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NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TIMES



Back in Blak

First Nations designs storm the runway

LIFESTYLE STARTS PAGE 9

ARE YOU WAITING FOR US TO DIE?

STOLEN GENERATIONS SURVIVORS CALL FOR JUSTICE AS REPORT REVEALS STARK 'GAP' WITHIN THE GAP'

Apology still has profound meaning

JARRED CROSS

Survivors, advocates and the broader community gathered in Naarm (Melbourne) on the 17th anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations to commemorate a "momentous occasion".

Stories of lived experience, memories of the day in 2008, performance and ceremony were shared on a day also reserved for reflection.

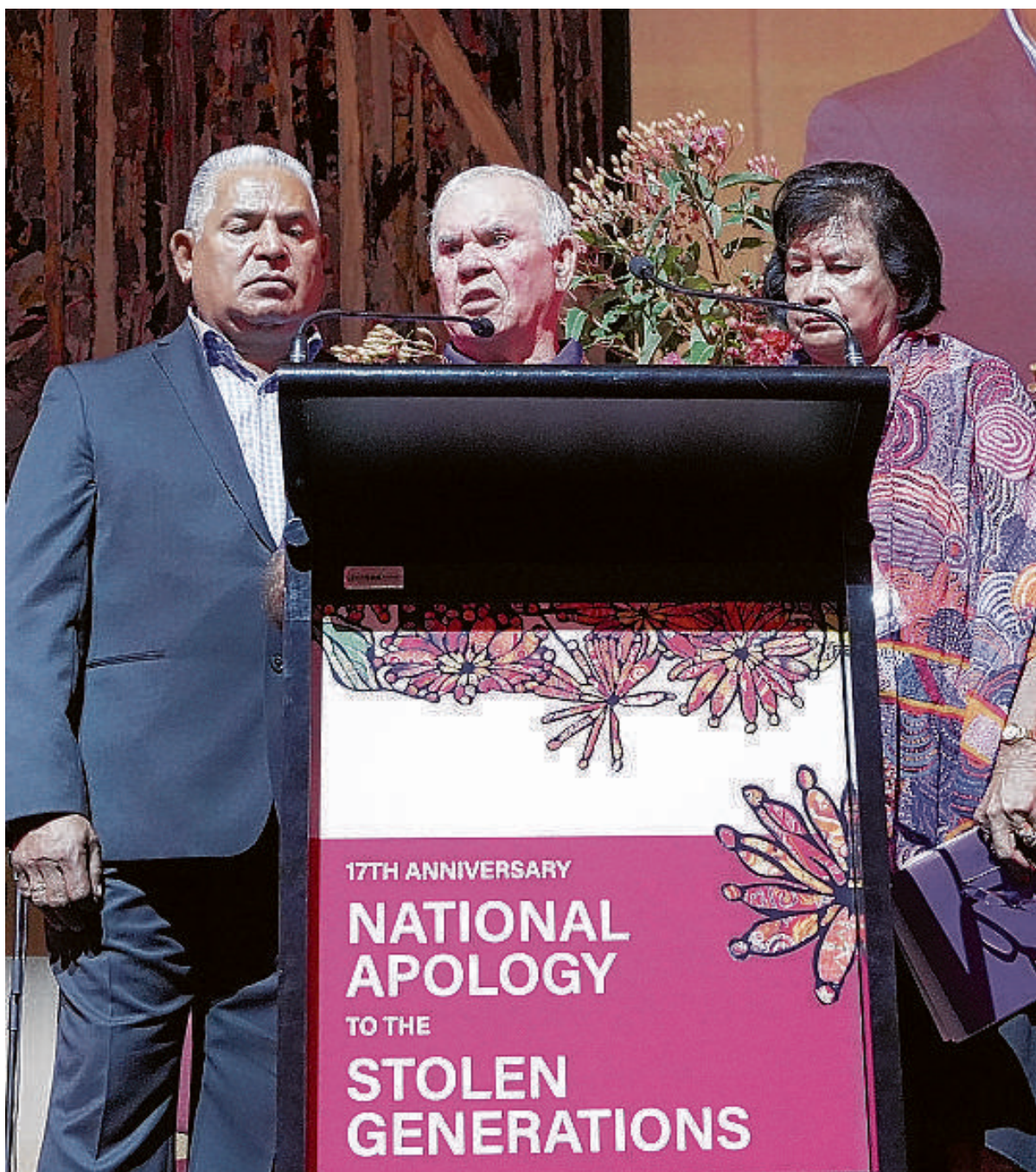
Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency chief executive Muriel Bamblett was there in Canberra almost two decades ago.

"We all wanted to hear the apology," she said at the event on February 13.

"We needed to see that the Government was sincere . . . and that it was going to be done with respect and understanding."

"We needed to know that the government of Australia knew the truth, honoured the truth, acknowledged the truth . . . about the

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Uncle Michael "Widdy" Welsh, centre, who spoke at a breakfast on the anniversary of Kevin Rudd's Apology to the Stolen Generations, was sent to the Kinchella Boys Home at age eight. Pic: Dechlan Brennan

GIOVANNI TORRE & DECHLAN BRENNAN

A report published by the Healing Foundation this month revealed a stark failure to implement the Bringing Them Home report's recommendations.

Published on the eve of the anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations, the report, *Are You Waiting For Us To Die? The Unfinished Business Of Bringing Them Home*, found only 6 per cent of recommendations made to support Stolen Generations survivors and their families almost 28 years ago had been fully implemented, recommending urgent changes to enable remaining elderly survivors to live out their days with dignity.

The report includes commissioned analysis by researchers at the University of Canberra and modernisation of the Bringing Them Home report recommendations. It also draws on insights from many years of consultation with survivors and Stolen Generations organisations on their needs and priorities.

The Healing Foundation's chief executive Shannan Dodson said with survivor numbers declining every year, an urgent response was required from all sides of politics, all levels of government, police, churches and others with responsibilities to support the Stolen Generations.

"We have already lost too many survivors, even in the last few weeks. Immediate and prioritised action is needed to provide equitable redress for all survivors, rectify issues preventing survivors from accessing their

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Jail numbers rise as 'pie in sky' aim fails

Legal help has record year in aid for clients

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Australia's largest Indigenous legal service has again raised the alarm at the number of Aboriginal people in custody in the Northern Territory.

It comes as the crackdown on crime by the new County Liberal Party government has seen more than one per cent of the State's population incarcerated, with new laws targeting bail, youth crime and public drinking all implemented.

Corrections data from mid-February revealed the total number of people in NT prisons stood at 2673 — 222 of those housed inside police watch houses — and has prompted complaints from human rights and legal groups, as well as corrections staff.

An average of 40 Aboriginal people have been taken into cus-

tody every day since December, almost double the rate from January 2020.

On February 17, the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency called for urgent reforms in the system to address "systemic inequalities" as well as placing a bigger emphasis on "diversionary, rehabilitation and education programs" as an alternative to prison. "Many of our people are behind bars now (more) than ever before," NAAJA's chair, Theresa Roe, said.

"This alarming trend reflects the ongoing failure of the justice system, and it continues to have a devastating effect on families, communities, and the broader community."

She called the Closing the Gap target of a 15 per cent reduction in Aboriginal adult incarceration in the NT and 30 per cent for youths "just a pie in the sky".

"(It's) no longer reality and an embarrassment for the Northern Territory," Ms Roe said.

NAAJA said the local court is predicting criminal matters across the NT will reach 22,448 by June 30, a 24 per cent increase in 12 months.

An agency spokesperson said they had serious concerns about the use of watch houses for remand and as prisons.

"NAAJA clients continually raise complaints about the unacceptable state of watch houses and overcrowding, particularly the Palmerston watch house, and the lack of access to legal advice, family visits, showers and ablutions, stretching and exercise (at least one hour a day) and natural light," they said.

Adults are spending an average of 96 days on remand, while youths are spending an average of 86 days on remand awaiting

trial. Almost 70 per cent of people in NT prisons are on remand awaiting a court date and 88.3 per cent of all prisoners in the State are Indigenous.

Earlier this month, Independent politician Yinjiya Mark Guyula said he had written to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, calling for them to visit the NT.

In mid-February National Indigenous Times reported on conditions in the Alice Springs Watch House where Indigenous women were kept in hot, poorly ventilated cells with up to 20 others, often only being able to drink from a tap above an often-blocked communal toilet.

The agency called for "immediate action" to increase funding to divert people away from the justice system and address root causes of offending.

CALLAN MORSE

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service delivered a record more than 8000 total services to Aboriginal people throughout the State in 2024.

Detailed in its annual report, the community service controlled by local Aboriginal people reported 8396 total services delivered, including a notable increase in responding to custody notifications.

The organisation said the team continues to deliver high-quality legal services. "It shows the strong demand for legal assistance and our services," chief executive Jake Smith said.

TALS reported 3553 instances of support via its custody notification service, representing a year-on-year increase of 20 per cent. Mr Smith said despite inadequate government assistance, TALS achieved strong outcomes in support of its Aboriginal clients and community members throughout 2024.

"Our programs teams have also delivered services through our bail support program, a pilot program out of Launceston to help our clients meeting the requirements of bail and access supports to address risk factors that have contributed to offending behaviour," Mr Smith said.

"This despite Commonwealth and State governments inadequately funding the legal needs of Aboriginal peoples in Tasmania and across the country, which was echoed by Dr Warren Mundy who was commissioned to review the National Legal Assistance Partnership which funds the legal assistance sector."

TALS introduced a new program to support the wellbeing of Aboriginal adults on remand and in prison. "Funded by the Tasmanian Government, this program sees for the first time in many years the introduction of Aboriginal wellbeing team members in the prison to support Aboriginal people in these settings," Mr Smith said.

"This program is in the developmental stage and we continue to advocate for increased resources as the program has been funded for two-fifths of the resources originally requested."

TALS supported 1069 clients throughout the year while delivering 867 SiS (Support Information + Strength), TALS' holistic family violence support.

Regarding service breakdown, 86 per cent represented criminal services, 7 per cent civil services and 7 per cent family services, excluding SiS work.

TALS chair, John Clark, commended the contribution the organisation's staff are making to the lives of Aboriginal people.



Agency gets new board and chair

New TSRA chair George Nona (left) with former chair Napau Pedro Stephen AM. Picture: Torres Strait Regional Authority

GIOVANNI TORRE

The Torres Strait Regional Authority announced its new board this month, led by newly elected chair George Nona.

In early February on Waiben (Thursday Island), the authority inducted 20 board members representing communities as far north as Saibai near the Papua New Guinea border, south to Bamaga and Seisia on the mainland. A mix of experienced and fresh faces, including six women, make up the elected

political body tasked with determining the strategic vision, policies and budget allocations.

Mr Nona said the new board would build on past efforts to seek new opportunities for the region.

"I acknowledge the strong foundations laid by the leaders before us, including the legacy of Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, who served a total of 12 years, including two terms as TSRA chairperson," Mr Nona said.

"The incoming board will play a crucial role in advancing the

region's aspirations and priorities over the next four years."

Mr Nona is a proud Badulgal, Goemulaig, Saibailag, Mua and Erub man from Badu and lives on Waiben. He brings more than 30 years of experience in the public service — ranging from biosecurity to border force (Australian Customs). "I will be visiting all communities as soon as possible to truly listen and hear directly from our people," he said.

"The TSRA has long provided a voice for the Torres Strait and will continue to listen and advocate

for people and place of Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) at the highest levels."

TSRA, one of the most remote Australian Public Service agencies, supports programs across the region, including for 17 inhabited islands of the Torres Strait and the communities of Bamaga and Seisia on the Northern Peninsula Area of mainland Australia. The board is elected every four years by individual communities through an Australian Electoral Commission process, with the chair elected by the board.

'The gap within the gap'

FROM PAGE 1

own family records, offer ongoing support for Stolen Generations organisations, and ensure there are culturally safe, trauma-informed aged-care and health services for survivors," Ms Dodson said.

The Healing Foundation's chair Professor Steve Larkin said the new report offered practical policy solutions to some of the big challenges facing survivors and their families.

"Stolen Generations survivors have specific and complex ageing needs resulting from their forced removal, and are more likely to fare worse than other older Indigenous people on a range of outcomes. They are the gap within the gap. Yet we know survivors are often not accessing necessary services

due to fear of re-traumatisation," Professor Larkin said.

The Healing Foundation report makes 19 recommendations as part of a National Healing Package for Stolen Generations survivors across six areas — on reparations; rehabilitation and research records; family tracing and reunions; acknowledgements and apologies; education and training; and monitoring and accountability.

The report reveals only five of 83 Bringing Them Home report recommendations have been clearly implemented (six per cent); 45 have failed to be implemented (54 per cent); 11 recommendations are categorised as a qualified pass; 10 are classified as a partial failure; the status for 10 of the recommendations is unclear; and one is no longer applicable.

Ms Dodson said the report sent a clear message about the need for an urgent and coordinated response that all political parties, all governments, organisations and anyone in contact with Stolen Generations survivors could progress to achieve real change and practical solutions for survivors.

"There must also be ongoing support to the many Stolen Generations organisations across the country that have the expertise and knowledge to provide holistic, culturally safe, and trauma-informed responses to the needs of survivors," she said.

Professor Larkin said the failure to act on the Bringing Them Home recommendations over almost 30 years created further trauma and distress for the Stolen Generations, their families, and wider communities.

"We must act before it is too late," he said.

The 1997 Bringing Them Home report documented the impact of forced removal on individuals, families and communities, and the complex needs of survivors.

While much unfinished business remains 28 years on, new data also published in February revealed almost 24,000 Indigenous children were placed in care at least once in the last financial year.

The figures from the Productivity Commission show 23,956 First Nations children were in at least one out-of-home care placement in 2023-24 — more than 43 per cent of all children Australia-wide.

Nationally, Indigenous children aged 0-17 were placed at least once in OOHC in the last

financial year at a rate of 60.6 per 1000 — 10.4 times higher than non-Indigenous children and an increase from 12 months earlier.

In Victoria, the removal of Aboriginal children continues to increase.

Indigenous children were placed at least once in OOHC throughout 2023-24 at a rate of 113.9 per 1000 children — more than 18 times that of non-Indigenous children.

Yoorrook Justice Commission deputy chair Sue-Anne Hunter told National Indigenous Times it was clear the child protection system in Victoria was "failing First Peoples".

"Yoorrook commissioners have provided the Victorian Government with a roadmap to reform the system and end the injustice against our people," she said.

Apology resonates 17 years on

FROM PAGE 1

terrible injustices that were perpetrated against our children — over 100,000 children".

On February 13 2008, then-prime minister Kevin Rudd issued the apology "for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss of our fellow Australians".

"We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their Country," he said. Stolen Generations services Link-Up Victoria, VACCA, and Connecting Home, delivered the event at Preston City Hall with support from Darebin City Council.

Bunurong Land Council board member, reserved seat holder on Victoria's First Peoples' Assembly and Connecting Home deputy co-chair Zoe Upton said "I was speaking to my mum earlier on today and talking about where we were when this momentous occasion happened, and how really, even today, it (the apology) still affects us deeply."

While Mr Rudd's address had an impact, she said, "we've still got so much further to go".

Reconciliation Australia backed the Healing Foundation's calls for a National Healing Package "to enable survivors to live out their remaining days with dignity", after the Foundation's new report found a stark failure by successive governments to implement the recommendations made to support Stolen Generations survivors and their families almost 28 years ago.

"The lack of comprehensive implementation of recommendations from the groundbreaking Bringing Them Home report illustrates a vital component of truth-telling — that it must achieve change," Reconciliation Australia chief executive Karen Mundine said.



Uncle Michael "Widdy" Welsh, centre, at the Apology anniversary event in Canberra.

Survivors lament the lack of action

DECLAN BRENNAN

Speakers at a breakfast commemorating the anniversary of Kevin Rudd's Apology to the Stolen Generations lamented the lack of action on the Bringing Them Home report, 28 years later.

More than 60 survivors attended Parliament House on February 13 to commemorate the 17th anniversary of then-prime minister Mr Rudd's apology, to continue to "expose the poison" and begin to heal.

Survivor and Kokatha/Mirning woman Yvonne Mills said when the Bringing Them Home report was handed down in 1997, her thoughts turned to what she was told as a child: "Your mother did not want you, so she gave you away". "Those words haunted me and compounded the trauma I had already experienced," she said.

Ms Mills told the crowd through the reparation scheme, she only learnt the truth about her family in 2018.

"I did not inflict the trauma of separation on myself; and without the immediate and necessary care, meant the trauma was left to take over my life," she said.

"It's just not so easy to simply forget."

The 1997 the Bringing Them Home inquiry found: "Indigenous families and communities have endured gross violations of their human rights. These violations continue to affect Indigenous people's daily lives."

The Healing Foundation's Are You Waiting For Us To Die? Report, published this month, found that only five of the 83 recommendations from the Bringing Them Home inquiry had been fully implemented, while

54 per cent (45) had not been. "Stolen Generation survivors are still waiting for action to be taken," Ms Mills said.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy said the Healing Foundation reminded everyone children were still being removed, noting: "I don't like seeing that."

"That is important for me in my role," Senator McCarthy said.

"But it is important for me as a Yanyuwa Garrawa woman."

She said her family raised "so many children" because "we know what it is like . . . when they're raised in a system that we know hurts our families".

Uncle Michael "Widdy" Welsh was separated from his mother and taken to the notorious Kinchela Boys Home in northern New South Wales at age eight.

He said he wanted everyone to

"help us move forward; help us hold this pain in a place where it can no longer function out into the world".

"It will never go away. Thank you for letting me heal myself here today a little bit more," he said.

Speaking to the crowd, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, called the 2008 apology the proudest moment in his parliamentary career.

He said his Government was guided by the "instinct to ensure all Australians get the same chance in life. To work towards the reality in which all Australians have power over their destiny".

"And this all began when you — and all survivors — through patience, persistence, and grace at last found your nation was ready to hear your hard truths," Mr Albanese said.

Peltier released at age 80

JACK DURA & STEVE KARNOWSKI (AP)

Native American activist Leonard Peltier was defiant towards the US Government but grateful for his supporters as they welcomed him home to North Dakota last Wednesday, a day after his release from a Florida prison where he had been serving a life sentence for the 1975 killings of two FBI agents.

Mr Peltier, 80, grew emotional as he addressed about 500 people who gathered at the festive event that included food, a drum circle and dancers at a centre in Belcourt. The small town is just south of the Canadian border on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians' reservation.

"I'm so proud of the showing and support you've given me," he said. "I've got a hard time keeping myself from crying. A strong warrior can't be up crying in front of his people."

Former president Joe Biden

commuted Mr Peltier's life sentence to home confinement, leading to his release on Tuesday last week from the Coleman penitentiary.

Mr Peltier was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and given two consecutive life sentences stemming from a 1975 confrontation on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

FBI agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams were killed, and while Mr Peltier acknowledged firing shots during the confrontation, he denied being the person whose shots killed the men.

Native American and other justice advocates widely believe he was a political prisoner who was wrongly convicted because he fought for Indigenous rights as a member of the American Indian Movement.

For years, many in law enforcement argued against freeing Peltier. In a statement about the



Leonard Peltier raises his fist during a welcome event on the Turtle Mountain Reservation. Picture: AP

commutation, Mr Biden said numerous people and groups supported Mr Peltier's release because of the time he spent in prison, his age and his leadership role among Native Americans.

For decades, Mr Peltier has maintained he was innocent of murder. On Wednesday he said: "I spent 49 years straight in prison for something I didn't do."

Mr Peltier said he went into prison a young man and emerged far older. During that

time, he said he tried to keep Native American issues at the forefront of his activism, and he thanked tribes across the nation for their decades of support.

"From day one, from the first hour I was arrested, Indian people came to my rescue, from all over the country," he said.

Tribal leaders presented Mr Peltier with an eagle feather staff supporters had carried to Washington, DC, and other places as they campaigned for his release, and a traditional star

quilt that Mr Peltier draped over his shoulder.

Nick Tilsen, an Oglala Lakota and founder of the NDN Collective, an Indigenous-led advocacy group, paid tribute to Mr Peltier and his generation of American Indian Movement leaders for standing up "against the most powerful government in the world".

"And they instilled that pride back into our people. They instilled that fight back into our people," he said.

BHP

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Cheaper alcohol 'a danger to health'

GIOVANNI TORRE

The Australian Medical Association (NT) has expressed alarm at the Northern Territory government scrapping minimum unit pricing for alcohol, which it called "a crucial measure to reduce alcohol-related harm in the Territory".

AMA (Northern Territory) president Dr Robert Parker said on February 12 the decision by the CLP Government marked the end of the \$1.30 per standard drink floor price, introduced in 2018 to curb alcohol-related harm.

"This decision is a backward step in reducing alcohol-related harm in the Northern Territory, which historically has the highest per capita costs and harms of alcohol consumption in the nation," Dr Parker said.

"The MUP has contributed to significant reductions in alcohol-related harm, and its removal could reverse these gains.

"The Menzies School of Health Research strongly advocated for the implementation of a minimum unit price for alcohol, highlighting its potential to significantly reduce alcohol-related harms.

"And further research has found that the MUP policy successfully targeted and reduced cask wine and total wine consumption."

Dr Parker said the NT AMA was concerned the Territory's most vulnerable populations, including First Nations communities, could be disproportionately affected by the policy change.

"Removing the MUP could lead to a rise in alcohol-related incidents, including violence, hospital admissions, and chronic health issues," he said.

"We are urging the NT Government to reconsider the decision and maintain the MUP to protect public health and community safety."

Labor, Coalition join to sink Bill on rights

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Legislation designed to help bring Australian laws in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was defeated this month, with Labor and the Coalition collaborating to sink the reforms.

Introduced by independent senator Lidia Thorpe, the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Amendment (Consideration of UNDRIP) Bill 2023 sought to allow the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights to consider the rights discussed and outlined in UNDRIP when assessing legislation.

UNDRIP sets the minimum standard of human rights for First Peoples, as well as State Parties' interactions with First Peoples. The text of Senator Thorpe's Bill noted UNDRIP "complements and elaborates on the existing human rights Australia has already agreed to be bound by, as they apply to First Peoples".

Explanatory notes to the Bill said there is an "urgent need to prioritise the input of First Peoples on issues that affect them, to observe, respect and promote the inherent rights of First Peoples, which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources".

In a letter signed by 26 parliamentarians to Federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus and Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy on February 12, Senator Thorpe said the Bill would "align" with Labor's stated policies, and "continue the important work undertaken by (former Labor) senator Patrick Dodson, who championed UNDRIP".

In a November 2023 report, Mr Dodson said: "At the heart of this report is a call for all Australian governments and civil society to engage with the rights of First Peoples through UNDRIP."

Before the private member's Bill was put to the Senate, Senator Thorpe said: "We need much stronger Federal leadership to protect First Peoples' basic human rights in this country.



Senator Lidia Thorpe hoped to strengthen the role of international human rights law in Australia with her Bill. Picture: AAP

Labor have no reasonable excuse not to support this measure. This a modest but important change to ensure the human rights of First Peoples are considered, no matter who is next in government," she said.

The Bill was defeated on February 13 in the Senate — 37 votes to 17 — with Labor siding with the Coalition, senators Ralph Babet and Gerard Rennick, and One Nation. Speaking to National Indigenous Times after the

vote, Senator Thorpe said "all the Bill was about" was considering First Peoples' rights in all legislations.

Noting it was the 17th anniversary of the apology to the Stolen Generations, Senator Thorpe, a Gunnai, Gunditjmara and Djab Wurrung woman, added: "To see Labor side with the Opposition ... to shut down First Peoples' rights in this country, I just think is despicable. It's really demoralising."

Highlighting the increasing number of Indigenous children being removed from homes across the country, Senator Thorpe added: "Sorry is not sorry when you continue to take our children."

The implementation of UNDRIP has long been pushed by Indigenous advocates, who argue it enshrines the basic rights guaranteed under international law that are often bypassed.

Relief at last-minute pass of childcare legislation

DECHLAN BRENNAN

A last-minute change of tack pushed Labor's childcare legislation through this month in a move welcomed by Indigenous early childhood education and care (ECEC) experts.

The three-day guarantee will abolish the Liberal-era activity test, allowing families to access three days a week of subsidised early childhood education regardless of how much they work

or study. It was rushed through the Senate on February 13 with the support of minor parties and senators David Pocock, Fatima Payman and Tammy Tyrrell. The Coalition, along with senators Ralph Babet, Gerard Rennick and One Nation opposed the bill.

Labor has said families earning between \$50,000 to \$100,000 will be better off under the legislation, saving an average of \$1460 per year. "The Liberal's prohibitive activity test locked out

the children who can most benefit from early childhood education and care, and has not increased workforce participation," early childhood education minister Anne Aly said. "The Coalition would put universal access to early learning at risk. It's clear they don't understand the benefits of early childhood education and care."

The move was welcomed by Indigenous-led organisations who have argued evidence showed "vulnerable children get the

greatest benefit from accessing quality ECEC". "The community controlled ECEC sector, our families and our communities have been calling for this change for years," SNAICC chief executive Catherine Liddle said.

The deal seemed dead in the water after Labor elected to have it sent to an inquiry, endangering the chances of it being passed this term. Jay Weatherill from Minderoo Foundation's Thrive by Five campaign said it was a "great

victory" for Australian families. "Research shows that access to high-quality care and learning in the early years can set children up for lifelong success," he said.

Closing the Gap data has shown developmental readiness for Indigenous children is worsening, with Ms Liddle arguing services delivered by Aboriginal community-controlled centres showed "better outcomes for those children not only in the early years, but throughout their life".

Cop advisory body replaces sacked one

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The Queensland Police Service “re-established” its Indigenous advisory body this month, one year on from sacking the previous group with little to no notice.

On Friday, February 14, QPS announced the latest iteration of the Police First Nations Advisory Group to “achieve a diverse and far-reaching representation of First Nations peoples and their perspectives in building relationships and improving policing outcomes”.

The 10-person body held its inaugural meeting that week, with the QPS saying it represents a “renewed commitment” to “engage meaningfully with First Nations communities” as well as create culturally safe policing practices.

“I am extremely pleased that we’re beginning the year with a reset group of diverse and dedicated community representatives, to help advise the QPS in eliminating racism and improving services for and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,” execu-

tive director of QPS First Nations Division and the PFNAG committee co-chair, Alan Dewis, said.

Commissioner of Police Steve Gollschewski said the QPS had made “significant efforts to recruit members from a diverse cross-section of urban, rural and remote First Nations communities”.

There are questions over the ability of the new body to enact change after the last iteration — the FNAG — was sacked after months of criticism of the QPS, privately and publicly, about a perceived failure by senior members to implement cultural reforms, which were promised in the 2022 Call for Change inquiry.

These included speaking openly about police union president Ian Leavers, who wrote in the Courier Mail in 2023 that the treaty process — now discontinued by the LNP Government — would result in the justice system favouring Indigenous people.

“They are effectively offering a free pass to every rapist, domestic violence abuser, habit-

ual home invader and car thief who tells police they identify as Aboriginal,” he wrote.

Mr Leavers was heavily criticised but kept his job and was subsequently appointed to a government position.

The FNAG was made aware of its sacking via email on February 29 last year after Mr Gollschewski had been appointed and wrote to the QPS to understand why, only to be allegedly ignored.

At the time, the FNAG members said they were given contracts six weeks before their sacking, with confidentiality clauses that “would prevent us from speaking publicly about the work of the (group)” unless approved by the QPS. It is unclear if the new body will have similar contracts.

In 2022, the group accused Mr Gollschewski of displaying aggression during a meeting and telling an Elder “you people” don’t run the organisation.

This month, the QPS said: “Following an internal assessment of the establishment in 2024, it was identified that the group would benefit from a

broader representation of the diverse experiences and voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.”

As reported by the National Indigenous Times last year, the QPS and then Labor government refused to answer as to how or why the review came about. In May 2024, the QPS said the FNAG was not meeting its original purpose and intent, but would not explain how this conclusion was reached.

It mirrored issues outlined in the Call for Change review of the QPS, when then police commissioner Katrina Carroll accepted a former First Nations advisory group was misrepresented by several inaccurate statements by QPS members, including “that there had not been a proper selection process”.

Members of the former FNAG previously spoke to National Indigenous Times on condition of anonymity about their treatment and lack of communication from the QPS, arguing they were sacked for effectively doing their job in calling out racism.

WA officer off duty after shove

GIOVANNI TORRE

A Broome police officer has been stood down after a video showing him throwing an Indigenous man to the ground sparked an outcry.

The video shows an officer speaking to the man, who raises his arm slowly and appears to gesture towards the inside of the police vehicle without making contact with the officer, who then trips and hurls the man to the ground.

The officer then gets in his vehicle and drives away. The person who filmed the incident shared it on social media, writing: “. . . harass people who are just chilling and having a rest under the tree. Aren’t they meant to have a partner to search or pick up people who is supposedly breaking the rules? . . . He took off, search his bag then drove back to throw his bag on the ground like he was a dog.”

After the incident on Tuesday last week, WA Police said the incident “will be thoroughly investigated”.

Two days later, WA Police confirmed: “The officer has been stood aside until investigation outcomes are known.”

WA Premier Roger Cook described the footage as “very confronting”.



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Women set the agenda

DECHLAN BRENNAN

In the lead-up to the Federal election, the Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council launched its new strategic plan in Canberra earlier this month.

The organisation, a collective of women who have gathered since 2017, met with government and opposition frontbenchers and other MPs to ensure Aboriginal women's leadership, rights, and self-determination are firmly on the agenda for the upcoming election.

Jodie Bell from KAWC told National Indigenous Times the organisation wanted to "empower Aboriginal women in the Kimberley".

KAWC wants to "empower our young women, as we see the need to make change in our community," Ms Bell said.

"And that's what our organisation is all about is how we can make change for women and children in our region."

The new 2025-2027 Strategic Plan highlights KAWC's commitment to grassroots women's leaders and empowerment as well as cultural security and systems reform, with a significant focus on strengthening the Aboriginal community-controlled sector, pushing Closing the Gap priorities, and continuing to foster the importance of self-determination.

"Launching our strategic plan at the Federal Parliament House before the elections ensures that our vision for Aboriginal women's leadership, rights, and self-determination is heard at the highest level," KAWC chairperson Selena O'Meara said.

"This is a pivotal moment to engage decision-makers, influence policy, and secure commitments that will drive lasting change for our communities."

The plan's vision notes a Kim-



Janine Dureau and Selena O'Meara in Canberra for the Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council's strategic plan launch earlier this month.

berley where Indigenous women are "empowered and resilient", and where the KAWC can take action for "an equal future".

The plan states all KAWC's work is approached with a "decolonising lens", with the goal of working to "tell our truth and nurture reconciliation", as well as listening and healing.

Ms Bell said one of the reasons they were in Canberra was to help "fund the impacts that we are wanting to make in our community".

Noting the Closing the Gap update in Parliament the day before, Ms Bell there was no

sight of many targets being met.

"But a lot of the work that we are planning to do in our communities actually will help close those gaps," she said.

"We're really seeking support from the government to look at different ways to tackle some of those Closing the Gap targets, and support on the ground community organisations that are creating community solutions and leading them in the community, rather than the sort of traditional ways that's been happening for the last 17 years."

KAWC said they were supporting women and girls' leadership

by offering two-way governance, collaborative change, and data sovereignty skills to allow Kimberley women to be influential leaders and drive change in the community.

Chief executive Janine Dureau said an investment in Aboriginal women's leadership was an investment in better and stronger communities, policies, and lasting change.

"When Aboriginal women are empowered to lead, they drive solutions that create social, cultural, and economic benefits for all Australians," she said.

"It's time for the Federal

Government to back our leadership and amplify our impact.

The strategic plan also highlighted a number of initiatives from the KAWC.

These included the Women's Leadership Program, Rise & Shine Mentoring Program for girls, and the Organisational Strategic Development Program.

Ms Bell was clear on what needed to be done. "Let's create partnerships with community organisations (with) local solutions and see how we can maybe get those gaps closed quicker and faster," she said.

Accused did not know murdered boy Cassius

LEANNE DOLBY
& GIOVANNI TORRE

The trial of the accused killers of Noongar-Yamatji boy Cassius Turvey began this month, with the WA Supreme Court hearing that the fatal attack came after a "complex series of events" to which he had no connection.

Cassius was walking with friends after school on October 13, 2022, when he was attacked. He died 10 days later from his injuries. Prosecutor Ben Stanwix said in his opening address on February 10 that Cassius was "deliberately" struck with a metal pole that split his ear in half and caused bleeding on the brain.

Jack Brearley and Aleesha Gilmore, both 23, Brodie Palmer 29, and Mitchell Forth, 26, are on trial before a jury, charged with Cassius' murder. A fifth person, Ethan McKenzie, also faces charges arising from the alleged events in the preceding days.

Mr Stanwix told the court the series of events started weeks earlier, with tension arising between Ms Gilmore's

14-year-old brother and another boy. This tension allegedly led to Ms Gilmore, Mr Brearley, Mr Forth and Mr McKenzie detaining two boys — neither of them Cassius — against their will on October 9, 2022. One of the two boys was allegedly stabbed with a knife being carried by Mr McKenzie who, like the other four individuals charged, entered a plea of not guilty to all charges.

Among those who have testified so far are the boy allegedly stabbed, the now former girlfriend of Ms Gilmore's brother, and another child who told court he saw the some of the accused getting weapons earlier on the day of the attack.

Mr Brearley's lawyer Simon Watters said his client was not the one who hit Cassius with the metal pole, telling the jury that Mr Palmer was responsible.

The court also heard that Mr Brearley allegedly boasted of his use of "vigilante violence", and said of Cassius: "I was striking him with the trolley pole so hard so he learnt his lesson."

The trial is ongoing.

Union slams NT decision to withdraw from Treaty plans

JOSEPH GUENZLER

The union representing teachers and support staff in Northern Territory and Queensland non-government schools has condemned the NT Government's decision to axe plans to negotiate a Treaty with First Nations people.

This month the Independent Education Union — Queensland and Northern Territory branch noted the Government's decision to scrap the long-running treaty process came as the most recent Commonwealth Closing The Gap Annual Report (2024) indicated only five of 19 key targets were on track to be met.

IEU-QNT secretary Terry Burke said the decision undid seven years of meaningful progress.

"The decision is shameful but unsurprising, and characteristic of a government not fully committed to reconciliation," Mr Burke said. "Once

again, First Nations Peoples are having the rug ripped out from under them."

The union said the decision was at odds with the recommendations in a report published last year by the Australian Human Rights Commission, which called on governments to recognise the devastating impacts of systemic racism on First Nations Peoples and take urgent action.

The AHRC report noted truth-telling, education about historical impacts, and a commitment to self-determination were critical in dismantling racism against First Nations people in Australia.

"We urge the NT Government to reconsider its decision and do the right thing by re-establishing the Treaty process," Mr Burke said.

NT Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro said the Country Liberal Party had "never supported a Treaty", and told Stateline NT her Government's focus

was on "local government reform".

The NT Government has also not allocated funding to implement any of the recommendations from the former Treaty Commission's report.

Opposition Leader Selena Uibo, who served as Treaty minister under the previous Labor government, described the decision as "disappointing" but "unfortunately not surprising."

She urged the government to honour and expand local decision-making agreements, which she said had delivered tangible benefits in remote communities.

"We know that when communities have LDMs tailored to their specific needs and are empowered to make their own decisions, it leads to positive outcomes," Ms Uibo said.

"It's time for the CLP to recognise the success of these agreements and continue this important work."



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STYLEUP

FASHION, BEAUTY & LIFESTYLE

Making a big splash

First Nations designers
take Melbourne Fashion
Festival by storm

ALSO INSIDE

Sculptures wow the
New York crowds **P12**
Ex-footballer shares his
musical gift **P13**

Gali Swimwear
Design: Ngatjung
Artist: Jake Simon
Model: Kyron Hayden
Picture: Ryan Murphy

Creativity shines as designers storm the catwalks

PHOEBE BLOGG

The Paypal Melbourne Fashion Festival is showcasing the talent and creativity of more than 10 First Nations designers this year, including Liandra, Gali Swimwear, Miimi & Jiinda, Gamin Threads, and more.

The festival started on Saturday and runs to March 8 at venues across Naarm/Melbourne and regional Victoria, hosting more than 80 unique events across its schedule.

With the help of several First Nations creatives, this year's program aims to explore the social role of fashion through the lens of local innovators, artists, small-scale makers, institutions and community organisations across Victoria.

While several First Nations designers are set to feature throughout the main program, the festival's Back in Blak Runway curated by Mob in Fashion exclusively spotlights Indigenous designers.

Delvene Cockatoo-Collins said 2025 is her second year for Melbourne Fashion Festival on the Mob in Fashion Runway, "sharing a moment in time in one of my favourite places on the island in my collection 'on an afternoon low tide'".

"The real highlight is seeing my sons Preston and Stirling along with their cousin Aavaisha walking in the copper hues, Garagun bird print and exposed shells and fibres that exist in this freshwater meets saltwater place on Quandamooka Country," she said.

Powerfully fusing contemporary design with deep, rich traditions of First Nations culture, the Back in Blak Runway takes cues from Australian pop culture rebellion and redefines it through the eyes of First

Nations designers and artisans.

The runway is a vibrant, high-energy celebration of fashion and artistry, featuring full collections and one-of-a-kind pieces. It opens new creative pathways and fosters the careers of talented First Nations creators, empowering them to shape the future of Australian fashion.

Gali Swimwear designer David Leslie said: "I'm excited to be showcasing new Gali designs at MFF, created in collaboration with Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay artist Dennis Golding, on the Back in Blak runway. It's an honour to work with the Mob in Fashion team and to share the runway with so many talented First Nations designers, celebrating our culture and creativity in fashion."

This year's independent program includes more than 30 free events across Naarm and regional Victoria, plus many more events with ticket prices under \$100, making it easier than ever before for fashion lovers to access an array of fashion experiences. From workshops, open studios, exhibitions, performances, independent runways, screenings, talks and more, the festival has ensured it offers up something for everyone.

The independent program highlights that being part of the fashion community means something different to everyone and provides a chance for attendees to connect with, take part in and learn more about fashion in all its forms.

This includes exploring and having meaningful conversations about the concepts of belonging and culture, sustainability and the circular economy, First Nations design and practices, age and body inclusivity, self-expression and creativity.

Corin Corcoran
Picture: Dan Castano



Yapa Mali Picture: Dan Castano

Gali Swimwear
Design (Barrangga)
Picture: Ryan Murphy





Delvene Cockatoo-Collins Picture: Dan Castano



Kaninda Picture: Naomi Rahim



IhraaSwim Picture: Naomi Rahim



Miimi & Jinda Picture: Stefan Gosatti

Sculpture collection on show in New York

JOSEPH GUENZLER

D'Jan Contemporary's *Shaping The Landscape: Spirit Figures From Northern Australia*, is an exhibition showcasing 31 figurative sculptures from The Martin Rae Collection in New York.

The exhibition will run until March 14 at the gallery's East 73rd Street location in New York, marking the first time the private collection has been exhibited in its entirety.

Spanning more than five decades of collecting, it brings together sculptures from three major Northern Australian art regions: the Tiwi Islands, western Arnhem Land, and north-east Arnhem Land.

The collector, born in New York, developed a passion for Australian First Nations art after marrying his Australian wife in the 1960s.

Their first purchase, a woomera (spear-thrower), ignited a lifelong commitment to collecting.

"These sculptures are more than just art objects; they are vessels of cultural significance, carrying the stories and spirits of generations," the collector said.

"It's an honour to share them with the world."

Featured artists include:

■ **Enraeld Djulabinyanna Munkara:** A master Tiwi sculptor and ceremonial leader whose work stems from the Pukumani funeral tradition, where poles and



Enraeld Djulabinyanna Munkara, Purrukuparli circa 1955.

mourning figures symbolise the journey to the afterlife.

■ **Don Hocking Pudjamali:** A senior member of the Mandimbula group from Melville Island's southern coast.

His rare sculpture, *Untitled (Ceremonial Female Figure)*, circa 1966, reflects the artistic independence and expression of his community.

■ **Kitty Kantilla Kutuwulumi Purawarrumpatu:** Known for blending traditional ceremonial forms with contemporary abstraction, her sculpture *Purrukuparli, Bima*



Kitty Kantilla, Untitled circa 1980. Pictures: D'Jan Contemporary

and Taparra, circa 1980, represents three ancestral creator beings central to Tiwi life.

■ **Mugurrawuy Yunupinu:** A Yolnu artist and ceremonial leader of the Gumatj clan in north-east Arnhem Land, his 1959 work *Lanydjung* depicts a Yirritja creator being adorned with ceremonial designs and lorikeet feathers.

■ **Mick Aruni Illortamini:** A Tiwi artist.

One highlight is *Untitled (Female Ceremonial Figure)*, which toured Canada as part of the *Art of Aboriginal*

Australia exhibition (1974-1976), the first major international Aboriginal art exhibition following the establishment of the Aboriginal Arts Board in 1973.

The figurative sculptures of Northern Australia have long been of interest to collectors and institutions.

The gallery contributes 30 per cent of its net profits to First Nations artists and their communities, supporting a sustainable marketplace for this vital segment of Australian art.

Actors win big in star filled night of awards

RHIANNON CLARKE

Deborah Mailman and Kartanya Maynard were recognised for acting excellence at the AACTA Awards this month.

Eleven Indigenous nominees were in the running for the prestigious awards across various categories which celebrates Australian film, television, and talent.

Ms Mailman secured the award for Best Supporting Actress in a Drama for her role as a guidance counsellor in the acclaimed series *Boy Swallows Universe*, while Maynard received the Brian Walsh Award for Emerging Talent.

Mailman won in a competitive field, beating Essie Davis (*Exposure*), Rachel Griffiths (*Total Control*), Heather Mitchell (*Fake*), another *Boy Swallows Universe* co-star Sophie Wilde, and Asher Yasbincek (*Heartbreak High*).

Maynard was recognised for her work in *Gold Diggers*, *Heartbreak High*, and *Deadloch*. She will receive \$50,000 to support her career development, generously contributed by Nicole Kidman, as well as invaluable career mentorship.

Maynard accepted her award and dedicated her win to her family, friends, and to Brian Walsh. "First, I'd like to thank the actors and Nicole Kidman for creating this award in remembrance of Brian Walsh," she said.

"Thank you to the judges for thinking I am worthy of this. To have highly respected people in this industry believing in your potential means the world, and I promise I will keep working hard, I will keep on improving, and I won't squander this.

"I want to thank my family, my friends, and my community for raising and reminding me to always be strong, staunch, resilient, and hardworking.

"And I wouldn't be the proud Blackfulla I am without reminding you: this land always was and always will be Aboriginal land."

Doco on grassroots group gains global acclaim

JOSEPH GUENZLER

Krunal Padhiar, a documentary filmmaker and Master of Social Work student at ACAP University College, has gained international recognition for his feature-length documentary *VOICE*, created in collaboration with First Nations youth group *Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good*.

The film explores DIYDG's advocacy work and has been screened at major festivals, including the Melbourne International Film Festival.

DIYDG co-founder and *VOICE* co-director Semara Jose highlighted the importance of



Filmmaker Shannon Owen, Semara Jose and Krunal Padhiar.

amplifying First Nations youth voices.

"*VOICE* is a testament to the reclamation of our future as First Nations young people," Jose said. "This documentary

demonstrates our unique role in ensuring our culture thrives while meeting western measures of success. Young people must have a say in the systems that affect them."

Padhiar, who has spent years documenting displaced and Indigenous communities, sees a strong connection between filmmaking and social work.

"The perspective of DIYDG and their story was important in the context of the Voice referendum because it was grounded in the lived experience of a grassroots organisation working in crisis and intervention with youth," he said. The documentary follows

DIYDG's 10-day journey to the Gurindji Freedom Day Festival in Kalkaringi, commemorating Vincent Lingiari's historic civil rights strike.

DIYDG members were key collaborators in the production.

"The participants were speechless when I called to say we'd got into MIFF, and having community attend from all over Australia to support and show solidarity was the most meaningful part of the production and screenings," Padhiar said.

The film won the Intrepid Audience Award and has screened at the Hawaii International Film

Festival, Native Spirit Film Festival, and Garifuna Indigenous Film Festival.

Jose also stressed the importance of collaboration in storytelling.

"In working with Krunal, we ensured a shared balance of power and ownership of our story," she said.

"Together we sought to bring authenticity and depth, showcasing DIYDG's impactful work and the vibrant voices of young leaders."

"Through *VOICE*, we highlight the power of collective action and storytelling in driving change."

Ex-AFL star shares his Gift



Marlon Motlop has teamed up with Hilltop Hoods to release *The Gift*. Picture: Instagram

JACKSON CLARK

Former AFL player Marlon Motlop has teamed up with ARIA Award winning artists Hilltop Hoods to feature on a new track.

Motlop provided vocals for *The Gift*, which details the importance of music in a person's life.

The former Port Adelaide player and State League star told StyleUp he had held a passion for music since a young age.

"Growing up in Darwin, there were always guitars around the barbecues and get-togethers, so I would be around music all the time," he said. "I started writing (songs) as early as 10."

"My dad used to play the guitar to my brother, sister and I, and we used to sing and learn to play from an early age."

Motlop featured in five games at AFL level during his time at the Power between 2008 and 2011.

He went on to have an admirable career in State leagues, playing more than 100 SANFL games with North Adelaide and Glenelg, as well as producing strong football in the WAFL and NTFL.

He was a member of Glenelg's drought-breaking SANFL premiership in 2019, kicking three goals in the grand final, including one of the goals of the season.

But after swapping his footy boots for a guitar, there is no turning back for the 34-year-old. "Performing on stage to me

is the most fun thing in the world — playing football was such an effort, fighting to make an impact in a game or to stay involved," Motlop said.

"When I perform, all the lights, eyeballs and ears are on me and it is a responsibility that I've fallen in love with more and more."

Since focusing on his music, Motlop has had support slots with acts including Midnight Oil, A.B. Original, Pete Murray and Xavier Rudd and performed at festivals such as WOMAdelaide, Bass In The Grass and Party In The Paddock.

He told StyleUp collaborating with Hilltop Hoods was a "surreal" experience. "I've known the lads for a couple of years now, and working with those guys is a bucket-list item that I can now reflect on forever," Motlop said. "They're legends and great people to be around and I'm forever grateful."

He said *The Gift* was a representation of how important music could be in our lives. "For Australia, the frequency of sound has been in the DNA of this great country for more than 60,000 years," he said. For the world, it's a universal sound that has the ability to heal and connect all people. What we stream today on our iPhones is a beautiful evolution of what we once started with.

"For me, *The Gift* encompasses all of that, including what I gained from my parents."

Blak Douglas' works to be taken at Face Value

PHOEBE BLOGG

New exhibition *Face Value* by Archibald Prize-winning artist Blak Douglas is taking prime position at the Parliament of NSW.

On display until March 27, four larger-than-life portraits depict Uncle Max Eulo, Christine Anu, Uncle Roy Kennedy, and Brooke Boney.

Blak Douglas' artistic style is deeply influenced by themes of politics and social justice. His achievements include winning the Kilgour Prize in 2019, the STILL Award in 2020, and the Archibald Prize in 2022.

He said his use of his trademark cracking paint technique on the background "signifies how dry the continent has become — my nod to global warming".

"I use my customary seven bands in the background to

represent the Seven Sisters, or Kungkarangkalpa a well-known Dreamtime story," he said.

"While my art isn't about the Dreaming, it reflects living in the modern Dreaming. I hope it inspires others to pick up a pen and sketch their loved ones."

Ben Franklin MLC, president of the NSW Legislative Council, who is also the exhibition sponsor, said *Face Value* was an opportunity to reflect on the legacy and ongoing achievements and contributions of Indigenous people.

Born Adam Hill before adopting the alias of Blak Douglas, the artist is a proud Aboriginal man of Dhungutti and Irish heritage who grew up in Western Sydney. He first trained in illustration and photography, before becoming a self-taught painter.



First Nations artist Blak Douglas in front of his *Face Value* exhibition.

Fantasy novel set for launch

JOSEPH GUENZLER

Washpool, the new work by Wuilli Wuilli author, Lisa Fuller, hits shelves on Wednesday February 26.

Fuller, a lecturer in Indigenous Studies at the University of Canberra, has been active in publishing since 2011, working as a writer, editor, and literary agent.

Washpool, a middle-grade fantasy novel, began as a way for Fuller to connect with her nieces.

Living in Canberra, she was homesick and missing her family in Queensland.

To stay connected, she started writing a story for her two eldest nieces, sending them a chapter at a time with a letter, asking them to write back if they wanted the next instalment.

"It spanned years . . . My sister would read the whole family the next chapter," she said.

"They'd write me back and they'd have ideas about what they wanted to happen. But then my job was always kind of surprising and making it fun for them."

The book is set at a local swimming spot, Washpool, in her home town of Eidsvold, Queensland.

Fuller, pictured, wanted to nurture her nieces' connection to Country, culture, and community through storytelling.

"There's a whole heap of things in there that I've always wanted

to tell my nieces about sticking together, understanding that there's different ways of being strong and brave . . . it's the stories we learned growing up, where it's really fun or it's a scary story, but if you pay attention, there's something to learn."

As an Indigenous author working in the fantasy genre, Fuller took deliberate steps to balance cultural responsibility with creative freedom.

"I deliberately took them straight off Country in the story because I wanted to play around and have fun," she said.

"So, the girls go straight away — it's a portal fantasy. They travel through an important waterhole for us but into a whole different world where there's dragons and firebirds and mermaids."

Fuller also reflected on the state of the Australian publishing industry and the challenges Indigenous authors faced.

"When I first started in publishing, there was a lot wrong," she said.

"Things are getting better, thanks in large part to people like black&write!, who are actively working to make sure you get more Black editors out there and also giving Black writers these

beautifully culturally safe spaces."

Despite positive changes, Fuller noted Indigenous writers still faced additional barriers.

"The editing process is exhausting no matter who you are," she said.

"But when, as a Black writer, the person on the other side of the desk doesn't share your worldview, you have to educate them at the same time as doing all that work on the novel, which is really exhausting."

Ms Fuller is hopeful for the future, however.

"Every time I go onto Instagram... there are a whole heap of Black writers I follow, and someone is releasing something," she said.

Washpool will be launched on 6 March at The Book Cow in Canberra. Fuller will be joined by writer Anthony Eaton for a Q&A session,





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IT WAS GENOCIDE — WE MUST FACE THIS TRUTH

TONY HANSEN

In 1948, the United Nations adopted the Genocide Convention, which clearly defines genocide as actions intended to destroy a group — such as forcibly transferring children from one group to another.

This is exactly what happened with us. These were not random events; they were planned and carried out by the government to break apart Indigenous families and communities.

The 1997 Bringing Them Home report uncovered the full extent of these policies, recognising them as acts of genocide and a crime against humanity.

It was an attempt to destroy our identity and culture.

The apology acknowledged that the removals were a grave injustice. It mentioned that the goal for some in authority was to eliminate the “so-called problem of the Aboriginal population” by gradually eliminating Aboriginal people of “mixed heritage”.

This wasn’t just bad policy, the result of some kind of ignorance or misguided paternalism — it was a deliberate attempt to erase Indigenous identity by “breeding out the black”.

One of the key figures behind these policies was A.O. Neville, the Chief Protector of Aborigines in Western Australia from 1915-1940.

He ran a system designed to ensure that Indigenous people of mixed descent, whom he referred to as “half-castes”, were “absorbed” into white society.

Neville’s goal was to erase Indigenous identities by taking children with lighter skin and segregating them from their families and communities in settlements and church missions.

The WA government also strictly controlled who Aboriginal people could marry. “Breed out the colour” is what they called it.

Indigenous families were

torn apart, and their cultural bonds were broken. This wasn’t about integrating people into society — it was about wiping out everything that made us distinct.

These policies were not carried out in isolation. They were backed by the law.

Religious institutions, working closely with the government, also played a key role in carrying out these removals to dozens of missions throughout the State.

Thousands of children continued to be taken away up until the 1970s. It wasn’t just a few bad actors — it was a system supported by the law, the church and society at large.

Yet despite these well-established historical facts, some prominent Australians, in my view, continue to promote the cover-up and denial of them to this day.

The legacy of these government policies is still with us today.

Many Indigenous Australians continue to suffer from the intergenerational trauma caused by these removals — loss of culture, identity and connection to family.

They suffer worse mental and physical health, more time in jail, worse unemployment, homelessness, and deeper poverty, to list a few. This ongoing damage is a direct result of these policies.

For the survivors of the Stolen Generations and their families, it is only fair that we acknowledge the harm done and provide compensation for the suffering they endured.

Compensation isn’t just about money — it’s about recognizing the deep pain caused and restoring the dignity and value of Indigenous cultures.

While many States and Territories have set up schemes to provide redress and compensation, Western Australia and Queensland still have not done so. It’s time for the whole nation to step up



Uncle Tony Hansen outside the former office of A.O. Neville. Picture: Giovanni Torre

and support these survivors in meaningful ways.

The forced removal of children in Australia wasn’t an isolated policy; it was a deliberate, systematic attempt to destroy a people.

It was genocide. We must face this truth.

“The poison must be exposed, before the healing

can start!” Only by acknowledging it, providing redress and compensation, and continuing to support survivors can we move forward — together — toward healing and justice.

My organisation, Yokai Healing Our Spirit, made a documentary film about this issue last year — Genocide In

The Wildflower State. I urge you to watch it.

Uncle Tony Hansen delivered this speech at the National Apology Day Breakfast this month at Parliament House in Canberra. Mr Hansen is the manager of programs and community engagement of Yokai — Healing Our Spirit (the West Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation).

We must understand we, too, are part of nature

VICTORIA GRIEVES WILLIAMS

We are in an unprecedented crisis.

Politically, it is occurring worldwide, signalled by a rise of authoritarianism and fascism. It is discussed as if it is the product of human foibles, lack of character.

However, it is also the product of deeper forces.

Alongside the political crisis, and foundational to it, is that within the natural world: wildfires, floods, hurricanes, rising temperatures, rising sea

levels, the devastation of forests and other ecosystems.

I recently visited The New School in New York to speak about waste and justice at the Tishman Environment and Design Centre. This course of study concerns the connections between waste, justice, design and activism.

The concepts of waste and justice are examined as human constructs with impacts on each other in the context of a rapidly changing climate, human movements and increasing production and

consumption by ever-expanding urbanised populations.

The global economy has breached planetary standards of survival.

This kind of course needs to be taught worldwide. It gets to the complexity of what we are dealing with, and we need to be dealing with it fast.

There are climate change refugees even within the US, where the conservative figure is three million people, and expected to be as many as 50 million by 2050.

The refugees at the borders of the US and Australia are climate change refugees because the social and political changes that have them fleeing wars, political violence and gang warfare, are the result of increasingly scarce resources.

The world is now characterised by a rise of “strongmen” at all levels, beginning at the community level. Globally there are 123 million people who have been forced to flee their homes including 44 million transnational refugees.

Now more than ever, we need to study the philosophies whose deep time perspectives contain the paradigms for human behaviour on Earth.

We need to understand that we, too, are products of nature, a part of the natural world. **Dr Victoria Grievés Williams is a Warrimaay woman from the mid north coast of NSW, and a historian. She was recently on the advisory committee of the Reconciliation Australia project, Recognising Community Truth Telling: An Exploration Of Local Truth Telling In Australia (2023).**

Identity fraud must stop

HANNAH MCGLADE

After the defeat of the Voice to Parliament, we saw Prime Minister Anthony Albanese reframe his Government's Indigenous affairs commitment at Garma, turning from the rights-based approach long endorsed by Aboriginal people towards one specifically supporting economic empowerment.

This commitment was seen in reforms to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 giving Indigenous Business Australia the ability to borrow and raise funds to pursue investment opportunities to support Aboriginal economic empowerment.

The Government also announced it would strengthen its Indigenous procurement policy. Businesses must be 51 per cent or more First Nations-owned and controlled to benefit from Commonwealth contracts.

It also increased its target from 2.5 to 3 per cent of contracts from July 1 2025, to 4 per cent by 2030.

According to Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndiri McCarthy, Indigenous businesses have achieved a milestone

\$10 billion in Commonwealth contracts over nearly a decade.

The Federal commitments are mirrored in Western Australia by the Aboriginal Procurement Policy, mandating progressive targets for the awarding of contracts to Aboriginal businesses and, as of 2023, to Aboriginal community controlled organisations.

Today in WA, State agencies must award 4 per cent of their contracts to Aboriginal businesses and ACCOs.

Unsurprisingly, these policies have led to cases of fraud and "Black cladding" — non-Aboriginal people and businesses pretending to be Aboriginal to take advantage of the IPP.

So, what constitutes an Aboriginal business? Under the IPP, businesses now need to be 51 per cent Aboriginal owned. According to Supply Nation they can do this in one of two ways — by receiving a Confirmation of Aboriginality from a recognised Aboriginal institution; or by receiving verification from two Aboriginal people as referees recognising the Aboriginal business owner.

This second process especially can lend itself to identity fraud.

There's been a rise in the Indigenous population that can't be explained by birth rates alone. It is in part a result of "box ticking" non-Aboriginal people claiming to be Aboriginal to pursue opportunity at the expense of Aboriginal people.

It's important to consider who is an Aboriginal person under the law. Both the High Court in *Mabo (2)* (1992) and the Federal Court in *Helmright* (2021) have determined Aboriginality is not simply a matter of biological descent or self-recognition. Recognition from the Aboriginal community, and from senior people in the community, is required. This aligns with the three-part definition long adopted by governments with Aboriginal people.

We're also seeing this issue in Canada. Assembly of First Nations chief Joanne Bernard recently told a parliament inquiry in Ottawa: "There is currently no consistent way of verifying the legitimacy of Indigenous businesses, which creates a risk of false claims, tokenism . . . exploitation of bad actors."

These concerns have been backed by research by First Nations University of Canada.

At the same time as announcing its economic commitments, the Federal Government tabled the annual Closing the Gap report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage. Once again, we see Aboriginal child removals, incarceration levels and suicide are increasing across the country.

Employment, business and wealth creation under the economic empowerment model, while contributing to an Aboriginal middle class, are not automatically linked to social investment in Aboriginal communities. If we're serious about closing the gap, businesses receiving this government support should show how they will benefit the wider Aboriginal community.

The Australian Government's approach can be contrasted with Aboriginal economic frameworks in Canada, the US, and Aotearoa/New Zealand that have led to collective wealth for Indigenous tribal councils and Iwis. These agreements have often come from first contact treaties, modern-day treaties underpinned by constitutional recognition and strong protections of Aboriginal title to land. Unfortunately, in Australia, we are missing all

these essential features. And 25 years of an economic agenda first championed by John Howard to Tony Abbott, Malcolm Turnbull, Scott Morrison and now Mr Albanese has failed to close the gap.

The issue of Indigenous identity fraud has been ignored for too long, and extends to universities, the government and the non-government sector. While the Government promises to tackle Black cladding and make it easier to report, more proactive measures are needed, including revision of the Supply Nation process.

Currently there are no effective regulatory responses to Aboriginal identity fraud happening every day.

As the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states, Indigenous peoples have the right to determine our collective identity. The abuse of Aboriginal identity is dangerous and undermines our cultures that have endured 60,000 years in this country. It also places at risk our right to self-determination.

Lifeline 13 11 14

Dr Hannah McGlade is a member of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues

Shell Australia invites the Western Australia and Northern Territory community to get in touch

If you have functions, interests or activities that may be affected by the Prelude Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) facility (Prelude), Shell Australia wants to hear from you.

In Australia, Shell is an integrated energy solutions business which includes gas production and liquefaction, as well as renewable power and energy solutions.

Prelude is moored offshore approximately 475 kilometres north-northeast of Broome in Western Australia. Prelude extracts, liquefies and stores gas and condensate at sea, before it is shipped to customers.

Shell Australia is seeking to consult in preparation of the five-yearly revision of the Prelude FLNG Environment Plan (EP). The EP will be submitted to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). Consultation with relevant persons is an important part of this approval.

Please respond by 31 May 2025.

For more information, please visit:
www.shell.com.au/prelude

The Pearl at the Heart of Shell artwork

This artwork represents Shell Australia's reconciliation journey and is inspired by the history of shell use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

The artwork was developed by Tarni O'Shea and Jenna Lee.



Prelude FLNG Joint Venture Partners





Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network chief executive Naomi Anstess, far right, with her team.

Uniting to create success

BRENDAN FOSTER

Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network's "big boss" Naomi Anstess says the First Nations economy in the Top End still faces significant barriers despite recent growth.

Ms Anstess said one of the key improvers for Indigenous business owners in the Territory had been "Blak-on-Blak purchasing".

"There has been a push in the last five years from Aboriginal people in business to be really brave and take their Aboriginality and use it as they rise up ... and look after each other," she told the Indigenous Business Review.

"I've seen a real vibrancy coming out in the Blak Business community and a celebration of collective movement.

"But the changing dynamic in the Territory is Blak businesses coming together to work together to understand there is a place for us all in the market."

The proud Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay and Torres Strait Islander (Erub/Darnley Island) woman said the Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network was set up to support current and emerging Indigenous businesses by offering organisational development, industry-based development, business support, promotional and collaboration opportunities.

But she said one of the network's core functions was the certification of First Nations businesses. "We have one of the most robust certification processes in the country," she said.

"We have never acknowledged 50/50 enterprises. We've always

had a definition of majority ownership, so 51 per cent as a minimum including management and control.

"So, one of the things that is different between us and everybody else is that we demand a certificate of Aboriginality with a common seal."

Ms Anstess, who is a passionate advocate for Closing the Gap, said the No.1 barrier for First Nations people wanting to start up a business was still access to capital. Her comments echo the findings of a joint standing committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs released in November, which found First Nations people and businesses were significant contributors to the national economy, but restricted access to finance and capital was limiting their growth and financial wellbeing.

The committee, supported by research from the University of Melbourne, found First Nations businesses had a higher social return on investment than most other organisations in mainstream industries.

For every dollar of revenue spent, First Nations enterprises created approximately \$4.41 of economic and social value.

Indigenous businesses were also up to 100 times more likely to employ First Nations people.

First Nations businesses contributed \$16.1 billion in revenue annually, paid \$4.2b in wages and employed more than 116,000 people. "We can't get anywhere without access to capital," Ms Anstess said. "Even though there are some special grant lanes for that, they really don't provide the impact we need for business growth. The second thing is

access to work and projects — so some mob feel there is a bias in procurement — and a lack of faith by the procurers (who appear to believe) that Aboriginal people can't deliver quality, which is completely false."

Ms Anstess said the NTIBN was one of the only Aboriginal entities in Australia that owns and delivers a business and employment hub.

"We've got people who can do financial feasibility, accounting, payroll, HR advice. We can do anything a business needs, as long as they ask," she said.

The NTIBN holds big events including the Blak Business Awards. The annual awards which were held on the sacred grounds of Arrernte country in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) last year, celebrate and support First Nations business excellence.

Due diligence a key first step

BRENDAN FOSTER

Joel Thompson has a warning for anyone considering taking over a business: do your due diligence and seek advice from other First Nations business owners.

The proud Ngiyampaa man, who took over a registered training organisation 18 months ago and rebranded it as Yakka, said the business almost collapsed in the first six months because he trusted the wrong people.

His company comprises Yakka Training and Yakka Careers which is now focused on traineeships and apprenticeships.

"I would say do your due diligence on who you work with, who you partner with, and who you talk to," he told the Indigenous Business Review.

"It was a very tough period of sleepless nights and stress, and no one came along to give you cash or help drag you out of it."

He said the business has since

grown significantly with the right people involved.

The 36-year-old said one of his motivations for starting the company, which provides training, mentoring, and support services to help people develop skills and secure employment, was to give back to First Nations communities.

After spending time in the construction industry, he noticed many young people lacked the skills needed to succeed.

"These young people are expected to be successful in the workplace, but they often lack financial literacy, workplace resilience, and other soft skills," he said.

"Once they have that education, they turn into superstars.

"By building careers, you can truly influence people's lives and change them forever."

The former rugby league champion, who played 234 NRL games and captained the Indigenous All-Stars in 2020, said

he drew on the skills he learnt during his playing days to help him in business.

As managing director of Yakka Training and Yakka Careers, he is also inspired by his family and community.

"I've seen the barriers people face, and I've never forgotten where I came from or what I saw in the community," he said.

"I remember seeing my uncle, who worked in rail with (Australian Rail Track Corporation). He supported his family and changed their lives, which always stuck with me."

While his Gold Coast-based company faced initial setbacks, Mr Thompson has no regrets about getting into business.

He encourages young First Nations people to take the plunge and start their own companies.

His advice: surround yourself with good people and work smarter, not harder.

"I want anyone reading this to



Joel Thompson, far right, and colleagues.

back themselves — don't let anyone or anything get in your way. Things will go wrong, and you'll make mistakes, but those experiences are some of the best lessons in business and life," Thompson said.

Corporate lawyer and former Kinaway Chamber of Commerce chief executive Donald Betts said any First Nations person looking at buying a business needed to do some serious due diligence.

"The last thing potential buyers

want to discover is that their intended business has reputational issues or serious litigation issues or owes taxes," he said.

"Look at the different subscriptions and public databases and ask if they're insolvent or if they have any civic civil litigation issues.

"Sit down with a lawyer and say, 'I need to instruct you to do a full due diligence on this company that I'm getting ready to buy.'"

Update to Act paves path to investment

GIOVANNI TORRE

This month the Federal Government updated the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 with the aim of supporting greater investment in First Nations businesses and communities.

The legislative change, passed by the Senate on February 10, will give Indigenous Business Australia the ability to borrow and raise funds to pursue investment opportunities. It will allow IBA to pursue co-investment and partnership opportunities with government and private entities.

IBA chair, Darren Godwell, a Kokoberren man from north Queensland, highlighted the importance of the change in furthering IBA's mission.

"We continually seek new pathways to grow our impact. This is particularly meaningful this year as we celebrate 50 years

through the generations," he said. "Our home ownership program commenced in 1975 and to date we've supported more than 22,000 families into home ownership — an achievement that empowers prosperity, wellbeing and intergenerational impact.

"Expansion for further investment and business opportunities, as well as our largest, long-standing program of home ownership, means more success for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy, said amending the ATSI Act will "supercharge" IBA's capability to inject capital into "activities that promote greater economic empowerment and self-determination for First Nations Australians".

"It will allow IBA to partner with a range of government entities and private investors, amplifying the positive economic,

social and cultural impact it will have on the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," she said.

"The ability to participate in more investment opportunities and raise funds to advance the commercial and economic interests of First Nations people will support ongoing efforts to close the gap."

The Federal Government said the amendments to the ATSI Act have been informed by "extensive" consultation with IBA over several years, and will support more First Nations people to start, grow and sustain businesses, buy homes, and invest in commercial ventures.

Mr Godwell said that as demand for IBA's services continues to grow, the amendment will "help us to achieve our vision for Australia's First Nations people to achieve economic independence — a right we fully deserve".

The IBA chair acknowledged the "incredible support" from Senator McCarthy, the expert panel (which included Mr Rick Allert, Ms Rosemary Addis, Dr Doug McTaggart, Ms Diane Smith-Gander, Professor Robynne Quiggin, Dr Helen Szoke, and Professor Marcia Langton), and the staff at IBA.

"This is not the end goal but only the beginning," Mr Godwell said.

"We look forward to the next steps in this process so we can provide increased access to capital, robust pathways to prosperity, and success through collaboration and partnerships."

Senator McCarthy and Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers have noted that access to capital continues to be a significant barrier to First Nations economic development and empowerment, and, until now, IBA's ability to support First Nations people has been restricted.

Traditional Owner firm seals deal for MinRes mine sites

Ngarliya Contracting Pty Ltd has been awarded a five-year contract with Mineral Resources for the provision of fire suppression maintenance and pest control services across MinRes sites.

Ngarliya is the first majority Indigenous-owned business that will supply fire suppression services for MinRes, starting at the Ken's Bore iron ore mine in the Pilbara.

Ngarliya is a joint venture between Paul & Warner Resources and Jajiwarda Contracting, owned by Ken's Bore Traditional Owner Kelly Slattery and partner Arran Henry.

After recognising these services as an opportunity for MinRes to adopt a consolidated service across all sites, the potential for a Traditional Owner business to undertake this opportunity was identified.

Ngarliya director Ms Slattery said as a Traditional Owner of the land where MinRes operates, the contract is transformational for the communities they belong to. "The partnership with MinRes is a huge opportunity, bringing long-term prospects to provide the platform for Ngarliya to develop and grow," she said. "Looking further beyond that, the transferability of the services we provide to other applications — commercial or residential — extend beyond life-of-mine."

"Offering diversification of roles, providing a service that is a requirement for businesses but also growth to provide opportunities in other areas, creates business sustainability."

"For me as a Traditional Owner, to be able to provide opportunities for members of the community to work on Country is a huge advantage, and something to be very proud of."

Ngarliya director Mr Henry added that Ngarliya has the capability to add a complete suite of services to deliver training and employment opportunities to local and Indigenous people and to deliver services and products to clients to meet their site safety, emergency and rescue needs.

"This is just the beginning for Ngarliya," he said. "As we grow, learn and expand, we hope to become a preferred supplier in these services over the next five years and beyond, and continue to provide opportunities for local Indigenous people in the area."

MinRes chief executive of mining services Mike Grey said MinRes was thrilled to partner with Ngarliya to provide an essential service to its operation.

"Supporting Indigenous businesses is important to MinRes, and the success of our projects such as Onslow Iron is only possible because we work with reliable and capable businesses such as Ngarliya Contracting," he said.

This story was produced with the support of MinRes.

Head girl seeks to inspire others by showing the way

Fortescue is proud to support Tahnee Ransfield, a First Nations student from the Pilbara, through the MADALAH Scholarship Program, as she is appointed the MADALAH head girl for 2025.

Growing up in the Pilbara, Tahnee Ransfield never imagined the opportunities she would have access to when she began her studies in Perth.

With the support of Fortescue and MADALAH, a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing secondary and tertiary scholarships for First Nations students, Tahnee has not only flourished academically but has since taken on head girl responsibilities.

"The support means everything to me. It's about opportunity, hope, and knowing that there are people who believe in you and your dreams," Tahnee said.

"The MADALAH and Fortescue scholarship has opened so many doors that I never imagined possible.

"It's given me the chance to stay deeply connected to my culture and where I come from while providing me with the tools to create a brighter future."

As head girl, Tahnee aims to be a role model for other young First Nations students, showing them that they, too, can achieve incredible things.

"It's not just about being a leader," she said.

"It's about showing other kids from communities like mine that they can achieve amazing things, too," she said.

"The support I've received has inspired me to work harder, dream bigger, and always think about

how I can give back to my community."

The MADALAH Scholarship Program, supported by Fortescue, has helped thousands of students like Tahnee by providing financial support, mentorship, and access to a strong community of peers. The program's goal is to foster intergenerational change by empowering the next generation of First Nations leaders.

Fortescue's director Approvals, Communities & Environment, Warren Fish, offered his congratulations to Tahnee, highlighting the importance of the MADALAH program in supporting the next generation.

"Tahnee's success is a wonderful reflection of the power of opportunity and support. At Fortescue, we are committed to ensuring First Nations youth have access to the resources and guidance they need to thrive, both in education and leadership."

"Fortescue's partnership with MADALAH is about more than just scholarships — it's about building a future where First Nations youth can succeed on their own terms."

MADALAH general manager, Casey Jo Drummond, congratulated Tahnee on her appointment as head girl.

"We couldn't be prouder of our MADALAH Head Girl," she said.

"Alongside her peers, Tahnee is leading the way for a generation of change-makers.

Her journey is a testament to the power of education and community support in creating opportunities for First Nations youth."

This report was produced with the support of Fortescue.



Tahnee Ransfield wants to give back to her community.

Time at the top extended

Participants of Fortescue's long-standing CEO For A Day program will now have the chance to shadow the executive team for three months, with the program being expanded to encompass the full quarter.

Established in 2013, the program offers participants the opportunity to engage with the leadership team, learn strategic decision-making and make a lasting impact on the business.

Lee Sweeney, a proud Maori and Torres Strait Islander man with roots from the Aotearoa's North Island and North Queensland, is Fortescue's latest program participant.

Having joined the company in 2020, Mr Sweeney is part of Fortescue's Aboriginal Business Development team, focused on building the capability and capacity of First Nations people and businesses through Fortescue's Billion Opportunities program.

Since the program was established in 2011, \$6.5 billion in contracts and subcontracts has been awarded to more than 200 First Nations businesses.

"Prior to joining Fortescue, I pursued university studies as a mature-aged student, with a strong passion to make a difference in the community. This was driven by my early career days working in the justice system with at-risk youth in Perth and the Pilbara, where I spent six

“
Humility helps people to grow and learn and helps you to be open to new perspectives. I've learnt more from listening than talking.”

Lee Sweeney

years living and working in Port Hedland," Mr Sweeney said.

Over the coming months, he will work with Fortescue's executive team to support key business engagements including the release of its half-year results, gaining insights into the company's highest levels of operation.

Reflecting on which Fortescue value he embodies most, Lee chose humility. "It's not everyone's first pick, but I think it's an important one to remember when you're in the mining business," Mr Sweeney said. "Humility helps people to grow and learn and helps you to be open to new perspectives. I've learnt more from listening than talking."

This report was produced with the support of Fortescue



Fortescue Metals CEO Dino Otranto with Lee Sweeney.

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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 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	08/3761	KARRATHA GOLD PTY LTD	40BL	36.1km SE'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 55' S Long: 115° 16' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3762	KARRATHA GOLD PTY LTD	22BL	49.6km SE'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 52' S Long: 115° 31' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3763	KARRATHA GOLD PTY LTD	32BL	43.6km E'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 45' S Long: 115° 30' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3767	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	25BL	58.2km SE'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 54' S Long: 115° 35' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3768	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	79BL	77.4km SW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 22° 5' S Long: 115° 45' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3769	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	11BL	57.2km SW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 22° 0' S Long: 115° 55' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3770	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	4BL	69.5km SE'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 56' S Long: 115° 42' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	27/745	HEAVY METAL EXPLORATION PTY LTD	8BL	35.1km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 31' S Long: 121° 43' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	36/1115	TECHGEN BBG PTY LTD	38BL	44.1km SW'ly of Leinster	Lat: 28° 16' S Long: 120° 30' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3241	NIMY PTY LTD	6BL	111km NE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 0' S Long: 118° 42' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3243	AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD	42BL	161.5km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 37' S Long: 119° 22' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6063	VERKUYLEN, Anthony Dirk	3BL	21.4km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 23' S Long: 127° 45' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6099	BLAIS, Luke Thomas	12BL	32.9km W'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 20' S Long: 127° 22' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	26/4776	PASKOV, Steven James	6.78HA	6.6km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 48' S Long: 121° 27' 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: 26 February 2025. 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 **26 May 2025**. 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. **26 June 2025**), 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 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

NOTICE TO GRANT AMALGAMATION APPLICATIONS

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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following amalgamation applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:



Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg No	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
29/993	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	724450	7.60HA	84.8km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 5' S Long: 120° 28' E	MENZIES SHIRE
29/1130	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	724451	27.62HA	83.8km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 6' S Long: 120° 29' E	MENZIES SHIRE
57/1057	GATEWAY PROJECTS WA PTY LTD	723052	128.09HA	48.1km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 34' S Long: 119° 28' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals. **Notification day: 26 February 2025. 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 the applications. The 3 month period closes on **26 May 2025**. 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 the *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 amalgamation application may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **26 June 2025**), 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 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.

SPORT

Shirt design has power to unite



JARRED CROSS

Football Australia's 1990s visual vibe unveiled on Friday is also a big step forward, with all national sides donning playing strips designed by a First Nations artist for the first time.

The governing body revealed the eye-catching Nike designs featuring the work of Kamilaroi artist Reko Rennie last Friday.

The Collection: Forever Forging Forward is a dream opportunity for the self-described football-mad artist.

"It's a huge achievement and it's so wild that I've had this opportunity and I'm representing my community. If someone had told 12-year-old Reko, a diehard football fan, that one day I'd have this opportunity, I would have never believed them!" Rennie said on the collection's unveiling last Friday.

Both new home and away jerseys will be worn across all national teams from the Matildas and Socceroos, youth, Para and futsal, featuring a painting of Rennie's included in his **REKOSPECTIVE: The Art Of Reko Rennie** exhibition last year.

"I have a deep connection to the culture of football. Growing up in the western suburbs of Melbourne, I saw first-hand how the game united the local community I was a part of, and what it means to wear the national jersey. To feel part of something bigger," Rennie said.

"I am proud to have designed this kit, it is a bold statement of cultural visibility, celebrating the diverse communities changing the game for the future — a message of unity from the oldest continuous civilisation on earth to everyone, united through football."

The first-choice kit evokes the hyper-colour seen across the sport in decades gone by, coupled with more subtle but no less distinct integration into the darker away jersey. It marked a



Indigenous 100-plus-cap Matilda Kyah Simon in the new home strip. Inset: Reko Rennie with the artwork used in the national playing kits.

Pictures: Bridget Patterson

"bold new era for the national teams" connection of diverse communities, histories and cultures and "championing progress, inclusivity, and excellence at every level of the game," Football Australia chief executive James Johnson said.

He said it was a thrill to unify the all national teams through something more than a jersey, but a "powerful symbol of Australia's footballing identity".

Nike Pacific Brand director Nick Atkinson said "It's a powerful message of cultural visibility and unity that celebrates the diversity of the Australian football community, and the game's power to unite".

Football Australia's National Indigenous Advisory Group reacted strongly to the new design.

Ex-player, Australian Indigenous Football Championships founder and Quandamooka, Butchulla, and Githabul man Ramone Close said: "I think it's great to see, as a sport that has not yet visually recognised First Nations culture through a jersey design it's great.

"Through football as a world game, we can share Australia's First Nations culture through the sport based on the visual representation in the jersey design," Close said.

"It makes me feel proud as an ex player and someone who has

contributed to pathways for our mob in the code of football."

Former A-League midfielder, Narugga and Kurna man Fred Agius, sees Rennie's incorporation into the national kit as something which will inspire the next generations of Indigenous players to reach the global stage.

Advisory group co-chair and Torres Strait man Kenny Bedford said it's a "clear signal" of Football Australia's support to reflect First Nations history and contributions to the world game.

The Matildas and Socceroos will showcase the jerseys in their AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 and remaining AFC Asian qualifiers, respectively.

All Stars big win a beacon of pride and hope

JARRED CROSS

First Nations male footballers want the AFL Indigenous All Stars game to be something bigger than a personal career highlight.

The All Stars cruised to a highlight-rich 43-point win over Fremantle at Optus Stadium on February 15.

The impact of the return wasn't lost on captain Michael "Sonny" Walters.

"I encourage the boys to have some fun," he told National Indigenous Times.

"To go out and perform the way we did. It just goes to show you we have a bond that you really can't break. And that's sort of like Indigenous culture.

"We're players from all over the country, and for us to come together in four days and play the way we did... we built a bond for life. That's something at the back end of my career, 17 years in the system, that's something that I'm going to remember and something to be proud of."

All Stars head coach Xavier Clarke forecast a game plan to "let the boys play". Free-flowing, express pace paired with defensive pressure took control before adding to a five-goal lead at the final change.

Clarke said he was proud to see what the group achieved on the field and through the week.

"This game is gonna have a big footprint on, not only AFL football, but community footy and we'll hopefully see some more young Indigenous boys playing the game in the future."

Clarke, who is assistant coach at North Melbourne, asked reporters "are you trying to make me cry" when Roos skipper Jy Simpkin's best-afield performance was highlighted in the post-match press conference.

Simpkin won the Polly Farmer Medal for his 30-touch, 10 clearance effort. He was emotional himself after gesturing to the sky during the third term in memory of his late pop.

Eagles favourite Liam Ryan felt it was as if the side had played together for years. "I'm a proud Yamatji man... it means a lot to me and my family, and the community."