creative director Jacob Nash as curator for 2027.

Nash's appointment will build on Parrtjima's legacy, bringing his renowned creative vision and experience to a festival that continues to showcase Aboriginal culture, stories and creativity in new and engaging ways.

Parrtjima will light up Mparntwe (Alice Springs) from April 9 to 18, celebrating Aboriginal culture through contemporary art, technology and storytelling against the spectacular backdrop of the Tjoritja/MacDonnell Ranges in the Northern Territory's Red Centre.

The festival returns amid growing international recognition for the Red Centre's immersive art scene, which was named among Lonely Planet's World's Top 25 Experiences in Best in Travel 2027, with Parrtjima highlighted as one of the region's must-see cultural attractions. "There's nowhere else in Australia where culture, Country and light come together like they do at Parrtjima," Nash said.

"Aunty Rhoda Roberts had a vision for a festival in the heart of Australia, a platform for First Nations artists to share their stories on Country, under the night sky. Over 11 years she brought that vision to life, showcasing artists from the Centre and beyond and carrying their work out to the world. To be entrusted with that legacy, I am deeply honoured.

"I'm looking forward to working with the Arrernte community, the Reference Group and First Nations artists from across the country. I can't wait to get started."

Portrait honours fight for justice



The portrait of Leetona Dungay. Picture: David Prichard, supplied by the National Justice Project

GIOVANNI TORRE

A portrait of justice campaigner Leetona Dungay, whose son David Dungay Jr died in custody, has won a major international photography prize.

Photographed by David Prichard, the portrait captures Ms Dungay, a Dunghutti Elder, in her South Kempsey home.

She has spent more than a decade fighting for justice following his death in December 2015 at Long Bay Jail, after he was forcibly restrained by six prison guards.

His last words were "I can't breathe".

Ms Dungay, along with her family, friends and community, has been taking a stand against a system that continues to fail Aboriginal people.

In December 2025, through her ongoing advocacy, a scholarship was established in David's honour to support Aboriginal health professionals working in the NSW criminal justice system.

Prichard contacted Ms Dungay after learning that 2025 marked 10 years since David's death. He travelled to her home in January and spent the day with her, creating the portrait.

Titled "Just A Breath Away", the photograph takes its name from a poem David wrote while incarcerated.

"I will always keep fighting for justice for my son and to end deaths in custody," Ms Dungay said.

"Knowing that this photograph will be seen by people around the world means my son's words and his story can continue to reach people."

The photograph received the bronze award at the 2026 Prix de la Photographie, Paris.

The awards recognise professional and non-professional photographers from around the world.

The winning portrait was entered into the "press/political" category and will now be exhibited at Galerie 24b in Paris.

It brings Ms Dungay's ongoing fight for justice to an international audience.

Prichard said he was "very happy with the recognition of this portrait of Leetona and the prize, as it will bring attention to Leetona's fight for justice".

Environment Plan

seeking relevant persons' input

Chevron

Chevron has been operating in Australia for more than 70 years – creating enduring benefits and delivering reliable, affordable energy. We welcome feedback to enhance our environmental management measures as we progress offshore activities to support the ongoing supply of natural gas to Western Australia and the Asia Pacific region.

Our activities

Chevron Australia is planning to drill and complete five subsea production wells in the Chrysaor and Dionysus (C&D) gas fields in Commonwealth waters, approximately 73 kilometres northwest of Barrow Island off the mainland of WA in water depths between 770 and 1,140 metres.

The drilling activities are indicatively scheduled to commence from Q3 2027 and may occur as a single campaign or over multiple campaigns. Drilling activities are estimated to take 12–18 months to complete.

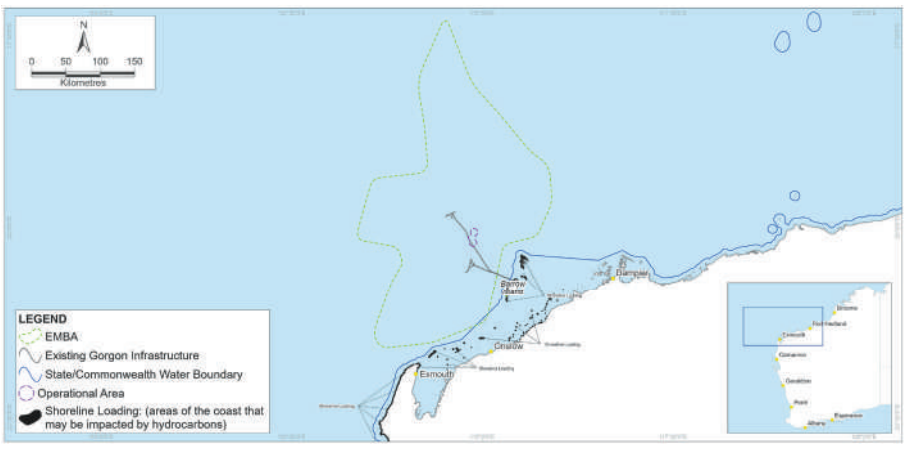
The feedback we receive during consultation will inform and enhance the Chrysaor and Dionysus Drilling Environment Plan, which must be accepted by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) before activities may commence.

Environment that may be affected (EMBA)

As part of our environmental assessment and consultation process, Chevron Australia creates maps to provide geographical context for relevant persons to determine if their functions, interests or activities may be affected by an offshore petroleum activity during planned activities (e.g. routine or contingency operations) or from an unplanned event (e.g. emergency scenarios).

The map shows the Operational Area (OA), a 5 km radius buffer around the indicative well locations, and the EMBA, which is based on worst-case unplanned hydrocarbon release scenarios (oil spill events) resulting from either a vessel collision or loss of well control event.

The EMBA has been defined through combining multiple oil spill model simulations for the unplanned release scenarios under different weather and ocean conditions (~300 simulations per scenario). This means that in the highly unlikely event an unplanned release of hydrocarbons does occur, a geographical area much smaller than the EMBA would be affected.



Most of the potential environmental impacts or risks arising from planned activities would occur within, or within proximity of, the OA. However, for unplanned events the geographical extent may be much broader.

Chevron Australia has systematic control measures to prevent and mitigate emergencies, and to reduce the potential environmental impact and risks of planned activities on the environment (including to ecological, social, and/or cultural sensitivities).

We want to hear from you

We are now seeking feedback and input if you consider your functions, interests, or activities may be affected. This may include Traditional Owners and Custodians with a spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea Country, local community members, and those involved in commercial or recreational fishing and tourism.

Please contact us by **2 December 2026** to be included in consultations. Visit **australia.chevron.com/feedback**, call tollfree on **1800 225 195** or scan the **QR code** for more information.

Empowering Yolngu artists

LIANDRA GAYKAMANGU



Picture: Felipe Molina Dorlhiac

LUNDU started almost by accident.

I never intended to start another organisation. The work we were doing with Yolngu creatives was always going to sit within LIANDRA, my fashion brand. But somewhere along the way, it became clear that what we were building was much bigger than a fashion label.

When I started LIANDRA in 2018, I wanted to build a business that reflected who I was, where I came from and what mattered to me.

As a Yolngu woman who grew up between two very different worlds, I've experienced firsthand how people's access to opportunities can depend on where they grow up.

I've been fortunate to work across industries and build relationships that have opened doors I never imagined walking through when I was younger.

Naturally, I wanted to share that.

As LIANDRA grew, I started bringing other First Nations creatives into photoshoots, fashion events and collaborations, or simply introducing someone to a person I thought they should know.

There wasn't some grand strategy. It was something I felt was important and knew I was in a position to do.

Over time, those opportunities added up. I began working more intentionally with emerging Yolnu creatives, creating paid work, industry connections and experience in spaces that aren't easy to access from remote communities.

The more we did, the more I questioned why these opportunities were so difficult to come by.

Because the talent has always been there.

Our remote communities hold extraordinary creativity, knowledge and capability. What isn't always there are the networks, resources and pathways to turn those skills into careers.

From somewhere like Milingimbi, attending an industry event or meeting a potential mentor can involve four days of return travel, significant costs and a whole lot of co-ordination.

And that's before someone even gets their foot in the door.

In 2025, we supported emerging creative Jack Minmidhi to attend Australian Fashion Week in Sydney, work behind the scenes and connect with people across the industry.

The value goes well beyond the event. It's the people you meet, the confidence you build and possibilities you hadn't considered.

But what happens next matters.

I've never wanted to bring someone into a project for a day, celebrate the moment and move on. I want relationships to last and opportunities to lead to other opportunities, giving creatives the experience, confidence and connections to pursue whatever direction they choose.

After several years, I realised LIANDRA could only take this work so far. The possibilities extended beyond fashion into photography, media, styling and design. I didn't want them limited by the size, resources or direction of my business.

That's where LUNDU came from: giving work that had been growing for years the space and independence to become what it needed to be.

Today, LUNDU creates meaningful work, professional development and connections for Yolngu creatives, while building relationships with industries that have so much to gain from working alongside them.

Opportunity doesn't only flow in one direction. Our communities have extraordinary knowledge, creativity and perspectives to contribute. This isn't about expecting people to fit an existing mould. It's about making space for different ways of working, learning from one another and recognising everyone's contribution.

That means bringing industry into our communities too, creating real work on Country and building relationships where Yolngu knowledge, leadership and creativity help shape the work from the beginning, on our own terms.

I don't believe people should have to leave their communities behind to pursue their ambitions. We need to think more creatively about how people can build careers while maintaining strong connections to Country, culture and community.

Looking back, I can see how this work has evolved over five years, one relationship, one project and one opportunity at a time.

I didn't set out to create LUNDU, but I always intended to create opportunities for people from my community. I'm proud of what it has become and excited about what it can make possible.

I've never believed that talent is the problem. It's what we do to create opportunities for that talent that matters.

Perhaps the real challenge isn't finding it, but changing how our industries connect, collaborate and create opportunities beyond the places and people they already know.

Liandra Gaykamangu is the founder of LUNDU.

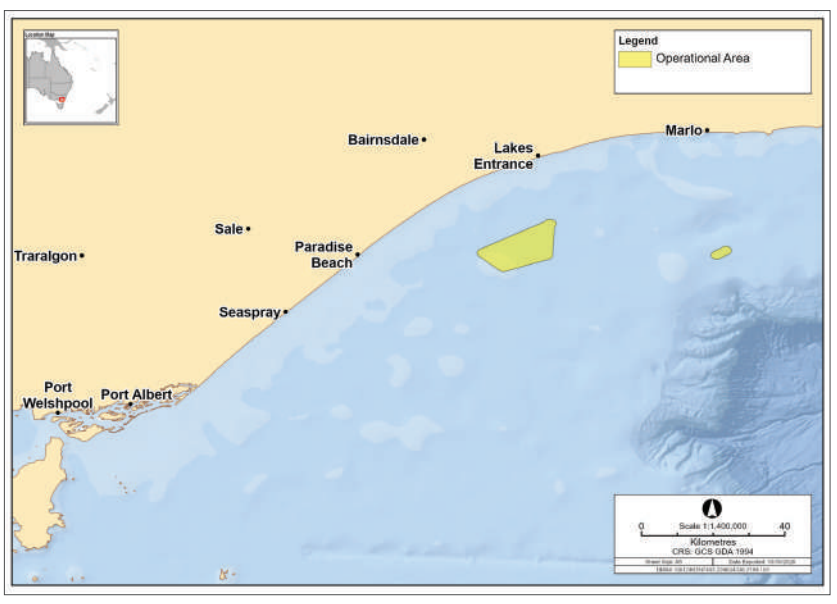
SWWEP Drilling and Subsea Installation Environment Plan

For more than 50 years, the Gippsland Basin has played a significant role in supplying oil and gas to help power homes, businesses and industries across eastern Australia. Today, Woodside Energy continues to deliver Gippsland gas to Australia while also working to responsibly decommission facilities that are no longer in operation.

Woodside consults with relevant persons to gather feedback to inform its Commonwealth Environment Plans.

SWWEP Drilling and Subsea Installation Environment Plan

Woodside plans to submit the Sweetlips, Wirrah, Whiting and East Pilchard (SWWEP) Drilling and Subsea Installation Environment Plan (EP), which covers drilling and completions of up to four infill development wells and installation of subsea infrastructure, as well as pre-commissioning to enable hydrocarbons from these wells to be conveyed to shore through the existing pipeline network for further onshore processing at the Longford gas plant. The proposed SWWEP development remains subject to achieving the policy certainty necessary to support a Final Investment Decision and, if approved, would be located in Commonwealth waters approximately 20 km south of Lakes Entrance, Victoria.



Consultation

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be affected by the activities under this EP, we would like to hear from you by **18 November 2026**. Woodside's methodology for identifying relevant persons includes consideration of both planned and unplanned impacts of the activity. For unplanned impacts, Woodside uses the Environment that May Be Affected (EMBA), which is the largest geographic area where an unplanned event could potentially have an environmental consequence. For more information on the EMBA and whether the proposed activities in this EP have the potential to affect your functions, interests or activities, please see the full Consultation Information Sheet using the QR code below.

To find out more go to:

www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities
You can also subscribe via our website to receive future information on proposed activities.

IndigenousAffairs@woodside.com
Toll free: 1800 442 977
woodside.com

Woodside Energy

PNG women left behind

MICHELLE O'SHEA & ROHINI BALRAM



Spectators at the Men's Rugby League World Cup Round 1 Pool match between Papua New Guinea and Lebanon in Port Moresby on October 17. Picture: Dan Himbrechts (AAP)

In 2028, the Papua New Guinea Chiefs will make their highly anticipated National Rugby League debut after unprecedented Australian federal government investment, a flurry of big-name signings, lucrative tax breaks and seemingly infinite commercial deals.

But if we pause for a moment and look beyond the hype, deeply uncomfortable realities come into stark view. These include queries about why the new franchise won't feature a women's team.

If this investment is truly intended to transform PNG, women can't remain on the sidelines. They must be central, not secondary, to its vision, opportunities and outcomes.

Bold aspirations for the new team

Rugby league is PNG's national sport, so the launch of the Chiefs was widely celebrated on both sides of the Arafura Sea.

The expansion was announced in late 2024, with the Australian government tipping in $600 million. The funding is partly due to Australia's efforts to curb China's growing influence in the Pacific.

The funding includes: $290 million to support the team's operations; $60 million for the NRL's existing franchises as a licence fee; and $250 million for a Pacific rugby league partnership, which also covers Fiji, Tonga and Samoa, to encourage grassroots participation and establish a pathway for elite athletes. PNG Prime Minister James Marape said the team was "a national unification strategy deployed under the flag of rugby league".

These transformative aspirations were echoed by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who stated he could not think of "any aid and assistance in our region in the Pacific [...] more important than support for the PNG Chiefs".

He added the funding would include investment in girls' and women's rugby league across the region.

However, Australian Rugby League Commission boss Peter V'landys has said the new club will not feature in the NRLW until the league is confident it can be competitive.

There are currently 17 NRL clubs, and 12 women's teams in the NRLW.

Women are doing it tough in PNG

PNG is one of the world's most dangerous places for women to live.

Domestic violence has been declared a national crisis, with a recent report finding more than 60% of women in the country had experienced violence from an intimate partner - more than double the global average.

Protections for women and children are often undermined by weak enforcement, lack of resources and deeply entrenched patriarchal gender norms.

Violence, often targeted at women, regularly accompanies domestic rugby league contests in PNG. The broadcast of high-stakes NRL fixtures have been linked to domestic and social violence, prompting police calls for broadcast bans.

However, in recent years the PNG government and the NRL have developed programs to address the issue.

Since 2013 the League Bilong Laif program - a sport-for-development initiative funded by the Australian and PNG governments and delivered by the NRL - has successfully created opportunities to reshape attitudes towards women and girls.

The NRL's Voice Against Violence education program, delivered in partnership with PNG's family and sexual violence action committee, is also helping young women and men take action against domestic violence.

In January, the PNG Rugby Football League announced a gender strategy, marking the first time a national rugby league federation worldwide has adopted such a comprehensive equality framework. It seeks to drive progress for women and girls in four areas: participation (including coaching), leadership, visibility (including media) and safe and respectful environments.

How a women's team could help

PNG's national women's team, the Orchids, made their World Cup debut in 2017. It marked a watershed moment for women's rugby league in the country and initiated significant shifts in gendered mindsets.

It prompted Marape to say: "10 years ago, it would not have been possible to see parents allowing their girls to play - that stereotype has been broken now".

Sport won't end gender-based violence on its own. But it shapes identities and social norms, making it a powerful platform for challenging gender stereotypes and advancing respect and equality.

A PNG NRLW team would place women at the centre of a cultural space traditionally dominated by men, both materially and symbolically. It would elevate their visibility, status and value within one of the nation's most influential social institutions.

Former PNG men's rugby league captain David Mead has urged prioritisation of the women's game:

It's a nation that's still developing in terms of the way the role of the woman is seen. You get an NRLW team from PNG, that whole perception, the whole cultural shift occurs much faster.

This shift can include women competing in a physically demanding contact sport, challenging stereotypes that women are unsuited to strength, toughness and athletic excellence.

Despite the potential for a PNG NRLW team to amplify these benefits nationwide, no firm commitment nor timeline for a women's team has been announced.

Time to place women and girls at the centre

As PNG gets ready to co-host the 2026 rugby league World Cup with Australia and New Zealand — a tournament featuring both men's and women's teams — the country's passion for the sport will be on full display.

But in a country grappling with entrenched gender inequality and despicable rates of gender-based violence, the case for women's rugby league extends far beyond wins and losses on the field.

Much more needs to be done to ensure the agency, leadership and opportunities of women and girls in PNG are placed at the centre of development and nation-building efforts.

A team in the NRLW could play a part and must happen sooner rather than later.

■ Michelle O'Shea is a Senior Lecturer, School of Business, Western Sydney University and Rohini Balram, is an Adjunct Fellow, Humanitarian and Development Research Initiative, Western Sydney University. This article was republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons licence.

Leaders demand Canadian government take water action

GIOVANNI TORRE

Indigenous leaders this month urged the Canadian Government to take a much stronger stand to protect First Nations' access to clean and safe drinking water.

In an open letter to Canada's Minister of Indigenous Services, Mandy Gull-Masty, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs warned that the Federal Government's Bill C-37, 'an Act respecting water, source water, drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on First Nation lands', "fails to adequately recognise and uphold First Nations' inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, and jurisdiction over their lands, waters, and resources".

UBCIC President Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Vice-President Chief Councillor Linda Innes, and Secretary-Treasurer Chief Marilyn Slett said while the union recognised the need for legislation that gu aranteed First Nations' access to clean and safe drinking water, it holds "strong opposition" to the Bill as it stands. The UBCIC Chiefs-in-Assembly have consistently called for new drinking water legislation aligned with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, developed in full partnership with First Nations title and rights holders, and supported by long-term, sustainable funding.

"Water systems, watersheds, and source waters extend beyond colonial boundaries and are inseparable from First Nations' territories and the exercise of their title and rights," the chiefs said. The Union expressed concern the Bill "does not adequately recognise" access to safe and clean drinking water as "an enforceable human right or establish sufficiently binding obligations on Canada to ensure its realisation".

"The legislation must establish enforceable standards and meaningful federal accountability."



NTIBN team members including Naomi Anstess (front). Picture: Reece Harley

Blak business 'the future'

REECE HARLEY

Hoops 4 Health, the Darwin basketball and youth program founded by Timmy Duggan OAM, was named NT Blak Business of the Year this month at a sold-out Mindil Beach Casino Resort Pavilion, where Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network chief executive Naomi Anstess told 500 guests blak business was "the goddamn heart of this place and the future of it all."

The NTIBN named **13** category winners and a new Regional Champion under the banner "Bring the Fire", months after the network itself was moved out of a Territory Government office at short notice.

Mr Duggan, a Warumungu, Wagiman and Nyikina man, was the first Territorian to play in the NBL. Hoops 4 Health runs Hoops on the Inside in Don Dale and the Territory's adult prisons. Mick's Cranes Australia and last year's winner, North East Arnhem Land Aboriginal Corporation were also finalists.

"It's about more than just winning games," Mr Duggan told National Indigenous Times.

Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro was billed to speak but pulled out at the last minute. Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations Robyn Cahill spoke in her place, setting out the Territory Government's support for business. The Government provides no funding to NTIBN, and its recent eviction of the network from a Government office left Ms Anstess' team working around the clock to relocate.

"When people tell us we are not important enough to support, when people take our funding, when they move us on, when they do those things, we will rise and we will continue to rise," Ms Anstess said. "Because we will do it ourselves."

She centred her speech on the network's BlakPrint Report, modelled by Deloitte Access Economics, which puts the Blak business contribution to the Territory economy at $3.4 billion in 2024-25, or 10.1 per cent of gross territory product, "almost on a par" with the public sector and defence.

"We are not on the periphery; we are in the centre. We are driving it forward, and we are critical to the Northern Territory economy," she said. "It is our business owners who are losing profit for purpose. So don't anybody dare tell me a Blak business is not a social enterprise, because we are doing the heavy lifting and closing the gap.

"We're saying, 'no more teacher aide, be the teacher'."

The resources and energy sector paid about $10 billion in tax nationally this year, she said, and NTIBN's members paid the equivalent of 8 per cent of that. Indigenous business employs 11,500 Territorians.

Ms Anstess praised gold sponsor Rusca Developments.

"Thank you, that paid the rent for a day on our country," she said. "It is our blak businesses investing in each other."

She told allies to "get with the program… we want you to buy from us".

Michael Assan of Mick's Cranes Australia, last year's start-up winner, was named blak male business owner of the year. The Wakka Wakka man launched the Territory's first Aboriginal-owned crane company in Katherine in October 2024 and now dry-hires a 130-tonne crane to INPEX.

Nicole Thompson, a Mak Mak Marranunggu woman, won blak female business owner of the year for TRACKS Integrated Services, which has placed more than 88 people into Ventia's Defence contracts, and its NDIS arm TRACKS Care.

Ms Anstess presented the new "regional champion" award to Triple P Contracting of Elliott, a town of 287 people on the Stuart Highway. Gordon Jackson and Susey Kidd founded it in 2013 and hold about $11.5 million in Territory roadside contracts with a crew that is 90 per cent Aboriginal.

"Since 2013, we have businesses on every part of the highway in every corner of the Territory," she said.

Nalan Seafoods won start-up of the Year 10 months after Bo Carne, a Jabirr Jabirr and Bardi man and the inaugural chief executive of the Aboriginal Sea Company, and his wife Shay bought and renamed a 27-year-old Winnellie fish wholesaler.

Shots on Country took out creative business of the year 13 months after Will Lauenstein, a Wuthathi man and serving RAAF Aboriginal liaison officer at RAAF Base Darwin, registered it as a sole trader.

Sinead Burnett, a Darwin mother of two who moved into traffic sign manufacturing in 2024, won young blak entrepreneur for Absolute Signage NT.

Jipungwayi, whose name means "the fire in me," won growth business of the year for founder Mikey Coombes, who runs youth diversion and NDIS programs on the Tiwi Islands.

AKJ Services, the Larrakia-owned civil contractor former INPEX site cleaner Jessie Risk built into a 100-strong business with more than $100 million of Defence work, won blak impact creator.

Kalano Community Association of Katherine, seven months on from the town's worst flood in 28 years, won community controlled organisation of the year. Buymarr Getaways of East Arnhem Land won tourism. Cross Cultural Consultants won Consultancy. Black Cat Civil won Construction and Resources. McMahon Services Australia NT, which manages 1200 remote homes with its majority Aboriginal-owned partner Intract, won ally business of the year.

Yung Milla, the Marranunggu rapper from Darwin who won The Voice Australia, performed at the awards night alongside J-Milla.

"There is no economy without us," Ms Anstess said. "If you want to rebuild the economy, then you better look Blak, and I can help you with that."

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Generations of opportunity

For the Turland family, from the Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi, Warnmun and Kariyarra peoples, the story of Fortescue's Vocational Training and Employment Centre began with Doreen and has continued across generations.

Four Turland family members have completed the program, with its influence reaching their wider extended family.

Mother-of-four Doreen joined VTEC in her early 50s after working as a teacher's aide and in government departments. She decided she wanted to try something different and build a new future for herself.

"I was helping people in a government department and seeing them go off to do VTEC, so I decided I wanted to sit on the other side of the desk," she said.

In 2008, Doreen travelled to Perth for VTEC training before starting at Cloudbreak. Her daughter Kendall joined the program at the same time. Doreen had never imagined becoming a truck driver, but she gave it a go, developed her skills and went on to spend seven years at Fortescue driving trucks.

Working alongside Kendall gave them the chance to learn together and make lasting memories. Doreen says the work brought financial security and made a difference to her life, the lives of her children and wider family.

She continued to drive trucks up until she retired and credits the VTEC program for giving her the opportunity to start.



Chris Turland with Cynthia Cameron Turland on site. Picture: supplied

"It gave me the opportunity to step into a new career, and it was a wonderful career. I really enjoyed driving trucks, and I got to do it alongside my daughter," Doreen said.

Doreen's career change inspired other members of the family to follow in her footsteps. Before joining Fortescue, her son, Chris Turland, worked as a crane driver. He went on to complete VTEC and started at Cloudbreak as a dump truck driver, later also operating a loader. After nine months, Chris applied for a traineeship at Fortescue's rail yard and became the first person from Port Hedland to join the team as a local trainee.

"Most other people working at the yard were flying in from Perth, but I love living in Hedland and it was an opportunity I couldn't pass by," Chris said.

More than 15 years later, Chris has worked in a range of rail roles and is now a coordinator. The legacy continues with the family as Chris' son, Mahlon, has also joined the rail team as a shunter driver, and his daughter is looking into the VTEC program.

Chris says he is proud to see his family build their own careers and take part in the program. "If you're dedicated and want to learn, the options are endless," he said. "I've seen what VTEC can do for other people, including my family."

Doreen's granddaughter, Cynthia Cameron-Turland, a proud Yamatji, Ngarluma, Kariyarra woman, joined VTEC in Port Hedland straight out of school. She spent six years at Fortescue, working in dewatering as a maintenance technician.

"I enjoyed the work and it was always so nice to see family around the camp or when the trains were coming through," Cynthia said.

Cynthia continued from VTEC into LEAP and was later selected for Fortescue's CEO for a Day program where she was had the opportunity to shadow Fortescue's executives, learn about the business and gain a new perspective.

Cynthia described the experience as a valuable one. "VTEC changed my life and it gave me opportunities that I didn't think I'd have," she said.

For Tiffany Turland, Doreen's daughter, the influence of those who came before her is deeply personal. She is now on secondment with the VTEC team in Hedland, where she supports trainees as they develop skills and build confidence.

Tiffany says her mother's strength and determination helped shape her own path.

"I am who I am because of her," she said. "I hope Mum knows how much I admire her and how proud I am to be her daughter."

■ *This report was produced with the support of Fortescue.*

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

***NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993* (CTH) SECTION 29**

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	51/2339	LACE VALLEY PTY LTD	70BL	69.3km E'ly of Meekatharra	Lat: 26° 30' S Long: 119° 11' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6823	METALBELT HOLDINGS PTY LTD	70BL	13.5km E'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 57' S Long: 118° 20' E	MUKINBUDIN SHIRE, NUNGARIN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6824	METALBELT HOLDINGS PTY LTD	30BL	27.5km SE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 31° 0' S Long: 118° 28' E	MUKINBUDIN SHIRE, NUNGARIN SHIRE, WESTONIA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2850	GOLDBRIDGE SL PTY LTD	16BL	69.5km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 4' S Long: 119° 38' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3398	FORRESTANIA RESOURCES LIMITED	28BL	99.1km E'ly of Hyden	Lat: 32° 31' S Long: 119° 57' E	DUNDAS SHIRE, KONDININ SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3399	FORRESTANIA RESOURCES LIMITED	2BL	59.4km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 0' S Long: 119° 33' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3401	GOLDZONE INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	1BL	56.5km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 43' S Long: 119° 25' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3402	GOLDZONE INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	1BL	55km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 44' S Long: 119° 26' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3403	GOLDZONE INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	1BL	53.5km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 45' S Long: 119° 27' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3404	GOLDZONE INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	4BL	49.5km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 50' S Long: 119° 35' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/7026	WEST AUSTRALIAN PROSPECTORS PTY LTD	117.03HA	13.3km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 3' S Long: 121° 5' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/7027	WEST AUSTRALIAN PROSPECTORS PTY LTD	117.96HA	14.8km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 4' S Long: 121° 5' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/7028	WEST AUSTRALIAN PROSPECTORS PTY LTD	117.70HA	14.5km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 4' S Long: 121° 6' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/7029	WEST AUSTRALIAN PROSPECTORS PTY LTD	116.85HA	15km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 4' S Long: 121° 5' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/7030	WEST AUSTRALIAN PROSPECTORS PTY LTD	112.04HA	15.3km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 4' S Long: 121° 4' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	26/4874	STEVENS, Leigh Scott	10.00HA	23.5km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 49' S Long: 121° 41' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4876	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	182.04HA	33.5km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 56' S Long: 121° 50' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4880	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	115.44HA	12.5km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 51' S Long: 121° 30' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4881	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	198.46HA	14.2km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 52' S Long: 121° 30' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 21 October 2026

Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **21 January 2027**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.

Expedited procedure: The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each licence may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day **(i.e. 21 February 2027)**, a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518

Please note – Not all intention to Grant notifications are published in the National Indigenous Times. For more information please contact the Department above

*** - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²**

Corporations unite to shape energy future

GIOVANNI TORRE

Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation and Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation, through their respective commercial entities Banjima Pty Ltd and Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation, signed a major Memorandum of Understanding this month to "explore renewable energy and transmission opportunities on Banjima Country".

The agreement, announced on October 14, establishes an exclusive framework for collaboration to investigate a pipeline of projects that could support the Pilbara's energy transition.

In a joint statement, the groups said the MOU reflects "a shared commitment by Banjima and Yindjibarndi organisations to explore renewable energy and transmission opportunities on Banjima Country and create long-term benefits for their people".

The organisations said the partnership aligns with the objectives of the Pilbara Energy Transition Plan, including supporting regional decarbonisation, increasing Aboriginal participation in the energy transition and enabling the development of common-use infrastructure to strengthen the Pilbara energy system.

> We have a responsibility to think about the long-term future.
>
> **Michael Woodley**

Banjima has already secured $2.5 million through the WA Government's Clean Energy Future Fund to support the development of a renewable energy project on Banjima Country.

The collaboration "provides an opportunity to bring together Banjima's aspirations for Country with YEC's renewable energy development and commercial capability," the organisations said.

Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation chair Paula White said the agreement represented an important opportunity for Traditional Owner groups to work together on matters that would shape the future of the Pilbara.

"The energy transition presents significant opportunities for Traditional Owner people in the Pilbara. By working together, we can explore opportunities that align with our shared values, protect Country and create lasting benefits for future generations," she said.

"This partnership means we can advance our first major renewable energy project on Banjima Country, which is backed by a $2.5 million State Government Clean Energy Future Fund grant."

Yindjibarndi Group chief executive and YEC director Michael Woodley said collaboration between Traditional Owner groups would be critical to ensuring Aboriginal people are active participants in the energy transition.

"As Traditional Owners, we have a responsibility to think about the long-term future of our people and our Country. This agreement provides a foundation for Banjima and Yindjibarndi organisations to explore opportunities together and ensure our voices are part of the conversations shaping the Pilbara's future," he said.

"We want to see Traditional Owners not only consulted on major energy developments, but also actively participating in and benefiting from them. While the MOU establishes a framework for cooperation, it does not commit either party to the development of specific projects or investment decisions. Any future opportunities identified through the collaboration will be subject to further assessment, commercial considerations and relevant approvals."



A large scale solar plant in Western Australia. Picture: Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation

IBM awards celebrate Indigenous leaders

CALLAN MORSE

Celebrating its 12th year in 2026, Indigenous Business Month has become a national movement recognising the contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses make to communities and the Australian economy.

The month-long celebration of Blak business was recently highlighted at the annual Indigenous Business Month awards in Magandjin (Brisbane), celebrating examples of exceptional leadership, ingenuity, and collaborative spirit.

The Indigenous Digital Inventiveness Award was awarded to Wayne Quilliam Photography for outstanding cultural creativity and business acumen powered by technology.

For more than three decades, Mr Quilliam has dedicated his life to recording stories of rural remote and urban communities through photography and videography. "Winning this award reminds me, every image I create, every story I honour, and every moment shared with community carries a resonance deeply embedded within all our spirits," he said.

"This is affirmation of the decades I've spent walking Country, listening deeply, and shaping culture through art and how it connects me to the ancestors and the people I walk with."

The Indigenous Ingenuity Award was awarded to DCC Group to celebrate a business tackling community challenges through innovative models.

DCC Group offers residential care, foster and kinship care, disability support, allied health, youth justice, community programs and workforce solutions, and employs more than 800 people.

"Winning the Indigenous Ingenuity Award is recognition that, when Aboriginal-led purpose, lived experience and bold business thinking come together, DCC can create real pathways of safety, healing and opportunity; because no vulnerable person should ever be left behind," DCC Group CEO Deejay Egan said.

The Regional Indigenous Business Award was jointly awarded to AMY Nominees and Yurra Pty Ltd.

AMY Nominees — a wholly owned subsidiary of the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation — provide employment opportunities and support local businesses.

"What we've achieved is a reflection of the hard work, commitment and resilience of our people," AMY Nominees human resources and administration manager Darcy Kneebone said.

"As a regional Indigenous business, we are proud to create opportunities for people to grow, build meaningful careers and make a positive contribution to our communities." Yurra is a proudly majority Yindjibarndi-owned business based in the Pilbara region of Western Australia and has grown into a diversified business employing more than 400 people; delivering services across construction and maintenance, project management and technology.

33 Creative co-founder and director, Mayrah Sonter, said the Indigenous business sector had experienced significant growth in the 12 years of Indigenous Business Month.

"I am especially excited to see the amazing innovations coming out of the sector," Ms Sonter said.

IM Social Impact Agency co-founder and managing director, Leesa Watego, said: "I know how vibrant the Indigenous business scene is here and I am excited to have the opportunity to connect our local ecosystem with these amazing winners."



The Elders' Tent. Picture: Supplied

Knockout success to fuel firm's expansion

JARRED CROSS

A start at the Koori Knockout could lay the foundation for bigger things for an Aboriginal owned-and-operated events company.

Winjirra Events delivered the Elders' Tent space at the recent Koori Knockout in Raymond Terrace.

They're now looking at booking, planning and hosting larger events, being involved in the catering space, and supporting housing, education, health and culture more broadly as they grow.

Winjirra is an Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council cultural events company. With the new arm comes employment, training and business opportunities.

Elders' tents at the Knockout are a yearly inclusion at the carnival, providing a place to rest in the warm spring days while the footy is played by hundreds of teams coming from all across the state.

Awabakal LALC chief executive Kumarah Kelly said their launch at the Koori Knockout was just a first step.

"Launching Winjirra Events at Koori Knockout is a proud moment for our community and a practical first step in growing our cultural events capability," Ms Kelly said.

"Through the Elders Tent and future events, Winjirra will help us create culturally grounded employment pathways, strengthen our event capability and reinvest income back into programs that benefit the Awabakal community."

The event company's establishment came with around $250,000 in support from the NSW Government's Aboriginal Economic Development and Business Growth Program, which offers up to $4 million collectively, including to support and empower Aboriginal businesses and organisations in regional areas.

Winjirra's objective is to "host a range of on-Country experiences enabling a solid economic basis for business growth and providing employment pathways and social support for the broader Aboriginal population across Newcastle".

The company is based out of the former Burwood Bowling Club site in Whitebridge, around 10km south of Newcastle CBD, with aims to host on-Country experiences, gatherings and community events.

It's expected to benefit more than 500 local Aboriginal community members.

SPORT



Australia's Scott Boland celebrates the wicket of South Africa's Ryan Rickeelton on day two. Picture: Themba Hadebe

Summer stars deliver

JARRED CROSS

Indigenous stars Scott Boland and Ash Gardner used their first real opportunities of the summer to make a statement as Australia's men's and women's teams prepare for packed schedules.

Recalled into the Test XI for the second of three matches on tour in South Africa last week, Boland was the early shining light in the rain-soaked first two days with the ball, and would count himself unlucky a career-best showing with the bat could not do more to force a result in Australia's favour.

The visitors ultimately fell an innings and 31 runs short in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) as the Proteas levelled the series to turn up the pressure on Australia's current batting.

Boland was twice sent in as nightwatchman, on consecutive days in back-to-back innings after South Africa forced a follow-on.

In the first innings, Boland, as usual, quickly proved a handful for the opposition.

With just 12.2 overs bowled on the opening day as the weather took its toll, the Gulidjan seamer landed back-to-back blows to the Proteas' top order, including Aiden Markram, who could not resist an attempt to drive on the front foot when the ball nipped back and crashed into the stumps, and David Bedingham, who nicked off when Boland got it moving the other way the following delivery.



Ash Gardner sends down a delivery. Picture: Shaun Roy

It helped Australia go to stumps with South Africa struggling at 2-20, with Boland ending up with his third Test five-wicket haul.

The Proteas declared for 9/425 after Boland had earlier seemingly put Australia in a strong position, and an all-out for 99 response further swung the contest towards a win for the hosts.

In an unlikely batting performance, Boland went well past his previous top Test score when he added 40 runs, but more crucially soaked up 166 deliveries either side of the second new ball. Australia started day five needing to survive all three sessions with six wickets in hand. Boland's forward defence was proving an asset for the visitors, and for a period, a nuisance for Proteas bowlers looking to level the series.

Early on the final day, Travis Head did his best to steal a draw, reaching 121 and posting the first Australian century after being made to follow on in almost four decades.

Back at home, Ash Gardner led Australia to a Rose Bowl win against touring New Zealand in a white-ball series. In the second T20, the Muruwari all-rounder produced her best batting display in the format for more than six years with a rapid 84 off 45 balls, including 14 boundaries.

With it, Australia posted 7-167 with the White Ferns falling 40 runs short of the target — Gardner also taking two wickets on the night. The win sealed the series 2-0 before the third T20 ended in no result at a rainy North Sydney Oval.

"Whenever I walk out onto the field for this team, I always want to put them in a winning position. And for me tonight, it was to be able to go big rather than just throw away the innings that I'd set up. I just felt like things were working today," Gardner said on the night.

It was a solid opportunity taken for Gardner before a December tour to Sri Lanka for three ODIs, before New Zealand return across the Tasman for 50-over matches in March.

The vice-skipper was not required to bat in any of the three ODIs against Bangladesh earlier in the month.

As National Indigenous Times went to press, it remained unclear whether Boland would hold his place for the third Test in Cape Town.

The historically spin-friendly conditions in Cape Town made it almost certain Nathan Lyon, or another option in Matthew Kuhnemann, would come in as a frontline turner.

Speaking on ABC's Grandstand at Stumps after day five of the second Test, Kamilaroi man and former Test fast bowler Jason Gillespie said: "Their conundrum is Scott Boland basically has to play."

"He was comfortably ... Australia's best seam bowler. And he showed everyone how to apply yourself (batting) ... he's a tail-ender, but he faced 166 balls."

Gillespie later admitted, though, it was likely a last-in, last-out decision would be made by selectors.