

NIT

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TIMES

Rising star

From small-town life to the cover of Vogue, we talk to Luca Saunders

STYLE UP P12-13



TWO MORE, TOO MANY

Deaths in jail reignite calls for urgent reform

GIOVANNI TORRE

The deaths of two Aboriginal women in just over four weeks in WA's Bandyup Women's Prison have reignited calls for fundamental change to the justice system.

On the morning of April 18, a 40-year-old woman was found unresponsive in her bed. Her death followed the passing of Patricia Howell, aged 35, in Bandyup in March. Also on April 18, a 54-year-old non-Indigenous man died in custody at Dowerin.

On April 14, a vigil had been held outside Bandyup for Ms Howell, calling for justice and accountability for Aboriginal deaths in custody.

Days before the second woman's death, 34 Aboriginal community leaders, human rights experts, justice advocates and other notable West Australians issued a call for urgent reforms in an open letter to the State Government on the 35th anniversary of the royal commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody.

The signatories to the letter include Dr Hannah McGlade, Professor Jocelyn Jones, Dr Fiona Stanley, former senator Patrick Dodson, Professor Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, Professor Patricia Dudgeon, chair of the WA Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation Jim Morrison, Aboriginal Legal Service of WA chief executive Wayne Nannup, and many more.

The royal commission, which began in 1987, made over 300 recommendations on April 15, 1991. Many of the recommendations have not been implemented and since the royal commission finished, more than 600 Indigenous people have died in custody. The open letter called for the WA Government to "act immediately" and:

- Fully implement all outstanding recommendations from the royal commission into



A vigil was held outside Bandyup prison after the death of Patricia Howell. Picture: Leanne Dolby

Aboriginal deaths in custody

- End the use of imprisonment as a default response, particularly for Aboriginal women and people with disability, ensuring custody is only used as a last resort
- Invest in Aboriginal com-

munity-controlled, culturally safe diversion, healing, and through-care programs

- Ensure all people in custody receive timely, appropriate, and trauma-informed medical, mental health, and disability care; and

- Embed Aboriginal self-determination and leadership in the design, delivery, and evaluation of justice and custodial services.

The signatories also called on

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Help at hand to tell story for racism inquiry

GIOVANNI TORRE

National justice advocacy group Call It Out and the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service are offering help to First Nations people who wish to have their voices heard by the inquiry into racism, hate and violence towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Federal inquiry was announced in March. Submissions are due by Friday, May 1, and community members who would like support to tell their story, or people wanting to help, can contact Call It Out.

Help can be accessed at callitout.com.au/racism-inquiry. The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service is offering help at vals.org.au/racism-inquiry-support and by phone, and will be holding a drop-in information session at the VALS office in Preston on Thursday, April 30.

Anti-racism campaigners Jade Ritchie and Thomas Mayo have been working with Call It Out to raise awareness of the inquiry and help participants.

Mr Mayo told National Indigenous Times that while an inquiry into racism was welcome, the time and resources Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have had to respond "has been terribly short".

"It is emotionally and administratively hard for us to make submissions, (yet) if we don't, the inquiry will not be able to shine the light on the extent of it," he said.

Ms Ritchie said once the inquiry was announced they asked Call It Out for help "to ensure all voices could be heard".

"Some people will not be familiar with the process of making and uploading a submission like this. We don't want important stories to be missed," she said.

"With the help of Call It

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Lawsuit over state of homes

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Public housing tenants from a remote Northern Territory Aboriginal community are taking the NT Government to court for failing to provide safe housing during extreme heat.

Candy Nelson, Ashley Robertson, Stanley Roberts and Nereda Roberts are residents of Papunya/Warumpi, about 240km north-west of Mparntwe/Alice Springs.

The residents are leading litigation, announced last week, in the Federal Court on behalf of the community, where homes regularly experience temperatures above 40C and lack basic features such as adequate insulation and functioning air-conditioning. Lead claimant Mr Robertson, a Warlpiri and Luritja man, said: "Most of our houses here in Papunya were built back in the 80s and 90s, and they're really run-down and not built for the kind of summers we're getting now."

Most families live in public housing rented from the NT Government.

Pre-payment power systems are common in Papunya, with families reportedly paying up to \$1000 a month during hotter periods to keep their homes cool.

Meters "de-energise" when credit runs out, often without warning, leaving residents without power.

Mr Robertson said residents are "going into hundreds of dollars of debt just to keep the house cool for a few days".

"When it gets really hot, people have to sleep outside. It's

hard on the kids and old people," he said. "We are calling on the NT Government to provide better houses with heating and cooling systems, so that our kids have happy and healthy lives."

Gerard Anderson, a community leader in Papunya, said many houses in the community had no insulation or working air-conditioning, and there was "a lot of overcrowding".

"In the summer ... it's just impossible to live in these conditions," he said.

The Luritja man said the NT Government has failed to listen to Aboriginal communities.

"We know what works for our community, and the Government needs to work with us on Aboriginal-led efforts for innovative, culturally appropriate, and sustainable housing," he said.

In 2024, the Federal and NT governments announced a joint 10-year, \$4 billion investment in remote housing to address overcrowding and poor conditions.

Experts have long argued the lack of suitable housing has consistently exacerbated health issues among residents.

"Everyone deserves a safe place to call home," said Jack McLean, a senior lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre, who is representing the claimants.

The centre says the case is the first in Australia seeking to require a government landlord to provide housing that protects residents from extreme heat driven by climate change. If successful, it could compel the Government to lift public housing standards across the Territory.



Paul Silva, the nephew of David Dungay Jr, speaks with NSW Police during a rally to commemorate the death of his uncle in Long Bay prison 10 years ago. Picture: Dean Sewell

Anti-protest laws struck out

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The New South Wales Court of Appeal has struck down the State's new anti-protest laws.

The challenge was brought by three activist groups — including the Blak Caucus — which argued the laws, known as the public assembly restriction declaration, were unconstitutional.

The legislation was originally passed during an emergency sitting of Parliament on Christmas Eve after the Bondi attack.

They allowed restrictions on public assemblies for up to 90 days following a terrorism incident, preventing organisers from using the Form 1 process to notify police of planned protests.

On April 17 the court found the scheme impermissibly burdened the implied constitutional freedom of communication — the second time in six months anti-protest laws

introduced by the Minns Government had been struck down.

The full bench of the NSW Court of Appeal — Chief Justice Andrew Bell, Justice Julie Ward and Justice Stephen Free — unanimously ruled the laws invalid, writing: "The lack of proportionality between the notionally legitimate objective and the means chosen to pursue that objective is a problem that is inherent in the power itself."

"The PARD scheme is a blunt tool which does not require, or even allow for, consideration of the characteristics or conduct of any particular public assemblies or the nature or severity of any threat to the community that could be said to arise."

"It is not enough that the legislature perceived the need for strong action to preserve the cohesion and safety of the community in the wake of an exceptionally traumatic public

event." Police had used the laws to block Blak Caucus organiser Paul Silva from holding a march in January marking 10 years since the death of David Dungay Jr, which was planned for Hyde Park in Sydney.

At the time, the Dunghutti man said the laws were being used to silence criticism of the Government and corrective services.

"It's quite disgusting that they would implement it, but then ... It exposes the New South Wales Police and the New South Wales Government for their systematic failures," he said.

Days later, NSW Police amended the area covered by the PARD restrictions to allow the annual January 26 rally to proceed.

The Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT was critical of the laws, arguing the right to protest was "a cornerstone of a functioning democracy".

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Bill an 'attack' on rights

GIOVANNI TORRE

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council has formally lodged a complaint with the Australian Human Rights Commission this month regarding the Government's proposed Crown Land Management Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill.

Last week the NSWALC said the complaint, lodged on April 14, raised "serious concerns", arguing the Bill undermines Aboriginal land rights in NSW established under the State's Aboriginal Land Rights Act; rights held exclusively by Aboriginal people.

NSWALC contends the proposed changes are racially discriminatory, citing "the disproportionate impact" on Aboriginal land holdings and "the complete lack of consultation" with the land rights network prior to the Bill's introduction.

NSWALC chair, Raymond Kelly, said the complaint being lodged represents the State land council taking its fight against "this malicious amendment" to the "next level".

"We will simply not just sit by while our State Government proposes amendments that will hollow out our rights in this State forever," Dr Kelly said.

"We have been working to support our people through Aboriginal land rights in NSW for more than 40 years, and that work doesn't stop here. The way this Bill was introduced was completely unacceptable and without consultation under the guise of a 'minor amendment'.

"Aboriginal people living in NSW are not shocked at this



NSWALC chair, Dr Raymond Kelly, at a protest against the NSW Government's plans. Picture: NSWALC.

level of mistreatment from the Government. We have experienced it for generations. But the direct impact this Bill will have on our community is proof that our Government will stop at nothing when their own interests are at stake."

The NSWALC complaint cites: that the Bill undermines Aboriginal land rights and any weakening of the system has a disproportionate and discriminatory impact; NSWALC and local Aboriginal land councils were not consulted at any stage

before the Bill's introduction on March 17; and the Government's description of the changes as "minor" or "technical", was "misleading given the real and substantive impact on land claims and land return".

The NSWALC said its complaint also explores the way the Government's public framing of the Bill "has contributed to misunderstandings about land rights and increased scrutiny of LALCs".

NSWALC, the peak statutory body representing 121 local

Aboriginal land councils across the State, argues via the complaint that being excluded "in its entirety" from the decision-making process before the Bill's introduction "contributes to a broader environment of racial inequality and hostility".

NSWALC also argues the actions made by the NSW Government directly result in Aboriginal people being unable to enjoy property rights on an equal basis with others because their specific rights are uniquely constrained. "While the Bill

has been delayed for further consultation, we know the Government will stop at nothing to sneak this Bill through in May. We want to be clear the network remains united in our complete opposition to the Bill in its entirety," Dr Kelly said.

"The Bill represents a substantial threat to the land claim and land return process, weakening a system designed to provide economic and cultural redress for Aboriginal communities. By excluding NSWALC and failing to engage in genuine consultation, the NSW Government is quietly removing the power of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

"Our rights are under attack. This is an official complaint to the Human Rights Commission. . . action must be taken."

A spokesperson for Minister for Lands and Property Steve Kamper said "while a range of stakeholders were engaged as part of the statutory review of the Act last year, the NSW Government will take the time to engage with stakeholders including local Aboriginal land councils prior to the Bill being debated in the Upper House".

"In meeting with the minister, local Aboriginal land councils have raised concerns around potential consequences of the NSW Government's Bill and have proposed further engagement with land councils to understand their concerns and how they can be addressed," they said.

"We stand by the principle unused Crown Land should be claimable and provided to the local Aboriginal land councils."

More deaths in custody spark new outcry

FROM PAGE 1

key government members including Aboriginal Affairs Minister Don Punch to meet them. Mr Punch declined the invitation.

National Indigenous Times understands the minister apologised and cited "heavy diary commitments". This publication also understands a written response from Premier Roger Cook and relevant ministers to the letter is being prepared.

Dr McGlade, a Noongar human rights law expert, told National Indigenous Times she was disappointed by the response.

"Who is advising the minister? Why isn't he listening to senior Aboriginal women health justice experts and community leaders?" she said.

"Aboriginal women in Western Australia are the most incarcerated group of people in the world. Also experiencing shocking high rates of homicide and daily violence . . . dying in prisons or in the community in circumstances where their deaths were preventable."

Megan Krakouer of the National Suicide Prevention and Trauma Recovery Project told National Indigenous Times the deaths in Bandyup showed the clear need for action from both



Another death followed the loss of Ms Howell, bringing anger at a lack of change. Picture: Leanne Dolby

the WA and Federal Governments. "In WA, prison health services must be removed from the Department of Corrective Services and placed under the Department of Health. Care in custody must be clinically led, independent, and equal to community standards," she said.

Ms Krakouer said WA must also urgently integrate correctional intake systems with pub-

lic health records so clinicians have immediate access to full medical histories and treatment needs. "Both governments must stop procrastinating and act. Anything less leaves responsibility for continued preventable deaths at their feet," she said.

National Indigenous Times contacted the WA ministers for Health, Aboriginal Affairs and Corrective Services for com-

ment. Minister for Corrective Services Paul Papalia told National Indigenous Times: "Any death in custody is a tragedy; our sympathies go out to the loved ones and the first responders."

"As is the case with all deaths in custody, it is subject to a coronial inquest, and it would be inappropriate to comment further," he said.

Voices key to inquiry

FROM PAGE 1

Out, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can tell their stories to someone who can navigate the system. Even with this, I think this inquiry will fall short.

"There will be so much more to be said and done.

"Our people have been on the receiving end of overt, interpersonal, structural and aversive racism since colonisation . . . Hopefully this inquiry will give the Federal Government what it needs to fight racism wherever and however it shows up."

Solicitor Ariane Dozer, Call It Out's head of projects and innovation, said it is "grateful to everyone who's trusted us with their stories as part of this inquiry process and over the past four years to the Call It Out Register".

"This is just one moment in a much longer fight. Racism against First Nations people is endemic and has been left unaddressed for far too long," she said.

"We won't stop when this inquiry does. Community members and bystanders can continue to report any form of racism and discrimination to Call It Out at any time."

Mum of seven mourned as system falters

NATASHA CLARK

This report contains the name and image of an Indigenous person who has died.

Mary Ann Miller gave birth to her seventh child at Perth's Fiona Stanley Hospital in March. Just two weeks later, the homeless Aboriginal woman died from sepsis.

She is mourned by her mother, who expressed anger at the treatment of her daughter by WA's Department of Housing and Works.

"They made promises . . . but they never came through. Now my daughter's gone," Kay Miller, Mary Ann's mother, told National Indigenous Times.

The odds were against Mary Ann.

The 37-year-old had been evicted from her DOHW home in Boorloo/Perth's north one month before her death.

She was living with a serious heart condition — her heart functioned at only 25 per cent — and had experienced domestic violence.

Despite homelessness, illness and the violence, her dedication to her children remained unwavering.

"She looked after them, played with them constantly. She got up every morning, always on time, and made sure they were at day care," Ms Miller said.

"Wherever she went, her children went, too. She was determined they wouldn't end up in the mission."



The late Mary Ann Miller.

Parenting was at the heart of Mary Ann's life.

About one week after giving birth, Ms Miller said Mary Ann was badly beaten, had her nose broken and got sepsis.

She says her daughter's death could have been prevented if DOHW had "delivered on its promises".

"If she had been transferred to a home that was safe, like they said they were going to, she could have been protected, and she wouldn't have got so sick from being homeless."

A DOHW spokesperson told National Indigenous Times that Mary Ann's tenancy at her home — which she had lived in since 2021 — was ended earlier this year by an order of the Magistrates Court.

The spokesperson said this was because Mary Ann "had not responded to or sought to engage with multiple reasona-

ble requests to provide DHW staff access to conduct required annual property inspections".

"There was evidence that the property was being left unsecured," the DOHW spokesperson said.

National Indigenous Times does not suggest it has been established DOHW is responsible for Mary Ann's death.

Housing advocate Betsy Buchanan, who worked with the Miller family, said Mary Ann may have left the property unsecured while staying with family to protect herself.

"She was frightened, so she kept staying with her brother to protect herself," Dr Buchanan told National Indigenous Times.

According to the DOHW, after the eviction, Mary Ann was placed on the priority housing waiting list due to her circumstances.

A DOHW spokesperson also emphasised "the decision to apply for a court-order termination does not occur often and is taken as an action of last resort".

But the action to evict Mary Ann and the resulting homelessness reflect a broader issue of Aboriginal mothers not benefiting from targeted social housing reforms, according to human rights law expert Hannah McGlade.

"We know that Ms Miller and many other Aboriginal women are being denied stable housing while battling serious illness, and lack of housing is leading to



Mary Ann Miller had heart issues and experienced domestic violence.

their early and preventable deaths," Dr McGlade told National Indigenous Times.

She expressed deep condolences to the Miller family and lamented that "too many Aboriginal children in our State have lost their mums to violence, whether it be FDV or State neglect and structural violence".

Dr McGlade pointed to Victoria's First Peoples' Assembly — the elected Aboriginal body which negotiated a Treaty with the State — as a model for WA, arguing it would give Abor-

iginal people a formal voice in decisions affecting their communities, such as housing policy and programs.

Speaking out on the circumstances that led to her daughter's death is a matter of urgency for Ms Miller to prevent similar tragedies from happening to other young Aboriginal women.

"If this works to change the circumstances for just one young lady, whose children might have their mother around for a bit longer, then I will be happy," Ms Miller said.

Call for Expression of Interest to join the Wadjemup Aboriginal Reference Group

The Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) is seeking suitably experienced Western Australian Aboriginal people to join the Wadjemup Aboriginal Reference Group (WARG).

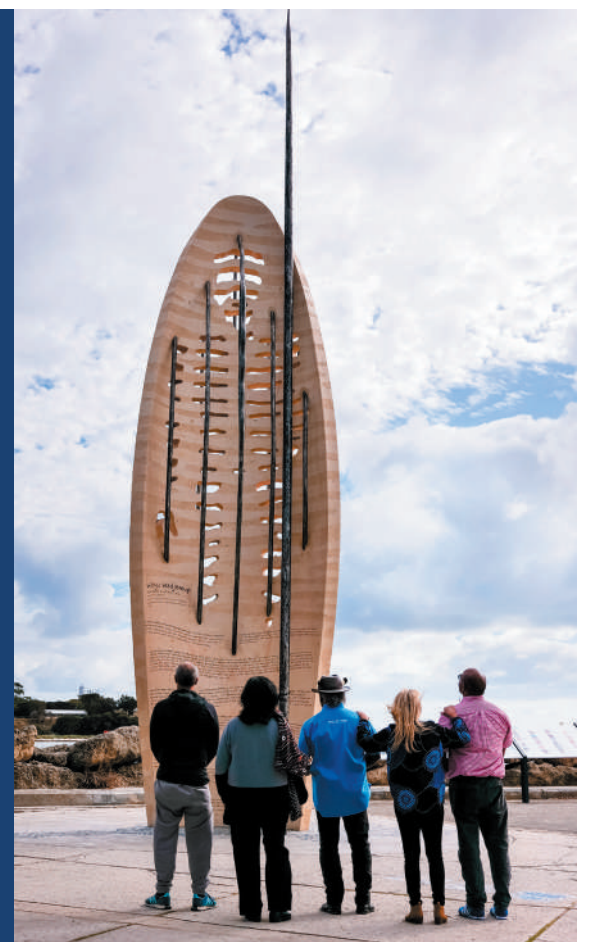
Members of the WARG help guide decisions that contribute to Wadjemup's reconciliation and heritage journey through advice to the RIA Board and Executive Director on non-legislative matters. The term of appointment for any member will be until no later than 1 January 2028.

RIA are seeking applicants with lived or professional experience in: Promoting reconciliation and Aboriginal cultural safety; Aboriginal cultural tourism or economic development; Management content and collections

management; Natural resource management or research programs; and/or Educational and training opportunities for Aboriginal youth.

To apply, applicants should address one or more of the Selection Criteria, and provide a CV with details of their qualifications, experience and/or expertise. Expressions of Interest should be emailed to executive.director@rotnnestisland.com by 5:00 pm WST on 26 May 2026.

For further details and a copy of the Selection Criteria, visit ria.wa.gov.au/wargeoi, email richenda.prall@dbca.wa.gov.au or call 0427 922 516



**ROTTNEST ISLAND
AUTHORITY**

Remains speak the 'truth'

CALLAN MORSE

A ground-penetrating radar survey has identified 12 additional potential burial sites on Wadjemup/Rottnest Island.

The survey, and anthropological and archaeological work, was conducted following the discovery of human remains consistent with Aboriginal ancestry earlier this month.

Known culturally as Baalang, the remains were found adjacent to the main bus stop, on the hill of the Holy Trinity Church; a location not previously considered a burial ground.

Since the initial discovery on April 8 during construction works to expand the island's main bus stop, the Rottnest Island Authority and Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation have collaborated to ensure cultural protocols are followed, and that respectful decisions are made

regarding the protection and ongoing management of the site.

A WAC spokesperson said the situation "is deeply saddening, but it is not surprising".

"What is being uncovered on Wadjemup confirms what mob from right around the state have always said: the island is a site of widespread burial," the spokesperson said. "The longstanding colonial narrative that burials were confined to the Quod burial ground is wrong. Our ancestors are across this island.

"Men and boys taken from Country, imprisoned, and buried in unmarked graves. This truth can no longer be ignored."

Following the discovery, WAC and RIA met senior Whadjuk Elders and respected Aboriginal representatives on April 13 for advice on the appropriate cultural process moving forward.

At the meeting it was agreed an anthropological and archaeo-

logical survey should be undertaken to provide further cultural and historical context, as well as a ground-penetrating radar survey of the works site to identify if other burial sites were present. The GPR survey identified a further 12 potential burial-like anomalies at the location, WAC said, with more archaeological investigation needed before the burial sites can be confirmed.

Whadjuk Noongar monitors will continue to oversee the site.

WAC said it and the RIA met with senior Whadjuk Elders and respected Aboriginal representatives on Friday to be briefed on the findings, and to determine the next steps. "Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation is committed to truth-telling and to ensuring Wadjemup is recognised and protected as the significant cultural landscape it is," a spokesperson said.

"We will work with the Rott-

nest Island Authority and the State Government, but this process must be led by Whadjuk people, guided by our Elders, and grounded in cultural authority."

From 1838 to 1931, colonial authorities used Wadjemup as a prison for Aboriginal men and boys. Nearly 4000 were held in appalling conditions and hundreds were buried there.

WAC deputy chair Wayne Ryder, a Ballardong and Whadjuk Noongar man, said a "deep discussion" had been held on Friday "around how we move forward, firstly as a mob, and then how we respect other mob across the State who's been impacted by this as well".

Mr Ryder said the process for speaking with other mobs about the ancestors on Wadjemup "has already been put in place".

RIA and WAC said they recognise the profound cultural and spiritual significance of Wadje-

mup to Whadjuk Noongar people and the broader Aboriginal community.

The organisations said they "acknowledge and express our deep regret for the significant distress this incident and subsequent investigations has caused Aboriginal people".

WAC is encouraging Aboriginal community members to reach out to their office or their local Aboriginal Corporation for support and information.

"Whadjuk Corporation will rightfully work with mob from right around the State and keep them informed of activities and developments on the island — recognising that our men buried at Wadjemup come from right across WA," it said.

"This is a moment for honesty and action and we will ensure our ancestors are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve."



Aboriginal men held prisoner on Wadjemup in 1889. Picture: State Library of WA

Outrage as girl, 13, pinned down by police officer

GIOVANNI TORRE

WA Police say they are investigating an incident in which a 13-year-old Aboriginal girl was pinned to the floor and thrown into a train seat by an off-duty police officer.

The incident, on the afternoon of April 12, sparked an outcry when video circulated online.

The video begins with the young girl pinned to the ground, with the officer on top of her, and then shows her being flung into the train seat, with her head striking the side of the train. She holds her head and cries out "my head".

The girl told National Indigenous Times she had a lump on her head and pain in her back and neck days after the incident.

She said she and her friends had been harassed by boys earlier on the train who then assaulted her niece and stole a necklace from her friend.

"I got up and said to those boys 'how shame are you, you have to go up to people and steal chains right off their neck? ... what is wrong with you?'," she said. "I reached out to grab the chain because it was within reach and he pulled it back ... that was when that police officer pushed me back.

The officer was not in uniform at the time.

The girl said she "rotated" her hand up to get away from the officer, making contact with his face, before turning her back. "I said 'I am sorry for that, I really apologise for that', and that's when I got tackled," she said.

It was then that her niece took her phone out and started filming. "I was already on the ground before she could get her phone out," the girl said.

"I hit my head on the corner, on the side of the chair. He was kept trying to touch my shoulder, trying to lift me up, I said 'don't touch me' and kept moving his hands away ... he lifted me up ... then I got thrown. And during all of that I had a panic attack."

The video shows the officer then pinning the girl in the train seat with his knee.

WA Police claim the girl assaulted the police officer and issued her with a juvenile caution.

She told National Indigenous Times she spent half an hour at the police watch house in Perth before being released.

Noongar human rights law expert Dr Hannah McGlade contrasted the girl's treatment with the peaceful arrest of Liam Alexander Hall, the man accused of throwing a bomb into Perth's Invasion Day rally.

"We're tired of government's broken promises and empty words," she said. The National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, Sue-Anne Hunter, described the video as "deeply disturbing" and condemned the use of "unreasonable force".

WA's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, said there were many other ways the girl could have been restrained.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Katie Kiss said the

incident "highlights further our calls for a Federal mechanism (for) independent investigations into both deaths in custody and critical incidents".

WA Police Minister Reece Whitby said the Government expected all police to always act "with professionalism and appropriate judgment".

In a statement on April 17, WA Police said they were investigating the incident. "It is alleged the officer intervened in a verbal altercation ... in an attempt to de-escalate the situation. It is alleged a 13-year-old female assaulted the officer by punching him to the face.

"Relevant evidentiary material, including Public Transport Authority CCTV, has been obtained and is being reviewed by the WA Police Force as part of standard process."

Country hearing rejected

CALLAN MORSE

An Aboriginal woman has been left shocked after a Hobart magistrate rejected an on-Country hearing last week.

Ruth Langford sought the approval of Chief Magistrate Catherine Geason on April 17 for part of a trespass hearing to be held on Aboriginal-owned land at Risdon Cove on Hobart's eastern shore. On April 20, the request was denied.

The request formed part of her defence after she was charged with trespass in two logging coupes last year.

In January 2025 the Yorta Yorta/Dja Dja Wurring woman was arrested at a logging coupe at Snow Hill on Tasmania's east coast before being arrested three months later during a forest protest in the Wellington Range, south of Hobart.

"I was shocked because Tas-

mania is the only State jurisdiction that chooses not to have on-Country hearings," Ms Langford told National Indigenous Times. "I actually naively had not prepared my response in depth for a rejection. I couldn't fathom how she could say no, given under her act, very clearly, she has the capacity and the power."

Ms Langford's actions are rooted in her cultural obligation to protect Country.

She says Tasmania's forest industry is having a devastating effect on the State's waterways while increasing the risk of "catastrophic" bushfires.

"The current practices, including massacring whole cultural landscapes, have no real benefit to the public," she said. "We have seen for the last decade, report after report . . . calling for an immediate end for logging old-growth forest."

"The mismanagement is not



Ruth Langford outside Hobart Magistrates Court. Picture: AAP

only the slaughtering of these once vibrant, rich and healthy ecologies, but we're also seeing a bleed on the public purse."

Ms Langford said Tasmania's forests have immense ecological and environmental value.

"They help protect us from wildfires. They help create healthy waterways, and they retain carbon," she said.

"But most importantly, for our people, those forests are our kin," she said. "They teach us our relational obligations and how to live in healthy ways and healthy societies."

Ms Langford, who is self-representing in court, said she provided all the precedents of on-Country hearings to Ms

Geason, which have been held across the country. "We had said very clearly . . . this case represented an understanding of my obligation to Country, and in order for her to make a fully informed decision, then she needs to come to Country," Ms Langford said.

Calling the decision "just another day in the colony", Ms Langford said her cause "did not lose anything" from the magistrate's decision.

"But it was a tragic loss for Tasmanian society to see ethical and moral leadership towards healing the injustices and finding a better way to relate to Earth, honouring culture and traditions."

Kids put at risk as funds cut

JOSEPH GUENZLER

The Queensland Government's decision to withdraw funding from Murri Watch's youth cultural support program this month has drawn criticism from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Katie Kiss, who says it will place children at greater risk in police watch houses.

The program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people held in Queensland watch houses, helping ensure detainees' hygiene, food and medical needs are met while in detention.

It is to end on June 30 after the State Government chose not to renew its funding contract. Ms Kiss, a Kaanju and Birri/Widi woman, said the loss exposed a wider failure to invest in prevention and early intervention for First Nations children.

"The Queensland Government's decision to withdraw funding from Murri Watch's Youth Cultural Support in Watch Houses program puts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children at greater risk at the very moment they need protection most," Ms Kiss said.

"It also highlights a deeper failure to invest in what actually keeps them safe: prevention and early intervention."

Goodwyn Alpha Facility Operations Environment Plan

Woodside has led the development of the LNG industry in Australia and today aims to thrive through the global energy transition. Woodside consults with relevant persons to gather feedback to inform its Commonwealth Environment Plans.

Goodwyn Alpha (GWA) Facility Operations Environment Plan (EP)

Woodside plans to continue operating the GWA facility to receive and process gas and condensate from offshore fields. Gas and condensate will be exported via the Interfield Line to the Karratha Gas Plant onshore. The EP also covers commissioning of up to seven production wells, and vessel-based inspection, monitoring and maintenance activities.

Environment that May Be Affected (EMBA)

The EMBA is the largest geographic area where an unplanned event could potentially have an environmental consequence. In the highly unlikely event a hydrocarbon release does occur, the whole EMBA would not be affected.

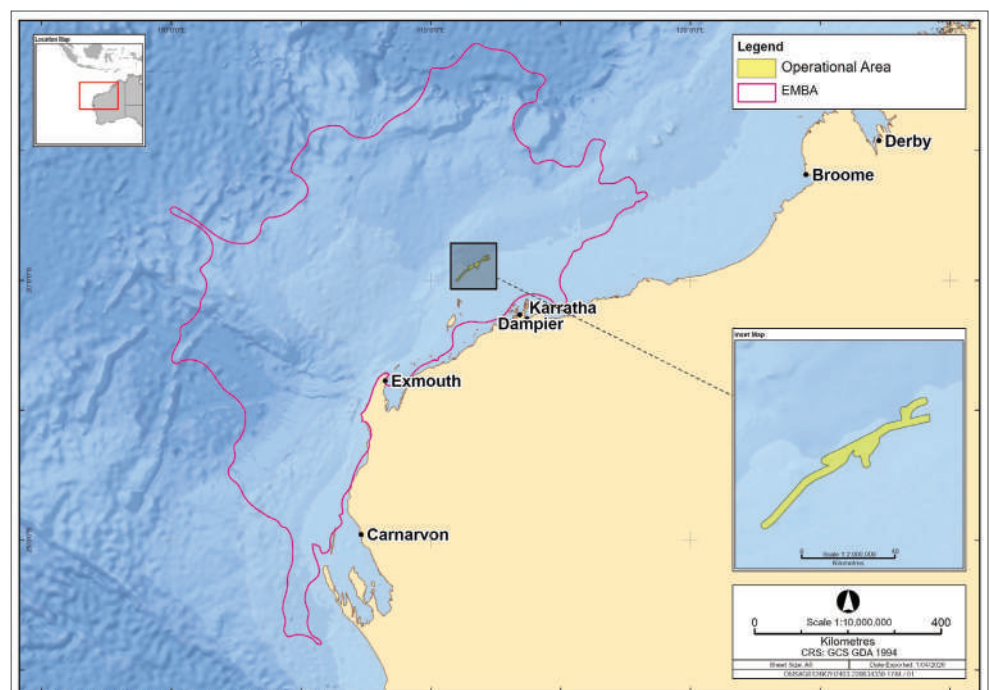
We would like to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be affected by the activities under this EP, we would like to hear from you by **14 May 2026**.

To find out more go to:

www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities

You can also subscribe via our website to receive future information on upcoming activities.



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Long walk calls for truth

DECLAN BRENNAN

Kerrupmara Gunditjmara man Travis Lovett has begun an 820km Walk For Truth from Naarm (Melbourne) to Canberra, using the 39-day journey to press for a national truth-telling process and invite Australians — including Prime Minister Anthony Albanese — to walk alongside him.

Leaving the Victorian Parliament on Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Country on April 19, Mr Lovett is due to arrive at Parliament House on Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country on May 27, where he will deliver a letter on kangaroo skin calling for the Federal Government to “publicly commit to a national process of truth-telling led in genuine partnership with First Peoples”.

The walk builds on Mr Lovett’s 513km trek last year linked to the Yoorrook Justice Commission, and he says the unfinished business of truth-telling now demands a national response.

“History has always been told by the oppressors,” he told National Indigenous Times.

“Truth-telling is about bringing people together.”

Mr Lovett says the walk is designed not only to confront the violence and dispossession at the nation’s foundation, but to elevate First Peoples’ knowledge, resistance and ongoing contributions.

“It’s about listening and learning and understanding the lived experiences of First Peoples, but also not just the traumas that our people have been through, but the strength (and) the contributions that our people have made to this country,” he said.

Along the route, walkers will pass massacre sites, hear from Traditional Owners, and take part in conversations grounded



Supporters join Yoorrook Justice Commission’s Travis Lovett on last year’s Yoorrook Justice Commission Walk for Truth. Pic: Joel Carrett

in Country. No matter how many injustices our people have been through, we’ve continued to advocate for our knowledges and our sciences to be incorporated into how we look and care for Country together.

“That’s a really important point of the walk as well — elevating knowledge, science, but also connections to Country, to place.” He said the walk was not about assigning blame to ordinary Australians, but about institutional accountability.

“What we walk for is for the

institutions to be accountable for the institutional harm that they’ve caused our people,” he said. “That’s a really important distinction.”

Speaking on the steps of the Victorian Parliament, Mr Lovett said Australia had “lived inside a story that was never true”, describing truth-telling as essential to any shared future.

He has also issued a direct invitation to political leaders.

“We extend that invitation to the Prime Minister to come and walk with us,” he said. “Not to

wait until the end — but come and walk with us on this journey.”

While the Federal Government supported the defeated 2023 Voice to Parliament referendum, the other two pillars of the Uluru Statement from the Heart — truth and treaty — remain unfulfilled.

“We’re not asking for any new election commitments,” Mr Lovett said.

“What we’re asking is for the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to deliver on the commitments that he’s already made.”

While the walk through Victoria and New South Wales to the nation’s capital is long, Mr Lovett said it was vital to draw attention to a truth that had not been hidden by chance, but deliberately denied the light of day.

“A nation that can tell the truth about itself is a nation strong enough to heal, to repair and to imagine a different future,” his open letter reads.

“We walk for Truth because this country is worth the effort of healing. We ask you to meet us on that path.”

Territory spends more on prison than on support

GIOVANNI TORRE

New data shows the ACT Government spent more than double the amount of funds locking up Indigenous people than it did on supporting Aboriginal organisations delivering community services in 2024-25.

The Territory’s Government spent an estimated \$36.2 million on detaining Indigenous people in the Alexander Maconochie Centre and Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, compared to \$15.4 million on delivering services through Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations.

The ACCO funding data was revealed through a question asked in the Assembly this month by the independent member for Kurrajong, Thomas Emerson MLA. The detention costs come from Productivity Commission data released earlier this year.

“The ACT Government has committed to building the ACCO sector to deliver services

to Close the Gap, yet they’ve been pouring far more money into incarcerating First Nations people than funding ACCO-led services for them,” Mr Emerson said.

“People don’t turn to a life of crime without reason. We know services that improve the lives of people experiencing disadvantage lead to reduced crime.

“We need long-term upstream investment that strengthens communities (and) keeps people out of jail.”

Bundjalung man and community advocate Joe Hedger said the ACT is “spending more than double locking our people up than ... on the solutions that actually keep them out of prison in the first place”.

“It’s a complete failure of priorities,” he said.

“Community-led solutions, grounded in community leadership, are delivering outcomes every day, often with little to no government investment. Meanwhile, millions keep getting

poured into a system that punishes the symptoms and ignores the cause. In a small jurisdiction like the ACT, it’s hard to justify spending tens of millions of dollars every year locking people up and expecting a different result.”

Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services chief executive Julie Tongs said “it is clear from all the available data that people detained in the AMC are more likely than not to reoffend upon release”.

“The Productivity Commission in its latest report reveals 40 per cent of adults discharged from the AMC return to prison within two years,” she said.

“The Productivity Commission has also revealed in its latest report that the AMC has the highest Indigenous incarceration gap in Australia.

“Even more disturbing is that in the last year the ACT had the highest rate of Aboriginal deaths in custody in Australia.”

Ms Tongs, a Wiradjuri woman, called for more investment in community-controlled services to address the gaps — “like an Aboriginal child care agency for First Nations kids at risk, and an Aboriginal justice centre”.

Mr Emerson noted that a significant body of work has highlighted the social impact and economic efficiency of justice reinvestment, and called for increased funding for ACCOs and preventive programs in the upcoming ACT budget.

“We’re pouring millions and millions of dollars into addressing symptoms while refusing to invest sufficiently in tackling causes, with catastrophic social and economic consequences,” he said.

Mr Hedger said “you don’t get safer communities by investing in incarceration”.

“You get safer communities by backing people early and backing solutions that come from the ground up,” he said.

An ACT Government spokesperson said it is “committed” to addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system. “The ACT Government supports justice reinvestment and diversionary programs to prevent offending and reoffending,” they said.

“The ACT Government does not accept the comparison being made, as it compares fundamentally different types of expenditure, and does not account for others. Detention costs represent whole-of-facility operational expenditure required to safely and lawfully detain people (including) staffing, infrastructure, security and statutory obligations.”

They said the Government acknowledges the critical work done by ACCOs, and “continues to work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to improve outcomes and reduce over-representation of First Nations people in the justice system”.



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ALSO INSIDE

Shirts on for
cancer research **P10**

Art exhibition
worth the wait **P11**

Singer's career
takes a turn **P14**

Model's pinch-me moments

Emerging star reflects
on her rapid rise **P12-13**

Luca Saunders
modelling.
Stylist: Charissa
Trikos. Hair and
make-up: Georgie
Kelly. Picture:
Lauren Schulz

Shirts on for cancer research

PHOEBE BLOGG

Witchery's White Shirt Campaign returns in 2026 with renewed purpose, bringing together some of Australia's most influential voices across fashion, media, entertainment and sport to raise vital funds for ovarian cancer research in partnership with the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation.

The campaign is supported by leading Indigenous models Billie Jean Hamlet and Samantha Harris.

"Ovarian cancer remains the most lethal gynaecological cancer, with a survival rate of just 49 per cent," Hamlet said.

"100 per cent of proceeds from every shirt go to the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation. So proud to be a part of this campaign."

Now in its 18th year, the campaign continues to demonstrate the impact of collective action.

Originally taking inspiration from the white coat worn by scientists in the lab, the campaign has grown into one of Australia's most recognised fashion-led philanthropic initiatives, raising much-needed funds for ovarian cancer research.

This year the campaign enters a new creative chapter. Designed in collaboration with Byron Bay-born label St. Agni,



Samantha Harris

the Witchery White Shirt has been reimaged through three modern silhouettes created by Lara Fells, co-founder and designer of St. Agni.

Captured against the natural beauty of the Australian coastline, this year's campaign reflects connection, community and the strength of women supporting women.

"It is hard to overstate the power and the impact The Witchery White Shirt Campaign continues to have. For 18 years, the campaign has played a fundamental role in driving awareness and raising critical funds for ovarian cancer research," OCRF chief executive Robin Penty said.

"Every year builds on the success of the last. Investing in medical research means you are in it for the long game and Witchery, along with the

amazing ambassadors who show up for us every year, and every person who buys a shirt, are walking the road alongside us."

The campaign brings together a collective of Australia's most recognised talent across television, media, fashion, sport and entertainment, including television personalities Abbey Gelmi, Anna Heinrich, Renee Bargh, Natalie Barr and Sarah Abo, alongside influential voices and social media stars including Ariana Tapsell, Indy Clinton, Lana Wilkinson, Nicole Warne, Olive Cooke, and Steph Claire Smith.

Together, the ambassadors represent Australia's creative and cultural influence, united in support of raising awareness and critical funding for ovarian cancer research.

This year's Witchery White Shirts consist of three considered silhouettes, the Button Back Wrap Shirt, Halter Shirt and Longline Wrap Shirt.

For every White Shirt sold, Witchery will donate 100 per cent of gross proceeds to the OCRF, supporting researchers across Australia working to prevent, detect and better treat ovarian cancer.

The campaign will culminate with Witchery White Shirt Day and World Ovarian Cancer Day on Friday, May 8.



Billie Jean Hamlet for Witchery's 2026 White Shirt Campaign.



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Exhibition tells epic stories of the land

PHOEBE BLOGG

Ngura Pulka, an epic project in scale and scope led by senior First Nations artists and collectives from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, Coober Pedy and Tarntanya/Adelaide, is now open at the National Gallery.

The exhibition, running until August 23, brings together 30 large-scale paintings depicting expansive Country while celebrating the powerful Tjukurpa (Anangu law/cultural stories) within, reinforcing the artists' deep connection to culture and place.

Through stories and distinctive designs, the featured artists continue to strengthen their cultural knowledge of their homelands.

Individual artists, as well as women's and men's collectives, bring their Tjukurpa to life on large canvases, sometimes through explosions of colour and sometimes in a muted palette.

Senior women artists, as Community leaders, described these major works as representing the ultimate

freedom of cultural expression, exploration and depiction of their Tjukurpa and Ngura (land).

"I love making paintings with my daughter Raylene. We've made many big canvases together; we send our paintings to exhibitions all over the place. When we're painting together, we talk about our lives and about our country and culture," Yankunytjatjara artist Betty Chimney said.

"Making paintings together is very special, the paintings are always exciting and interesting to make.

"It makes me so happy to work with my daughter, we are teaching the next generation about how important our culture is."

Head curator, First Nations Art, National Gallery Tina Baum (Gulumirrgin (Larrakia) / Wardaman / Karajarri peoples) said: "From the beginning of the APY art movement, these artists have embraced the opportunity to celebrate and share their stories through monumental works of art."



Naomi Kantjuriny, Pitjantjatjara people, and Mona Mitakiki Shepherd, Pitjantjatjara people at Tjala Arts, Amata, SA, the artists / Tjala Arts / APY Art Centre Collective. Pic: Rhett Hammerton (courtesy of Tjala Arts)

"By bringing together some of their most ambitious works to date, Ngura Pulka offers audiences the opportunity to experience the strength and beauty of the artistic practices coming out of the Central Desert."

Ngura Pulka was to open in 2023 but was postponed for the National Gallery's independent review into the authorship of works after allegations raised in the media. This review validated the authorship of the works.

The National Gallery has worked closely with the artists to evolve the exhibition for its first public display. As a continuing community project, the artists will present six new large-scale works.

Presented alongside Ngura Pulka are 13 works by APY artists drawn from the national

collection. The National Gallery has a proud history of supporting and celebrating artist-led projects by First Nations artists.

"Ngura Pulka is one of the most ambitious First Nations community-driven art projects and the National Gallery is proud to stand by the artists and share it with our audience," National Gallery director Nick Mitzevich said.

"After a long journey, we invite everyone to visit the exhibition, to celebrate the work of these remarkable artists and witness the power of cultural storytelling through art," he said.

Sandra Pumani, Yankunytjatjara artist and chairperson of the APY Art Centre Collective, said Ngura Pulka was a project that had been a long time coming, but

"we always knew we would get here because of the strength and resilience of our artists, our artworks, and our culture".

"We stand by these artworks together as one, and we are proud to share them with Australia."

Ngura Pulka—Epic Country is presented in partnership with APY Art Centre Collective, with the support of Art Centres; Tjala Arts, Mimili Maku Arts, Umoona Arts, Iwantja Arts, Kaltjiti Arts, Collective Art Centre Adelaide, as well as artists from Ernabella and Pipalyatjara.

The National Gallery said it was grateful to all Ngura Pulka—Epic Country supporters including Major Partner CreateSA and donors to the 2022 collective giving campaign.

Professor enters hall of fame

PHOEBE BLOGG

One of Australia's most influential design thinkers, Boonwurrung Elder Professor N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs AM, was inducted into the Design Institute of Australia's Hall of Fame this month.

Professor Briggs was recognised for her decades-long work bringing First Peoples' knowledge into design practice across Australia, including in architecture, urban planning, landscape design and public infrastructure.

Based at the Wominjeka Djeembana Research Lab within Monash Art, Design and Architecture, she is a pioneer of Indigenous-led research.

Her work includes advocating for the cultural return of a century-old thulu (tree) from Switzerland to Australia, and exploring how Indigenous knowledge systems can reshape urban water design.

Professor Briggs is the Elder-in-residence behind Kindred People, Monash University's new Indigenous-led festival celebrating First Nations arts, knowledge, and community, which will run from September 1-5.

She is also the Elder-in-residence for the Master of



Professor N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs AM. Picture: Tobias Titz

Indigenous Business Leadership course at Monash Business School.

Professor Briggs said she was honoured by the induction.

"This honour belongs to the community. Everything I have been able to contribute has come from working alongside Elders, creatives and knowledge holders who have generously shared their wisdom," she said.

"I have been inspired by strong Aboriginal leaders, including Louisa Briggs, Michael Mansell, Hyllus Maris and Charles Perkins, and I hope this award helps open doors for the next generation and encourages young Indigenous

people to be confident in their voices.

"I am grateful to my family for the strength and courage they have provided me, including my late mother Carrie, sister Eva, and brothers Fred and John.

"I would also like to acknowledge Elizabeth Tunstall, who was at the time the first Black dean of a faculty of design in the world, and who gave me the courage to pursue my PhD."

Professor Briggs was one of five inductees honoured at an event held at the National Gallery of Victoria, alongside Paul Charlwood, Paul Huxtable, Geraldine Maher and Cal Swann.

Monash University deputy vice-chancellor (Indigenous) and senior vice-president, Professor Tristan Kennedy, congratulated Professor Briggs on her achievement.

"We are incredibly proud to work alongside a strong Indigenous Elder with the calibre of Professor N'arwee't Aunty Carolyn," he said.

"I remain ever grateful for her contributions to our Monash community and for her generous cultural and intellectual guidance for the next generation of Indigenous leaders and knowledge holders."

Nunga Screen returns with more great films

GIOVANNI TORRE

Country Arts SA's award-winning First Nations film showcase Nunga Screen returns in 2026 for its 15th year of sharing history, humour, culture and Country through powerful storytelling.

Presented annually between Reconciliation Week (May 27 to June 3) and NAI-DOC Week (July 5 to 12), a mix of short films from emerging and established creators are screened regionally at free community events, and available for organisations to buy and stream internally.

Nunga Screen programmer and Ngarrindjeri man Joshua Trevorror said the second half of the program delves into social and cultural issues, creating space to reflect on timely and complex topics.

"Nunga Screen is a chance to listen deeply and to come together in recognition of First Nations voices and stories," he said. "We are extremely proud of how far this program has come over 15 years, to the point where we now are able to remunerate

featured filmmakers and invest in more First Nations arts projects with funds raised through the Nunga Screen corporate campaign."

The program includes plenty for family audiences: the fast-paced adventures of Red Dirt Riders; the gentle tale of The Fix-It Man And The Fix-It Woman; and a music video with hip hop group DEM MOB and Fregon Anangu School.

There are moving documentaries such as Anangu Way and Blakprint For Success, and dramas like Catchin' Mumoo, The Secret and False Narrative bring raw emotional depth, exploring the complexities of family, truth, shame and healing.

Wongutha filmmaker Travis Akbar, whose film False Narrative is part of the 2026 program, said it is a "fantastic showcase of First Nations filmmaking talent".

Program and screening details are at the Country Arts SA website. People and groups interested in hosting a free community screening can go to www.countryarts.org.au/book-nunga-screen.



Luca Saunders is a proud Biripi woman. Stylist Charissa Trikos, hair and make-up Georgie Kelly. Pictures: Lauren Schulz

Emerging star's career skyro



Luca Saunders with her parents Deb and Andy.

PHOEBE BLOGG

From growing up in a small beachside town to shooting on the shores of Byron Bay, Luca Saunders is one of the many emerging First Nations models building their careers from the ground up.

Style Up spoke with the rising star to learn more about how her career and presence in the fashion and creative industry has grown.

"I'm a proud Biripi woman who grew up on Biripi Country in a very small beach town outside of Taree, NSW," she said.

"I'm a Saunders, so I'm from a huge family and community.

"I never would have thought I'd be modelling until I was scouted from a quick photo snapped of me at Saltwater Freshwater Festival and shared on social media.

"That happened when I was 16. I was signed immediately."

Saunders' love for fashion arose from her passion for self-expression.

"I love being able to express myself through fashion and I love dressing up," she said.

"It's amazing having my make-up and hair done, and I love everything to do with the creative process of a shoot."

Saunders said her career had had many "pinch me" moments.

"One of my modelling highlights would be shooting Miimi and Jiinda's first fashion campaign in Byron Bay," she said. "Another highlight

happened in my first year of modelling when I walked the Indigenous Fashion Projects runway at Australian Fashion Week wearing Ihraa Swim.

"There is a very magical energy working with mob, from the models to the stylist and photographers, everyone has a strong unspoken connection.

"There's a lot of laughter, support, acceptance and understanding for one another."

Saunders said she would love to see greater representation of Indigenous people across all creative industries.

"We definitely need greater representation of Indigenous people in every space, especially in mainstream media," she said.

"In Australia there is so much room for more representation.

"Recently seeing Tatyana Perry, Em Stenberg and Latahla Hickling on the cover of Vogue and getting the recognition they deserve was a huge highlight for me.

"It's hard to make space when the media is constructed for, and by, non-Indigenous people.

"I hope that soon all First Nations people in every corner are recognised and valued equally, without the added burden of having to work harder for the same opportunities."

The talented model has also gained attention off the runway thanks to her impressive voice.

"I recently performed at Yabun on the acoustic stage



uckets



which was extremely special," she said.

"I grew up around music and dancing, and have always loved performing.

"My goal is to move back to Sydney eventually, but for now my music and my band Luella Deville are playing gigs between Sydney and the Gold Coast often, just to throw another geographical challenge in there, and I'm so happy to be spending time with very creative and extremely talented musicians

creative family

"They have supported me through absolutely everything unconditionally," she said.

"My dad was in an amazing grunge band called Circle of Fate in the 90s with some of his cousins and friends. He is a professional stand-up comedian, so I grew up surrounded by creativity, performance and art.

"Dad did it for a living, so we had boxes of wigs, costumes, and hats at home. One day we'd be heading off with a camera

and to be able to say they're my band.

"Having my band is extending my creative range and I'm learning so much, even drums."

"I'll definitely be releasing music under my name and under Luella Deville this year."

Saunders said she was grateful to have the support of a loving and

crew while he was dressed as a shark, and the next week would be in Melbourne mentoring up-and-coming Indigenous comedians.

"My mum is also incredibly creative, with a strong sense of direction and vision in everything she does. She has a way of grounding all our amazing big ideas and shaping them into something real."

Saunders continues to work all over Australia, regularly travelling back and forth from Taree. "I have recently moved back home to beautiful Biripi Country," she said. "I love it here, and the older I get I understand why my dad is so connected to Country and never wants to leave.

"It's a spiritual connection.

"Home is a seven-hour round trip to Sydney. I'm very happy to be home but it can be challenging travelling so often for my work opportunities.

"Now that I'm home I really

want to join our cultural dance group again. I danced all through school up until I moved to Sydney."

Looking ahead, Saunders is eager to grow her presence in the industry, further pursue her music career, and show emerging First Nations creatives remaining true to yourself and embracing your authenticity will always make you stand out.

"I'm so grateful for every modelling opportunity, and for the amazing people who help create each job from the ground up," she said.

"There's a huge amount of work and talent behind the scenes that often goes unnoticed. It really does take a great team.

"The best advice I ever received is to have tunnel vision... Do not compare yourself to anyone, and life isn't practice, it's performance — so go all in on it."



Luca Saunders modelling at the Melbourne Fashion Festival, and left, fronting her band. Main picture: Dan Castano

“There is a very magical energy working with mob, from the models to the stylist and photographers, everyone has a strong unspoken connection.

Luca Saunders

Singer's career takes a turn

JOSEPH GUENZLER

Gomeri country music star Kyla-Bell Roberts has released her latest single Took A Turn featuring Nooky, with the track debuting on triple j Unearthed in late March.

The 17-year-old from Moree's rise continues after winning the 2025 triple j Unearthed High Indigenous Initiative with her single Myself, which led to mentoring with Nooky.

Roberts wrote Took A Turn several years ago, but decided to take the track in a new direction by pairing her country sound with rap.

She said the collaboration with Nooky came together after her Unearthed win opened the door to working with the Yuin and Thunghutti rapper.

"We knew we were going to release Took A Turn, but we thought that we'd do something different with it just because we've done the country stuff," Roberts told National Indigenous Times.

"Why don't we add a rapper to it? Then I ended up winning the Indigenous Initiative section of triple j Unearthed, and Nooky's name came up."

The session gave Roberts the chance to watch an established artist build a verse in real time.

She said the studio process quickly became one of the standout parts of the release.

"It was an amazing

experience in the studio," she said. "Just getting to watch him actively write the rap, like he wrote the rap in front of us all.

"It was just crazy and just getting to see how he works in the studio."

The song is grounded in Roberts' own life.

"The song is really about coming from hard times and coming out of it," she said.

"My life took a turn for the better. "So, I just use music as a way to tell that story."

Roberts is balancing her growing music career with school, using weekdays for classes and assessments, and keeping weekends for practice and performance.

She said her teachers had supported her music journey.

"I really took music into mind when I thought about what I wanted to do for my subjects this year," Roberts said.

Roberts said this year was focused on releasing more songs, securing gigs, and building her audience.

The message she wants listeners to take from Took a Turn is one of perspective and resilience.

"I really just hope people kind of use their bad times and look at it more in a positive sense of where they're at now."

'Took a Turn' featuring Nooky is available now on all major streaming platforms.



Nooky and Kyla-Bell Roberts have collaborated on new song Took A Turn. Picture: Rahim Bakar

CK4 and LH3 Well Intervention Environment Plan

Woodside has led the development of the LNG industry in Australia and today aims to thrive through the global energy transition. Woodside consults with relevant persons to gather feedback to inform its Commonwealth Environment Plans.

CK4 & LH3 Well Intervention Environment Plan

Woodside plans to do light well intervention activities on the CK4 (Cossack-4H) and LH3 (Lambert-3) wells to remediate the wells using a light well intervention vessel and other support vessels. The two wells produce oil and gas through the Okha Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) facility which commenced production from the fields in 2011.

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The EMBA is the largest geographic area where an unplanned event could potentially have an environmental consequence. In the highly unlikely event a hydrocarbon release does occur, the whole EMBA would not be affected.

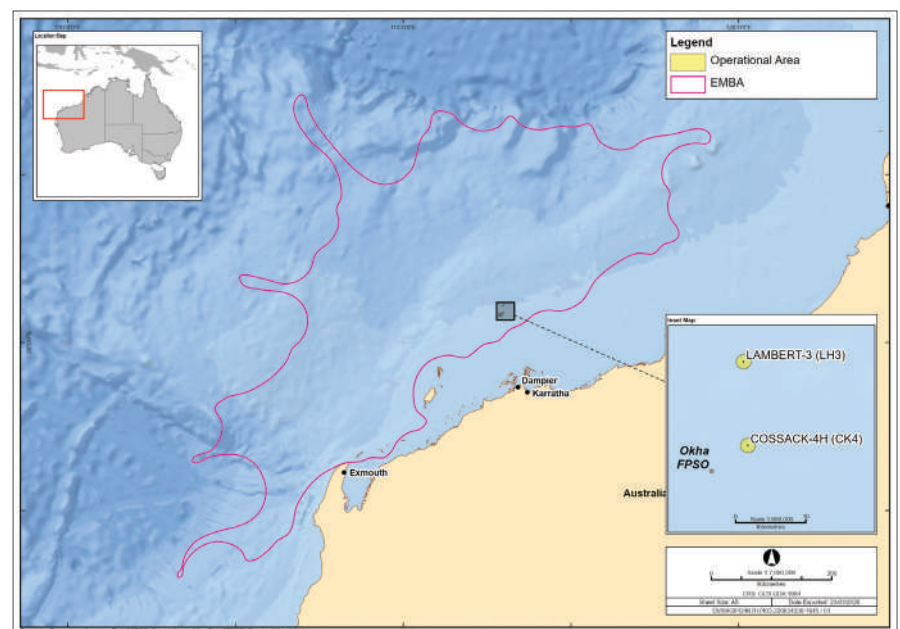
We would like to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by the activities under this Environment Plan, we would like to hear from you by **18 May 2026**.

To find out more go to:

www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities

You can also subscribe via our website to receive future information on upcoming activities.



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Models wearing Nagula Jarndu backstage at Country to Couture 2024. Picture: Marley Morgan

Country to Couture line-up

PHOEBE BLOGG

The highly anticipated Country to Couture event has revealed its 2026 line-up, presented in partnership with Indigenous Fashion Projects.

The runways will return to the Top End this August for the event's 11th year.

Presenting the country's largest showcase of First Nations fashion, the event will be a two-day showcase — its largest presentation yet.

The runway event will also move outdoors, set against the Darwin landscape.

From remote community art centres and artists, to independent designers and exciting community collaborations, this year's line-up showcases emerging and established creatives.

The 2026 line-up brings First Nations textiles, fashion and art together in a vibrant runway showcase, celebrating contemporary design rooted in more than 60,000 years of culture.

Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation executive director Claire Summers, described the most recent Country to Couture as “an exhilarating

SHOW 1, ON AUGUST 2, WILL FEATURE:

Anindilyakwa Arts x Anna Reynolds (Groote Eylandt) - NT
 Babbarra Women's Centre (Maningrida, Manayingkarirra) - NT
 Badu Art Centre (Badu Island, Wakaid) - Qld
 Bobbi Lockyer x Skye Lockyer x Mali Isabel (Kariyara, Ngarluma, Nyul Nyul, Yawuru, Arabana and Kokatha) - NT
 Jaymee-Lee Chaquebor (Bidyadanga Community) - WA
 LULUJARU (Kununurra, Goonoonoorang) - WA
 MumRed (Geelong, Wathawurrung) - VIC
 Nagula Jarndu (Rubibi, Broome) - WA
 Off The Plantation (Naarm, Melbourne) - VIC
 Waringarri Aboriginal Arts (Miriwoong) - WA

celebration of how First Nations designers and artists master traditional practices to inform contemporary design”.

Ms Summers said Country to Couture “embodies a cultural revolution that continues to redefine

Women of the Rivers - Arts Northern Rivers (Bundjalung) - NSW

SHOW 2, ON AUGUST 3, WILL FEATURE:

Corella & Crow (Wiradyuri, Wiradjuri and Ngunnawal) - ACT
 Goompi's Girl - Qld
 Jina-Jina - Yinjaa-Barni Art (Ieramugadu, Roebourne) - WA
 Kuku Bulkaway Arts (Archer Point, Wujal Wujal, Cooktown and Cape York) - Qld
 Lucas Schober (Garramilla, Darwin) - NT
 Marayn Menswear (Wallabadah, Thalababuri) - NSW
 Marnin Studio (Kimberley Region) - WA
 Ngaire Pakai (Awabakal Country/Newcastle) - NSW
 Noongar Arts Fashion - Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (Wardandi Country, Bunbury) - WA
 Yarrenynty Arltere (Mpwantwe) - NT

Australian fashion”. “It's incredible to see how Country to Couture has evolved from a showcase celebrating Indigenous textiles into the nation's premier platform for First Nations fashion innovation,” she said.

Festival to platform four new art works

PHOEBE BLOGG

YIRRAMBOI unveiled four major new commissions this month, marking the next chapter for a festival that has become a leading platform for First Nations evolutionary and experimental arts.

Spanning experimental sound, street theatre, movement, language rematriation, film and installation — each work, such as Jemma Atkinson-Costa's *Withewa*, a poetic film work honouring unsung Aboriginal Elders, is developed from early concept through to full realisation, culminating in world premieres across Naarm/Melbourne during the 2027 festival.

Now in its sixth iteration, the YIRRAMBOI Commissions Program sits at the heart of the festival, laying the foundation for the broader program and offering a glimpse of what's to come. The program centres Victorian First Nations artists providing resources to premiere ambitious new works rooted in community and creative sovereignty.

“There is nothing more powerful than backing our artists to create on their own terms, to play, to explore, to take risks and to speak their truths,” said co-lead/artistic lead of YIRRAMBOI Festival, Sherene Stewart.

“That is where the most urgent and pivotal work is born. We're deeply honoured to be entrusted with new works by senior artists, cultural leaders and the next generation of First Nations creatives.

“Artists who helped shape past festivals now return as pillars of the 2027 program, leading ambitious new work that reflect the strength and continuity of this platform.”

Co-lead/executive lead of YIRRAMBOI festival Emily Wells, said in 2026, YIRRAMBOI will continue to create and push for further opportunities for First Nations



Artist Jemma Atkinson-Costa. Picture: Joshua Scott

peoples. “At a time of uncertainty across the arts sector, YIRRAMBOI doubles down on ambitious, self-determined commissioning,” she said.

“As a First Nations festival, resilience is not new to us. We have always created within constraints. We will continue to push, to carve out opportunity, and to honour our responsibility as a vital and enduring platform for First Nations practice.”

The festival platforms the interconnectedness and diversity of First Nations creatives. Deeply rooted locally, traversing nationally and internationally, YIRRAMBOI creates space for expressions of culture, identity, unity and truth through evolutionary and experimental practices.

“We're proud to support First Nations artists to create work that is grounded in culture, community and truth-telling,” Naarm / Melbourne Lord Mayor Nick Reece said.

“YIRRAMBOI demonstrates what is possible when cities invest in the creativity of its people.”

Arts centre recognised for excellence at Kimberley awards

NATASHA CLARK

Waringarri Aboriginal Arts, an Aboriginal-owned art centre in WA's East Kimberley region, has been recognised for its work strengthening culture and community with a major regional business award.

The centre, based in Kununurra on Miriwoong Country, was on March 28

awarded the Indigenous excellence gong at the East Kimberley Business Excellence Awards.

One of the State's longest-running Aboriginal art centres, Waringarri supports local artists through studio space, exhibitions and cultural programs.

In a statement, the organisation said the award

reflected the purpose behind its work.

“We are incredibly proud and honoured to have received the 2026 East Kimberley business excellence award for Indigenous excellence,” the organisation said.

“This achievement means so much to our team and community. It reflects the mission at the heart of

everything we do at Waringarri Arts — to preserve and strengthen cultural knowledge for current and future generations.”

The award was presented by Kimberley Ports Authority at the East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Shining Stars gala.

Waringarri said its work was guided by Elders and a local

Indigenous board, keeping cultural integrity at the centre of its decisions.

The organisation acknowledged support from across the community, including businesses, sponsors and Kimberley MLA Divina D'Anna. The recognition reflects the growing presence of Aboriginal-led organisations in the region.

Creativity gets a new design hub

PHOEBE BLOGG

First Nations Fashion + Design has opened a new community hub in Gimuy/Cairns, Far North Queensland.

FNFD founder, Meriam Mer Samsep artist and designer Grace Lillian Lee, said she wanted to create a safe place for mob to connect, learn and share. "It's creating that place that inspires and ignites ideas," she said.

"I hope this becomes a pathway and a stepping stone for people and especially mob so they can come here, feel safe.

"Come in, share the space and connect with the community . . . this community that I definitely didn't have when I was growing up."

Opened in late March, the space — at the TAFE in Westcourt — is air-conditioned, with industrial sewing machines, design resources, free wi-fi and a lounge and tea area.

Ms Lee said FNFD had become a powerhouse in the industry, leading showcases at Australian Fashion Week and overseas, and wanted to empower First Nations fashion at home.

"We have an all-Indigenous team that is working within this hub," she said.

"It's really about giving the opportunity to (mob) to be seen and given the opportunity to have leadership roles within this space.

"I'm tired of us always just being a cultural program or always having to focus on a 'First Nations element'."

FNFD program manager, Daurareb, Wuthathi and Yadhaykenu woman Perina Drummond, said that growing up on Waiben, Thursday Island, she was surrounded by fashion.

"I was fortunate to have my akas and my aunts and my mum — they all knew how to sew — they all had trunks of fabric in their house," she said.



Grace Lillian Lee at the opening of First Nations Fashion + Design new community hub.

"They knew how to bead (and) the fabric paints back then were the little tubes that you can't find anymore. The sewing machines were the old singers. . . I remember playing on them."

As Ms Drummond's love of fashion began to lead her into the mainstream fashion industry, she realised Indigenous representation in those spaces was lacking.

"I had to really look far and wide to put together three designers, whereas now there is an absolute influx," she said.

FNFD has partnered with EPSON printers to utilise their facilities and bring on two experienced screen printers in residence to the hub.

Students from the nearby high school — Trinity Bay — attended the hub opening. Through a program with FNFD, they'd been working on techniques to create their own fashion designs.

Torres Strait Islander student, Jahnesta Nona, said she wanted to learn more about her culture and found fashion and textiles was a nice way to explore that.

"I was thinking about water because I like anything in the ocean (and the) crocodile which is my totem, and I really like my totem," she said of the inspiration behind her latest piece. "I was trying to go for something leaning towards Torres Strait culture."

Torres Strait Islander student from Bamaga, Tassiana Riordan, said she enjoyed learning about opportunities in the industry and techniques for fashion creation. Her work featured a traditional Torres Strait Islander cultural headdress and traditional language. "It's inspired by my older brother who is a dancer," she said.

Some of the design was also inspired by her father's Irish heritage. "In a lot of Irish or Celtic artwork they include the spirals," she said.

Ms Nona and Ms Riordan were both thrilled that through FNFD, their work would be showcased at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

BHP

"finding a mentor and my future.
To me that's big."

Discover how school-based traineeships can help give students like Quincey a head start in life.



Cultural sites face renewed oil plans

JOSEPH GUENZLER

A proposal to remove Federal protections around Chaco Culture National Historical Park in the south-west of the US has drawn renewed opposition from Indigenous leaders, who say a sacred cultural landscape is again being opened to oil and gas development.

The Greater Chaco region in north-west New Mexico holds deep cultural and ceremonial significance for Pueblo, Hopi and Navajo peoples, with the park recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Introduced in 2023, the dispute centres on Public Land Order 7923 which withdrew 336,400 acres (136,140ha) of Federal land within 10 miles (16km) of the park from new oil and gas leas-

ing for 20 years. Earlier this month the US Department of the Interior opened a seven-day public scoping period on a proposal to reverse the order, with comments due by April 7.

Indigenous leaders have raised concerns about the proposal, the short consultation period and the barriers it creates for Pueblo communities.

High Country News reported the comment window overlapped with Easter, Passover and several traditional Pueblo holidays. Acoma Pueblo governor, Charles Riley, said the online-only process risked shutting people out of the decision.

"Too many of our community members and Elders have inconsistent or unreliable internet access," Mr Riley said. "This approach basically excludes

voices that should be included."

The All Pueblo Council of Governors also opposes the move, saying Chaco remains a living sacred place for Pueblo people rather than a site confined to park boundaries.

All Pueblo Council of Governors chairman, Joey Sanchez, of Santa Ana Pueblo said Pueblo communities would continue to resist the rollback.

"Chaco Canyon will always be revered and respected as a sacred place by Pueblo people," Mr Sanchez told High Country News. "We will use our collective voice to continue the fight."

The broader concern is that cultural sites extend well beyond the national park boundary. Archaeology Southwest said the Greater Chaco landscape includes thousands of archaeo-

logical and cultural sites, including roads, shrines and great houses, and that only 15 to 20 per cent of the wider area has been surveyed. The group said as many as 12,000 cultural sites and traditional cultural places may lie within the five-to-10-mile zone which could again be exposed to drilling.

New Mexico Land commissioner, Stephanie Garcia Richard, who in 2023 imposed a 20-year ban on oil and gas activity across more than 72,000 acres (29,130ha) of state trust land within 10 miles (16km) of Chaco, also criticised the Federal proposal while calling for a longer consultation process.

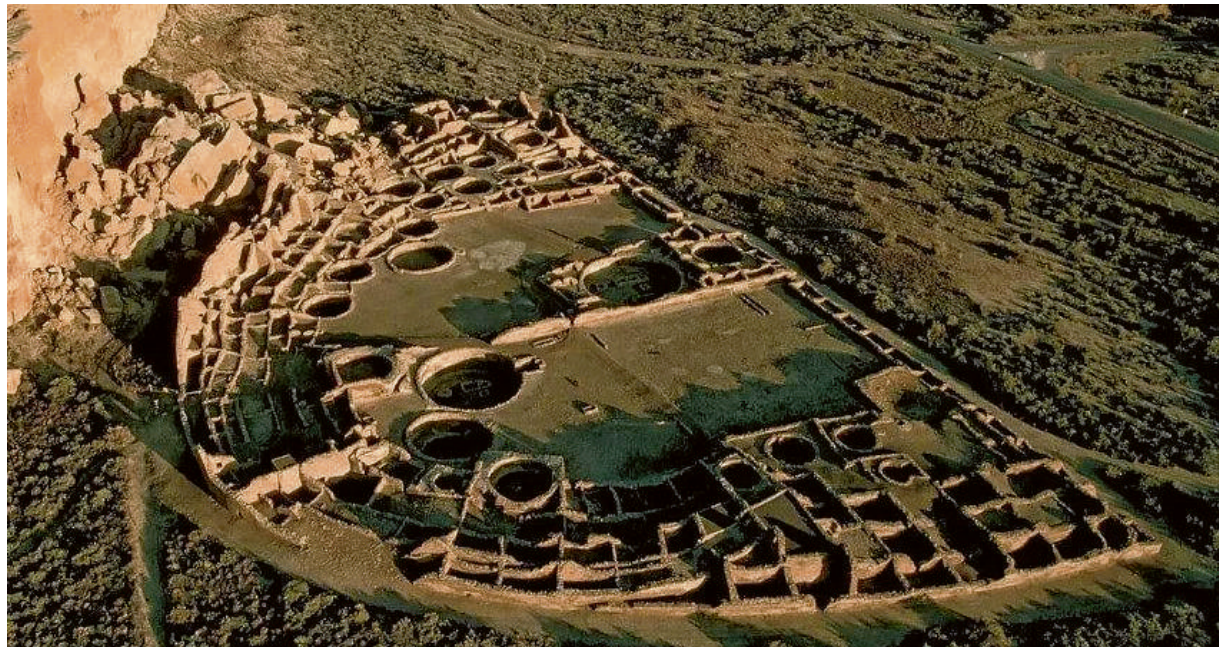
She said the seven day comment period and lack of public meetings failed to respect communities with longstanding ties

to the area. "Giving only seven days for communities to respond, with no public meetings planned, is a slap in the face to the people who have called this place home long before there ever was a United States government," Ms Garcia Richard told local media.

Advocacy groups including Archaeology Southwest and the Western Environmental Law Center argue the rushed process disregards years of tribal consultation and public input.

"This is an absurd, destructive, and all too familiar story and we need to speak against it now," WELC said.

Archaeology Southwest added the original withdrawal followed 150 days of public comment, eight public meetings and 18 months of consideration.



An aerial view of Pueblo Bonito. Picture: Wikipedia Commons

Report slams Canadian procurement program

GIOVANNI TORRE

The Canadian Council for Indigenous Business has welcomed the recent findings from the country's procurement ombudsman, describing the report as "a vital course correction, if actioned, to strengthen the integrity, accountability, and economic impact of Federal Indigenous procurement".

In late March, the procurement ombudsman released a report which slammed Canada's Indigenous procurement strategy outcomes, finding that Indigenous Services Canada and other departments are failing to uphold their own Indigenous procurement strategy and may be allowing contractors to use shell companies to access contracts reserved for Indigenous businesses.

Alexander Jeglic said Indigenous Services Canada failed to provide timely answers to procurement officers' questions in some cases and allowed some contracts to go out to companies not listed in the Indigenous Business Directory.

The Coast Reporter newspaper reports the ombudsman noted a lack of oversight on contracts to ensure 33 per cent of the value of the work is done by an Indigenous contractor. "Non-Indigenous businesses may use Indigenous businesses as shell companies — entities that meet the minimum ownership requirement on paper

but do not actually perform the work — allowing them to unfairly access contracts intended to be set aside for Indigenous businesses," the ombudsman's report states.

"Despite the long-standing nature of the (strategy) and its role in awarding hundreds of millions of dollars of contracts annually, (Indigenous Services Canada) has omitted to clearly communicate to departments their obligation to monitor and report on the 33 per cent Indigenous content criterion."

Mr Jeglic took the rare step of publicly shaming the department in the report's opening pages, noting the review "reveals a pattern of fragmented guidance, inconsistent application and oversight, and missed opportunities to uphold the strategy's core objective, to meaningfully support Indigenous businesses through Federal procurement".

Mr Jeglic told The Canadian Press the report was the "most shocking" he has seen in his tenure, and it should serve as a "turning point" by triggering program reform in collaboration with First Nations, Inuit and Metis partners. He said his office will review progress on procurement strategy reform every six months, rather than every two years.

The Procurement Strategy for Indigenous Businesses is a

30-year-old initiative aimed at easing access to Federal procurement opportunities for Indigenous businesses. A company must be at least 51 per cent Indigenous-owned in order to bid on those contracts. At least 33 per cent of the value of the work done under a set-aside procurement contract must be performed by an Indigenous entity.

As of 2022, Federal departments must also ensure 5 per cent of the total value of their procurement contracts is awarded to Indigenous businesses.

The Canadian Council for Indigenous Business said on March 31 it has long advocated for a "fair, transparent, and accessible procurement system".

"For more than a decade, CCIB has provided extensive research and policy recommendations that align closely with many of the Ombudsman's findings for systemic improvement," the organisation said in a statement.

CCIB renewed its call for reforms and backed the Ombudsman's call for the development of a comprehensive government-wide Indigenous procurement policy; the establishment of a permanent, impartial, Indigenous-led mechanism to formally challenge PSIB set-asides; and accurate reporting of the 5 per cent target.

"The ombudsman's review highlights the importance of clear



Canada's Parliament House in Ottawa. Picture: Giovanni Torre

guidance, consistent oversight, and modernised tools across departments," the CCIB said.

"These are structural issues that can and must be addressed to ensure Indigenous procurement delivers meaningful economic outcomes."

The Indigenous business council said tools such as their organisation's own Certified Indigenous Business program, which is inclusive of verified First Nations, Metis and Inuit businesses, and CCIB's proprietary supply change program and Indigenous procurement marketplace are "examples of solutions that both provide the proven, reliable and highly reputable frameworks needed to close the gaps identified by the ombudsman".

"While we want to see a faster resolution to the systemic barriers outlined in this report, CCIB

supports the Federal government's path towards accountability, which, if adhered to, will help ensure that Indigenous businesses can continue supporting the Canadian economy," the council said. "True Indigenous procurement means Indigenous businesses are doing the work, building long-term capacity, and strengthening their communities. CCIB is dedicated to ensuring the 5 per cent target represents true Indigenous economic empowerment."

In February, questions in Canada's House of Commons revealed the Federal Government had removed nearly 1900 companies from its official list of accredited Indigenous suppliers after complaints businesses falsely claimed Indigenous ownership to secure millions in Federal contracts, including more than 600 in 2025 alone.

In dawn's light, we choose

OPINION **JESSE J. FLEAY**

At first light, in the half-shadow between night and day, we gather as Australians to remember.

It is in that fragile moment — when darkness gives way to light — that the nation speaks most truthfully to itself.

Not in the noise of politics, nor in the churn of grievance, but in the quiet covenant we renew each Anzac Day: we will remember them.

This year was my second dawn service at Naarm/Melbourne since moving here last year. Like so many Australians, I have long held this day as sacred in the civic spirit that binds us: a shared inheritance of sacrifice, service, and memory.

Which is why the rupture was so jarring.

To boo during a Welcome to Country at a dawn service is not merely bad manners. It is not dissent. It is a profound failure to understand the very thing we had gathered to honour.

The men and women we remember did not fight for a brittle, fearful idea of Australia.

They fought for a country still becoming itself. A country that has grown, however imperfectly, towards a broader understanding of who belongs, and whose stories matter.

The Welcome to Country does

not diminish that legacy. It deepens it.

The ground upon which we stand has older custodians, older memories, older sacrifices. And the Australian story — if it is to mean anything — must be capacious enough to hold them all.

What we witnessed was a small minority attempting to fracture that understanding.

But they failed.

They failed because they were met, not with escalation, but with something far more powerful: the resolve of the majority. The applause that followed did not seek to shout them down so much as to restore the balance. To reaffirm that honouring First Nations culture does not come at the expense of honouring our veterans: thousands were, and are, veterans. Thousands more serve in our armed forces today. These things, in fact, belong together.

At the centre of it all stood Uncle Mark Brown.

For the second year in a row, he carried the burden of that moment with dignity, stamina, and courage. To stand in that space — before a dawn crowd, in the full knowledge that disruption would come again — and to proceed regardless, is no small act. It is a form of service in its own right.

The disruption at a second dawn service in a row is a reminder of the trouble



People approach the steps to lay poppies and wreaths inside the Shrine of Remembrance. Picture: Con Chronis

brewing overseas; and that these lands are not immune from those troubles.

As John Philpot Curran stated in Ireland in 1790, “the price of liberty is eternal vigilance”. If we are to keep our democracy, then we must defend it, not merely against global threats in times of war, but on the domestic front.

This is because there is, in the end, a deeper question here about patriotism.

Patriotism is not noise. It is not disruption for its own sake.

It is not the refusal to listen.

Patriotism is the capacity to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with strangers and recognise

we are part of something larger than ourselves. It is the humility to inherit a country honestly, with all its complexity. It is the discipline to show respect, even — and especially — when we disagree.

To boo at dawn, in that most solemn of civic rituals, is not an assertion of national pride.

It is a diminishment of it.

Because Anzac Day asks something more of us.

It asks us to remember not only the dead, but the values for which they stood: courage, endurance, mateship, and — yes — respect. Respect for each other. Respect for the land.

Respect for the idea that

Australia is not finished, but still being made.

At dawn, we are given a choice. We can cling to the darkness: division, resentment, smallness of spirit. Or we can step into the light: towards a fuller, more generous understanding of who we are.

This year, despite the disruption, the choice of the overwhelming majority was clear.

They chose the light.

Lest we forget.

Jesse J. Fleay is a Boorloo-born Noongar writer and academic living in Naarm. He lectures in politics and international relations at Monash University.

Real change on family violence demands trust

DONNELLA MILLS

Domestic, family and sexual violence remains one of the most urgent challenges in Australia. Yet despite strong community leadership, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities too often lack the funding and support needed to tackle this devastating issue.

The scale of the challenge is confronting. While there is a lack of current, accurate data on family, domestic and sexual violence, the data we do have shows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 27 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence than non-Indigenous women.

This is not because our people are more violent. It reflects the ongoing impacts of colonisation, systemic inequities, and government responses and systems that are not working for our people. In fact, these systems often widen the inequity we experience.

This is not a new problem — but it demands a new way of working.

We often hear about the importance of closing the gap across health, justice and education, but family, domestic and sexual violence often slips through the cracks, leaving our people behind.

For decades, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations have been doing the hard work of supporting families, healing communities and addressing the drivers of violence. They have done this work quietly,

consistently and often without the recognition or resources they deserve.

Last month marked an important shift.

The launch of Our Ways Strong Together — the new national peak body specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic, family and sexual violence services — brings these organisations together under a unified national platform. It is grounded in culture, shaped by communities and built on the experience of those who have been leading this work for generations.

For the first time, instead of treating family, domestic and sexual violence as a standalone issue, a national, integrated approach will connect specialist services across family, domestic and sexual violence, health, education, law and healing — strengthening community responses and pushing for the funding, system and legal reform that will better serve our communities.

This is an important step toward improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities impacted by violence.

It also reflects the commitments made under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, where all Australian governments committed to working in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and strengthening the community-controlled sector.

Our Ways Strong Together creates a mechanism to make that

partnership real. It gives our organisations and our communities a seat at the table, ensuring decision-making is built on our decades of community leadership expertise and experience, and allows us to shape the decisions that impact our lives.

Across Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities respond with strength, resilience and innovation — often in the face of under-resourcing and fragmented systems. Nearly three-quarters of hospitalisations of First Nations people for assault are related to family violence.

We also know that this is not unique to our communities. It is a national issue, affecting people across all backgrounds with two in five homicides across the board in Australia being the result of family, domestic and sexual violence.

But in First Nations communities, violence is often under-reported and under-resourced, and the impacts are compounded by historical and structural inequities.

Estimates suggest around 90 per cent of violence against First Nations women — and most cases of sexual abuse of First Nations children — go undisclosed, meaning the true scale of the issue is likely much greater. These realities point to where the real work — and the real opportunity — lies: strengthening and properly resourcing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled responses that are already preventing violence on the ground. Because violence in our communities is not inevitable.

It is linked to systemic inequities, intergenerational trauma and the ongoing impacts of colonisation.

Addressing these drivers requires long-term commitment, systemic reform and sustained investment in prevention, healing and community support.

This year the Australian Government released a 10-year National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence backed by \$218.3 million in new funding over four years. This is a welcome commitment from the Australian Government that must be invested into community solutions.

Our frontline services already know what works.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations are delivering culturally grounded programs that support families, prevent violence and promote healing.

They run early intervention programs for young people, provide men's services, support women and children in crisis and work with communities to rebuild safety and trust.

These services are trusted because they are embedded in community. We understand the complex realities families face — their struggles, their stories and their strengths. We are uniquely placed to support prevention, early intervention and healing.

I have worked across health, advocacy and community services for many years. One thing has always been clear to me: real

change happens when communities are trusted to lead.

That principle sits at the heart of Our Ways Strong Together.

We invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations to be part of Our Ways Strong Together. We are building a national network to strengthen our sector, connect our services and ensure our voices continue to shape the decisions that affect our communities.

Ending family, domestic and sexual violence requires national leadership — but it must be leadership that centres the voices, knowledge and cultural authority of our communities.

Governments, institutions and the broader Australian community all have a role to play. But when communities are empowered to lead, when culture is recognised as a source of strength and when frontline services are properly resourced and supported, real change becomes possible.

The launch of Our Ways Strong Together is the beginning of a new chapter where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are central to shaping the national response to family, domestic and sexual violence.

Because the future of ending violence in this country must be community-led. Together, we are taking a powerful step toward that future.

Donnella Mills is the interim chair of Our Ways Strong Together, the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic, family and sexual violence peak body.

Investment grants will help build large-scale projects

ALEXANDRA GIORGIANNI

Two First Nations communities in the Northern Territory will share a \$30 million investment for the first round of Aboriginal Investment NT's Collective Impact Initiatives, announced this month, bolstering long-term economic and social outcomes for residents through the community-led partnership.

The communities, from the East Arnhem Region and Central Region, will begin working with Aboriginal Investment NT to identify their priorities and co-design large-scale projects.

It marks a milestone for Aboriginal Investment NT's Collective Impact Initiatives, designed to support long-term, community-led development.

"By working alongside communities to identify their priorities and co-design solutions, we can support projects that create lasting economic and social outcomes," Aboriginal Investment CEO Nigel Browne said.

Up to \$15m in funding will be available to each community across the program, with an initial \$1m already approved for each to support early planning and engagement activities.

Final funding amounts will be tailored to the resident size, location, and opportunities for collaboration in the communities.

Mr Browne, a Larrakia and Wulna man, said the investment stems from research showing community-led initiatives result in the best outcomes for communities, with the program focusing on providing the resources, support and connections to turn ideas into reality.

He emphasised that the partnerships represent more than a funding commitment, describing the community-focused partnership as a long-term strategy to advance economic opportunity and self-determination for Territory residents.

"These partnerships are not small and sit outside of our other programs. They are designed to deliver long-term economic opportunity and are focused on ensuring Aboriginal people across the NT can achieve self-determination, furthering their rights," he said.

"Our Collective Impact Initiatives are representative of one of our largest investment strategies. The Aboriginal Investment NT team have worked tirelessly to ensure this program is not only successful but sustainable for the selected communities.

"We want the impact of this program to be a long-term economic stream that will benefit communities both now and into the future."

The selected communities have not yet been publicly identified. Round two of EOIs for the Collective Impact Initiatives opens on August 3, 2026, until December 15, 2026.

Information available at aboriginalinvestment.org.au/collective-impact-initiatives.

E-waste recycling a sustainable success

GIOVANNI TORRE

A First Nations business is leading the way in recycling, recovery of precious metals and job creation with the company preventing 19 million kilograms of e-waste being sent to landfill since 2019.

That's the equivalent weight of almost 16,000 small cars of e-waste (discarded electrical and electronic equipment) while more than 250,000 IT assets were repurposed for use.

WV Tech, based in Canberra, specialises in the recovery of precious metals from electronic waste, data sanitisation and destruction, and asset disposal and recycling.

Processing e-waste results in the recovery of critical minerals such as copper, silver, gold and palladium which are then recycled through international partners and recirculated back into supply chains.

WV Tech also exports used IT equipment and electronic parts, contributing to the circular economy and keeping these items out of landfill. The WV team over the past six years has recovered about 7000 ounces of



WV Tech workers on the job. Picture: WV Tech

gold, 30,000 ounces of silver and over 200 tonnes of pure copper from e-waste. Identifying ways to extract valuable resources without excavating has enabled entrepreneurs and close friends Kurt Gruber and Jamie Miller to build a successful business and social enterprise grounded in circularity.

Mr Gruber, managing director, said the volume of precious metals recovered is "staggering". "It's not only a sustainability win but also a cultural one. Recovering precious metals from e-waste is better for the environment as it means we're

reusing what we already have," he said. "By recycling precious metals and keeping more from being extracted, we are protecting and caring for Country in a modern way — something our Indigenous team can feel very proud of."

Ninety-nine percent of all material processed is refurbished, reused or recycled.

WV Tech is Australia's first NAID-AAA (National Association for Information Destruction) certified entity for both data destruction and sanitisation. Its data destruction also meets Australian Government

PSPF (top secret) clearance. A collaboration with Telstra in 2019 enabled the business to scale rapidly. Telstra and WV Tech recognised a powerful partnership could be built on shared values, strong mutually beneficial commercial outcomes and a commitment to sustainable procurement practices.

An increasing focus on data sovereignty, cybersecurity risk and customer demand for sustainability has driven growth opportunities. It has also meant real, practical assistance to workplace training and job creation for Indigenous youth.

WV Tech employs young Indigenous people directly, while also funding training and support through its non-profit arm, Worldview Foundation.

Worldview aims to enhance wellbeing, stable employment and balanced lives for Indigenous people facing disadvantage, including young people at risk, people with disability and ex-detainees.

In recognition of its leadership, WV Tech was named Indigenous Exporter of the Year at Supply Nation's Supplier Diversity Awards in 2025.

Partnership provides sound ear health

GIOVANNI TORRE

Critical care will continue reaching some of Western Australia's most remote communities, with Mineral Resources committing to a further three years of partnership with Ear Science Institute Australia.

The recently announced \$600,000 partnership extension bolsters support for the Healthy Hearing Outback program, which delivers on-Country assessments and consultations to diagnose and treat ear disease and hearing loss.

The program provides care to the Niyiyarparli and Martu people in communities across the East Pilbara, including Newman, Jigalong, Punmu, Kunawarrtji and Parnngurr.

A dedicated co-ordinator guides and supports patients through every stage of their ear health journey in the health system.

The initiative has already shown results, with a 62 per cent increase in ear, nose and throat surgeries and a 15 per cent rise in the surgery attendance rate in the 2024-25 financial year.

A collaborative Telehealth ENT pathway, developed between Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service, Perth Children's Hospital, and Ear Science, has also significantly expanded access to on-Country specialist care.

Since launching in 2024, the service has delivered more than 100 consultations and facilitated 24 surgical referrals.

"I work closely with patients, their families and the Aboriginal Medical Service and other healthcare providers to ensure patients get the care that they



Australian Family Partnership Program's Tracey Kelly, Ear Science audiologist Selina Moyle, Julius Charles, 8, of Newman, Pilbara Aboriginal Medical Service's Luci Carter, and MinRes health and injury prevention adviser Nathan Haymes. Picture: Sarah Stampfli

need," ear health co-ordinator Lucy Mitchell said.

"A big part of my role is to support patients to navigate this system in a culturally appropriate way and in a way that works best for them. It's only successful with strong relationships and trust, which isn't forged overnight — it takes time to develop."

Ear Science chief executive officer Sandra Bellekom said the renewed partnership with MinRes would continue to drive life-changing outcomes. "Streamlining access to excellent hearing care for children and families on Country is

something we here at Ear Science are so proud to have achieved with the power of our partnership with MinRes," Ms Bellekom said.

MinRes manager of communities and stakeholder engagement Daniel Barker said the company was committed to partnerships that built happier, healthier communities.

"That philosophy rings true for our partnership with Ear Science — their dedication and commitment continue to impress us and deliver significant outcomes for regional communities," Mr Barker said.

"This program is breaking down

barriers to healthcare access in some of Australia's most remote communities. By working with Ear Science, we're helping shape lasting change and ensuring specialist care is accessible without having to leave Country, family or culture."

MinRes operates the Iron Valley and Womunna mine sites in the East Pilbara, with iron ore from both sites transported to Port Hedland for export through Utah Point. In 2024, MinRes' Onslow Iron project opened a new iron ore province in the West Pilbara.

This report was produced with the support of MinRes.

Steering a new pathway

NATASHA CLARK

Kimberley Agricultural Pastoral Company has sold its first steers since transitioning from bulls in 2024, with the cattle shipped to Malaysia and Indonesia this month aboard early-season live export vessels.

The 100 per cent Indigenous-owned company, operating across four cattle stations in WA's Kimberley region, was able to capitalise on the first export ships of the season, with steers prepared for sale in higher, drier country benefiting from all-weather road access.

While cattle producers across the Northern Territory are currently constrained by wet season conditions and limited transport access, Kimberley producers with reliable roads have benefited from strong demand and competitive pricing as high-volume export buyers seek to fill ships.

Leading hand Ivan Watson said the transition from bulls to steers has opened new opportunities for the company.

"It feels great that this has happened, and thanks to the change from bulls to steers, we have opened up whole new domestic and international markets—a stepping stone to bigger things for KAPCO," Mr



KAPCO crew. Picture: KAPCO

Watson told National Indigenous Times.

"Not just because of the market, but because it also creates further employment opportunities for Indigenous people who are looking to excel in the industry and use KAPCO as a stepping stone to further opportunities in their lives."

The steers were sold from Myroodah Station, which is

about 150km from Derby, where KAPCO runs a herd of brahman, droughtmaster, and shorthorn cattle primarily for the live export market.

Shorthorn-cross cattle are also processed under the company's own brand, KAPCO Beef, which is sold in supermarkets across the Kimberley region.

KAPCO is expected to turn

off about 4500 head this year.

Fellow leading hand Cheyden Dolby said conditions were tough but rewarding.

"It was dusty and extremely hot at this time of year, and we camped out to get the job done — it was a great feeling to see those trucks roll out full of fat steers," he said.

Mr Dolby emphasised the value of the team environment

and said he relished seeing growing opportunities for young Aboriginal workers.

"I really enjoy working for KAPCO and leading a close-knit team. It is great to see more young Indigenous people join KAPCO each year," he told National Indigenous Times.

Note: KAPCO chair Wayne Bergmann is a co-owner of National Indigenous Times.

Browse to NWS Project Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys Environment Plans (Commonwealth and State)

Woodside has led the development of the LNG industry in Australia and today aims to thrive through the global energy transition. Woodside consults with relevant persons to gather feedback to inform its Commonwealth and State Environment Plans.

Woodside is proposing to undertake a series of geophysical and geotechnical surveys to inform potential future activities related to the proposed Browse to North West Shelf (NWS) Project. Woodside is consulting relevant persons on three Environment Plans regarding the proposed surveys:

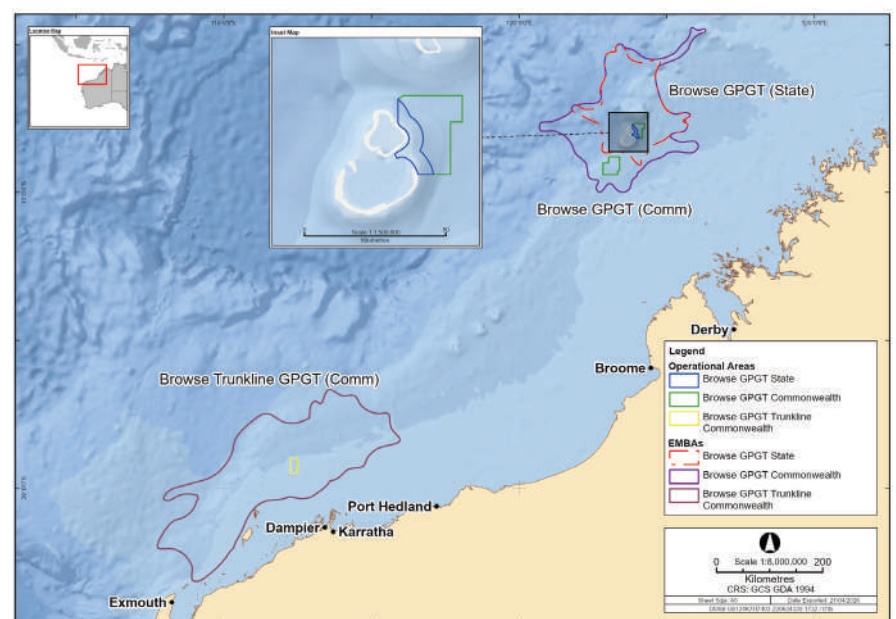
- **Browse to NWS Project Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys** – a Commonwealth Environment Plan for survey work in the vicinity of the Torosa, Calliance and Brecknock gas fields.
- **Browse to NWS Project Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys** – a State Environment Plan for survey work in the vicinity of the Torosa gas field.
- **Browse to NWS Project Trunkline Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys** – a Commonwealth Environment Plan for survey work in the vicinity of the proposed trunkline.

📍 Environment that May Be Affected (EMBA)

The EMBA is the largest geographic area where an unplanned event could potentially have an environmental consequence. In the highly unlikely event a hydrocarbon release does occur, the whole EMBA would not be affected.

📅 We would like to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by the activities under these Environment Plans, we would like to hear from you by **28 May 2026**.



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

To find out more go to: www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities
You can also subscribe via our website to receive future information on upcoming activities.



Hands-on tech skills broaden horizons

Students at Hedland Senior High School are gaining hands-on experience with emerging technologies and industry pathways through a partnership with Fortescue that is transforming STEM learning in the Pilbara.

The three-year partnership, announced in 2025, includes a \$600,000 commitment from Fortescue to support a science, technology, engineering and mathematics education program, upgrade the school's technology hub, and expand vocational and tertiary pathways for local students.

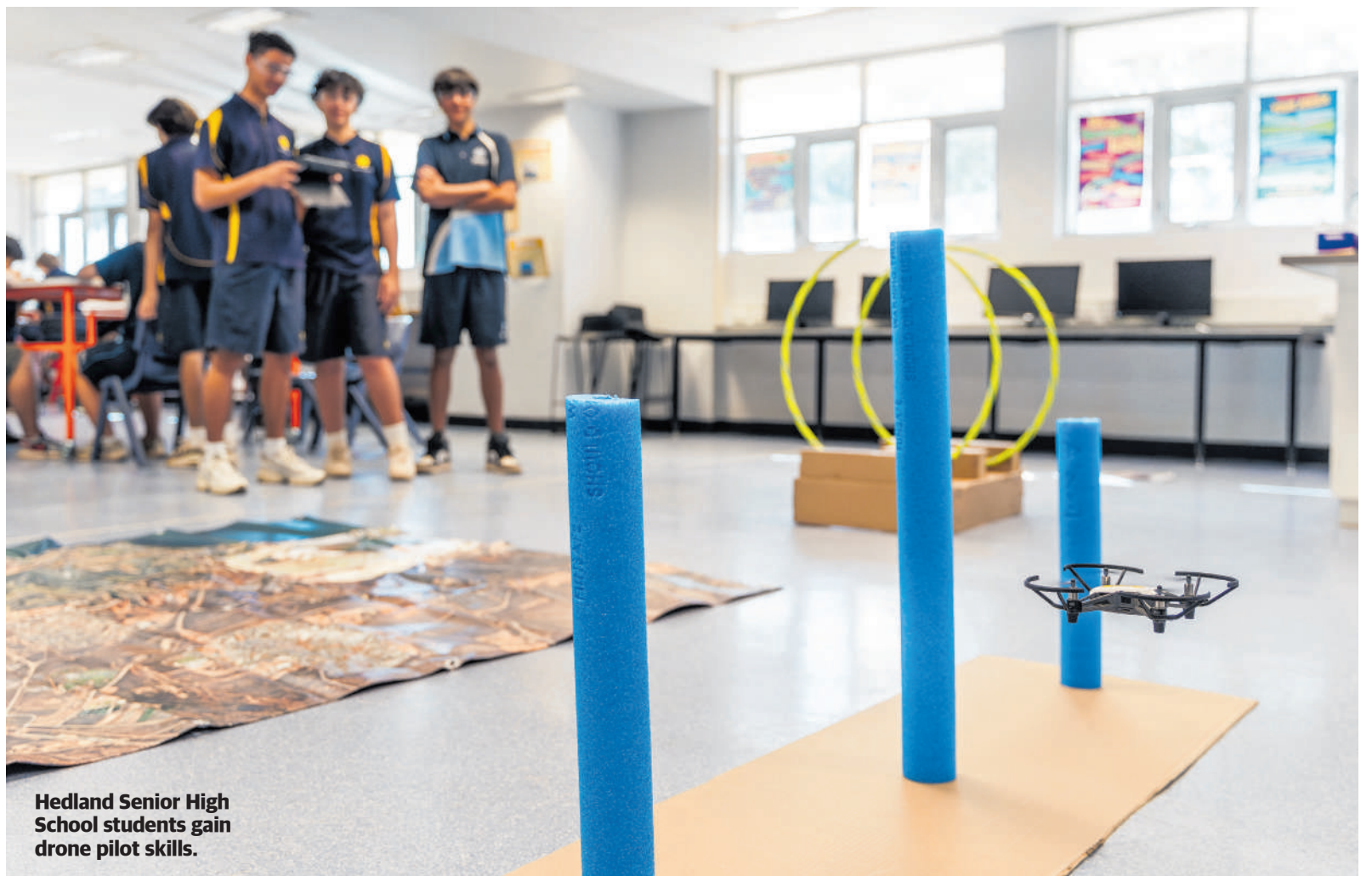
In its first year, the program has seen strong First Nations participation in STEM electives and growing enrolments in industry-aligned subjects, including drone technology and engineering pathways.

Fortescue director of approvals, communities and services Rosli Wheelock said programs of this kind were "about making sure students in the Pilbara can see themselves in the industries shaping the future of our region".

"These technologies are already used across the Pilbara in mining, logistics and environmental management," he said.

"Giving students access to these skills at school helps them understand the career pathways available to them and how their education connects to future workforce opportunities."

A major focus has been the transformation of the school's technology hub into a hands-on



Hedland Senior High School students gain drone pilot skills.

innovation centre supporting drone technology, engineering, coding, and immersive learning.

Students are learning to operate and program drones while developing knowledge of aviation safety, mapping technologies, and real-world problem solving.

Three teachers have attained qualifications enabling the school to deliver training towards the Remote Pilot Licence and Certificate III in Aviation (Remote Pilot), giving students access to industry-recognised training while still at school. Students are applying these

skills to real-world scenarios including bushfire assessment, disaster response, medical supply delivery, and environmental monitoring.

School principal Michael Ciccotosto said for many of the students, programs like this "open doors to opportunities they may not have previously considered".

"Access to technologies like drones, digital design and immersive learning right here in Hedland is incredibly powerful. It helps students understand how what they learn at school connects

to real careers in the Pilbara and beyond," he said.

The program has also driven strong academic progression.

All students who chose an ATAR STEM pathway in 2025 enrolled in advanced subjects including mathematics methods, specialist mathematics, chemistry and physics.

Participation in engineering and trade pathways also increased, with students progressing into school-based traineeships and pre-apprenticeships in engineering and electrotechnology.

Beyond the classroom, the partnership is supporting culturally responsive learning approaches.

Plans are under way to introduce immersive technologies to support two-way science, integrating local storytelling and cultural knowledge with digital tools to deepen students' connection to place.

The partnership will continue over the next two years, building on the foundation established in 2025 and expanding opportunities for students across the school.

This report was produced with the support of Fortescue.

Deal brings certainty at tourist spot

DAVID PRESTIPINO

A new deal between the WA Government, Traditional Owners, and operators was struck this month, with the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation endorsing an extension of managed access through the wide gap at Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls) until the 2028 tourism season ends.

The agreement will see boat tours at the falls continue.

Tourism operations will be expanded over the next two years, with an increasing focus on Indigenous culture.

The site in WA's north is a significant tourism drawcard for the Kimberley region, with tourism access to the falls to be reassessed after 2028 via collaboration between DAC and the WA Government.

The new deal has been widely supported by the tourism industry and gives licensed operators certainty while supporting a planned transition to a future led by Dambeemangaddee Traditional Owners.

DAC vice-chair Leah Umbagai reaffirmed the responsibil-



DAC will create cultural tourism experiences that reflect Dambeemangaddee knowledge, culture and connection to Country. Picture: Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation

ity of Traditional Owners to care for Garaan-ngaddim.

"Our ancestors have given us this Country to look after," she said.

"As Wandjina Woongudd people, it's our obligation to care for and respect Country.

"We want to share Country with visitors, and share our story the right way."

DAC acknowledged and thanked the WA Government for its \$5 million investment in the 2026-27 State Budget to support Traditional Owner-led tourism.

It's likely the funding will also support on-Country infrastructure, enabling DAC to design and deliver new cultural tourism experiences that

reflect Dambeemangaddee knowledge, culture and connection to Country.

The package includes \$470,000 for a business case and feasibility study, alongside \$4.5m for infrastructure delivery. DAC's endorsement recognises the importance of maintaining stability for tourism operators and local jobs during transition periods.

The developments — built on the success of a pilot program between DAC and Journey Beyond Adventures, which has supported the training of Dambimangari guides on Country — trialled cultural tourism experiences, and strengthened partnerships within the tourism industry.

Broome to host forum

NATASHA CLARK

Aboriginal business leaders, government representatives and industry figures from across northern Australia will converge in Broome next month for the inaugural Indigenous Business Forum.

The event, designed to boost economic opportunities in the Kimberley, signals a new phase in the region's push for Indigenous enterprise.

Hosted by the Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the one-day forum will feature panels, workshops, and networking opportunities geared towards sparking collaboration.

Organisers hope the event will be a trigger for greater Indigenous participation in the region's economy, notably in remote communities where business owners routinely encounter hurdles to growth.

The May 26 forum will focus on forging partnerships among Indigenous businesses, government, and industry, with an eye on joint ventures and invest-

ment opportunities that could reshape the local economic landscape.

Speakers will include the likes of Kimberley MLA Divina D'Anna, Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation CEO Nathan McIvor, and KRED chief executive Damien Parriman.

A key priority, organisers say, will be stimulating early engagement with major projects to ensure Indigenous businesses are well placed to secure contracts and long-term opportunities. Participants from remote communities, regional centres, and cities across WA and the NT are expected to travel to Broome for the event.

Backing from Rio Tinto's Winu Project and Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation is helping bring the forum to life, with a gala dinner planned to cap off the day's proceedings.

The Broome chamber hopes the forum will become an annual fixture — a platform to celebrate Indigenous enterprise and strengthen collaboration across the Kimberley for years to come.

Our way down by the bay

JARRED CROSS

After years in the making, the Yannabil First Peoples Tourism Council was officially launched this month.

Naarm/Melbourne's Mornington Peninsula on Bunurong/Boon-Wurrung Country is an environmentally diverse, experience-rich tourist hot-spot, and one ready for a strong Indigenous sector to explore.

The bayside peninsula has more to offer than wineries and foreshore, Yannabil chair Sharon Brindley said, promising a new "powerhouse to create change for all First Peoples in this region".

Yannabil was established as a collective of Indigenous businesses and organisations already operating in the area. Initial discussions with a vision for the future started over seven years ago.

"I know of different tourism councils in different areas, but the peninsula lacked that, it needed to be created," Ms Brindley said. "Imagine in the future when kids come down here and actually have a plan of what they can do within all different elements of culture."

"So, this will be a space that hopefully really grows and highlights us in all different areas of the Peninsula."

A 2024 Supply Nation report found First Nations businesses in tourism-related industries generated almost \$1 billion in turnover, and employed nearly 7000 workers in 2022-23.

Demand is growing, and First Nations businesses have a huge opportunity in front of them, Ms Brindley noted.

"We were all doing it (on the peninsula) . . . but not making it easy for tourists to come down and actually see, 'oh, my God, I can do this, this, this and this'."

Its inaugural committee includes representatives from health and wellbeing non-profit Nairm Marr Djambana, local gallery Baluk Arts, weaving arts and Wayapa Wuurk (earth connection) practitioner Our Songlines, guided walks operator Living Culture and Ms Brindley's Jala Jala Treats.

Nairm Marr Djambana's Auntie Deb Mellett, a Yannabil co-chair, said: "What we're trying to do is . . . empower our community. There's a lot of organisations that exploit Aboriginal tourism, in some way. So, what we're doing here is creating prosperity and wealth for our own mob."

Yannabil was formally incorporated in May 2025, to lay a foundation for the launch. "We could reshape



Founding members of the Yannabil First Peoples Tourism Council. Picture: Jarred Cross

tourism. We could define authenticity. We could create opportunity for generations to come," Ms Brindley said at the launch. "Because what we carry is not just knowledge. We carry culture. We carry story. We carry responsibility.

When that is shared, respected and supported it becomes something incredibly powerful. This council is about more than growth. It is about unity. It is about respect. It is about legacy." Ms Brindley said there were

more First Nations businesses and organisations in the local area welcome to come on board, and the local Mornington Peninsula Shire Council had also been supportive. The long-term vision is to establish a permanent hub for the area.



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

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

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	08/3766	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	66BL	65.5km E'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 50' S Long: 115° 42' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2112	MINERALS 260 HOLDINGS PTY LTD	2BL	17.2km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 6' S Long: 121° 10' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/7003	PENNINGTON, Jake Lorenzo	9.78HA	12.9km NE'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 54' S Long: 121° 17' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5965	EISLER, Dean Tristram	31.96HA	5.9km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 26' S Long: 121° 23' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4860	DX RESOURCES GROUP PTY LTD	131.40HA	27.6km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 1' S Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	57/1547-S	BROWN, Lachlan James	9.57HA	10.9km S'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 5' S Long: 119° 17' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	57/1564	GUM CREEK GOLD MINES PTY LTD	65.45HA	70.4km NE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 24' S Long: 119° 33' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	57/1565	GUM CREEK GOLD MINES PTY LTD	44.65HA	66.3km NE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 26' S Long: 119° 34' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	57/1566	GUM CREEK GOLD MINES PTY LTD	162.28HA	71.5km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 23' S Long: 119° 33' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE

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 Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the 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: 22 April 2026** **Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **22 July 2026**. 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. **22 August 2026**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

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

* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²



NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO RENEW MINING LEASE NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may renew the following mining lease under section 78(2) of the Mining Act 1978:

Mining No.	Renewal of Term No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
M 15/86	749200	WYLOO KAMBALDA PTY LTD	584.13HA	35.6km S'ly of Kambalda	Lat 31° 31' 10" S Long 121° 36' 20" E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
M 15/94	749199	WYLOO KAMBALDA PTY LTD	869.74HA	37.2km S'ly of Kambalda	Lat 31° 31' 59" S Long 121° 35' 55" E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
M 77/22	752344	LAKE CHANDLER MINERALS PTY LTD	359.84HA	30.4km SE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat 31° 6' 13" S Long 118° 26' 12" E	NUNGARIN SHIRE

Nature of the act: The renewal of mining lease, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of up to 21 years. **Notification day: 22 April 2026** **Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), persons have until three months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the notice. The three-month period closes on **22 July 2026**. 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. The mining lease may be renewed if, by the end of the period of four months after the notification day (i.e. **22 August 2026**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) in relation to the area of the application for renewal. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the application for renewal), contact the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

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

Gridiron girls at home on big stage

JARRED CROSS

Ohio's 23,000-seat Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium is a long way from local grounds in Magandjin/Brisbane, and a long time coming, for Grace Power and Tee Sinapati.

In July, the two First Nations women will run out alongside the best from around the globe for Team World to face the US' Women's Football Alliance All-Pro team.

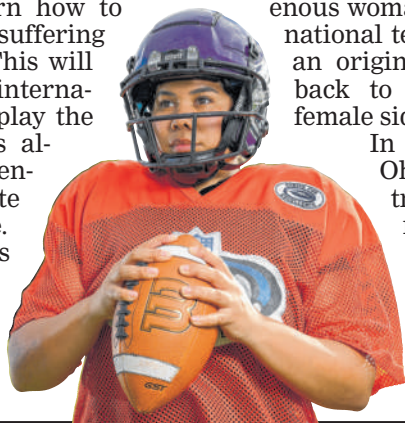
Both came to the American code for the first time just over a decade ago, with their own journeys to the occasion in Canton.

The game is hosted in the lead up to the sport's Hall of Fame ceremony and millions are expected to tune in to the World Championship game.

Power's not a stranger to heading overseas to play, having represented the Australian national side, the Outback. This time the former wide-receiver is jumping on the plane as a quarterback.

In 2014, Sinapati, now 35, had to re-learn how to walk after suffering two strokes. This will be her first international trip to play the sport — she's already a Queensland State representative.

She was recently honoured as defensive player of the year at the



American Football Queensland awards. Originally from the small community of St George, and spending years in Toowoomba, Sinapati met Power, from Bowen in Far North Queensland, in the city before becoming teammates at Bayside Ravens in the city.

She first trained with the Ravens over a decade ago, switching back to rugby union before returning to her new sport and running out for her first club game around 2022, having already managed selection for her State.

"I had to re-learn how to walk, talk, write. I had no balance," Sinapati said of her early recovery period post-stroke.

It's "massive" she is still able to play. "Coming from St George, we don't really have these opportunities out there," Sinapati said. "When people, like my family at home say 'Oh my God, my niece, or my granddaughter plays for Australia ... they're blown away.'"

Power, 30, was the first Indigenous woman to play for the national team, in 2017, and an original Raven dating back to the club's first female side in 2014.

In preparation for Ohio, she has been training with former NFL player, Superbowl winner and Torres Strait man Jesse Williams. "I had never played any



Grace Power and Tee Sinapati celebrate success with the Bayside Ravens.

contact sport, found out I was pretty good, and fell in love with it," Power said.

It's the diversity of people, opportunity to showcase different skills they can bring, and relationships made which keep bringing her back to the sport, she said. "Also, it's the confidence that it gives you as well, that I've taken a lot of stuff on the football field that I've learnt and have been able to put it into my own personal life and personal growth."

For Power, football has even helped her with a life-long stutter. "(Playing) I'm so switched on, I'm so focused that I don't even think about that speech impediment ... I work in Indigenous advancement within University of Queensland, and I'm constantly speaking to groups of people, and I don't stutter. It's

a weird thing, and I don't know why football does that to me," she said.

Sinapati works at Kurbingui Youth and Family Development. There's a shared goal amongst them for what gridiron can be, not just for themselves, but others.

"When I was in Vancouver (playing internationally) I thought 'How did a small country girl from Brisbane, who used to get bullied for stuttering, had no confidence, find herself in an international stadium like this?'. It's a surreal moment ... I want to chase this feeling. I want to be in these moments a lot more," she said.

"My end goal as well is to showcase to other Indigenous women that this game is here, and to help create pathways for them to play over in the States.

Because, it's just an unreal experience that I want to share with my community."

Sinapati says there's plenty of interest from young people when they find out she plays gridiron. "Young Aboriginal females, we have a lot of athleticism. We're sporty and we go a long way," she said.

"Being able to say 'Come and try gridiron' and they want to know more, it's awesome."

Being able to share their culture with the mix of teammates from all over the world is another element to look forward to, Power said.

Team World features players from Costa Rica, The Netherlands, Honduras, Canada, Mexico and Columbia as well as Australia. Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio hosts the World Bowl on July 25.

Elite basketball stars inspire the next generation

JARRED CROSS

Having NBL champion Will Hickey and more elite basketball figures in the heart of Redfern wasn't only about building skills, it was strengthening the pathways for wellbeing, community connection and the next generations.

More than 100 First Nations kids, families and community members were at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence for a skills and drills camp delivered by Sydney's Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Koorie Basketball Academy on April 14.

Current and former pros shared tips and tricks on the court, engaging in two local heartbeats. Basketball is a "huge part of our community",



Will Hickey speaks to the group at Tuesday's camp.

much like the NCIE, Metropolitan LALC chief executive Nathan Moran said. "To see over 100 children, parents and elite players and coaches come together today is everything to us. You can't fully capture it in words; you have to see it. The smiles on our young ones, our

'Jarjums', say it all," Mr Moran said. The camp was organised for five to 17-year-olds to take part.

"We've had players represent Australia, and we're hopeful this will help regenerate that connection, to see the game flourish again and give our community

every opportunity to be part of it," Mr Moran said. Koorie Basketball Academy founder Ricky Baldwin said "Davo" Hickey's eyes lit up as much as the kids' when he walked into the NCIE.

The pair share a long coaching-mentor-player relationship stretching back years.

Koorie Academy had 10 coaches there, including former NBA player and Hickey's Illawarra Hawks teammate Jonah Bolden, to spend time with families they were told travelled from hours outside of Sydney — from Newcastle to Wilcannia.

"He was in his element ... he grew up in Redfern," Mr Baldwin said, adding he was moved by the basketball star's impact in his own backyard.

The camp was "far bigger than basketball" Mr Baldwin said, a

view shared by Mr Moran and NCIE chief executive Grant Cameron. For over 15 years the centre has been a meeting place for the community, and housed a long list of youth programs alongside facilities for sports and wellbeing. Mr Cameron said safe spaces, empowering culture and community were central to their commitment.

"Days like today show the power of community-led programs grounded in culture and connection, and at NCIE, we are proud to create a space where our young people feel seen, supported and inspired not just in sport, but in life," he said.

"When we invest in our children and bring community together, we are building strong foundations for future generations to thrive."

SPORT

Father & son lift the trophy

JARRED CROSS

When Western Australia lifted the National Indigenous Cricket Championships trophy this month, they did it with Dane Ugle celebrating alongside his son Elijah in their XI.

The winners weren't the only outfit featuring two generations of father-son talent.

The Ugles were joined in the tournament by fellow veteran and long-time bowlers' nightmare Pat Rosser and his son Jimmy, who together represented New South Wales.

Family ties aren't unfamiliar to cricket's elite Indigenous carnival, but for two of its big names the experience was made all the more special in 2026.

"I sort of have to pinch myself to think, 'hey, you're at a national cricket tournament with your young fella'," Dane Ugle told National Indigenous Times on playing with Elijah.

If Dane had been told at the start of the summer he'd be

playing alongside his son in Mackay he wouldn't have believed it, he added, saying it's all about taking in the moment and the opportunity the pair had over the week.

"It's been pretty special," Elijah Ugle said, both of his first time playing in the National Indigenous Cricket Championships and being able to do so alongside his dad.

The tournament is no stranger to seeing more than one Ugle in the WA set-up.

Uncles, cousins and other family — some Imparja Cup/NICC-experience amongst them, offered their advice for debuting at the next level to Elijah, he said.

Impressing again with bat and ball, Dane Ugle ended his trip with team of the tournament selection honours.

The NICC isn't the only parallel the Ugles and Rossers are sharing this season.

On separate sides of the country, both father-son pairings won top-grade club cricket premierships, with



Dane and Elijah Ugle with the championships trophy. Picture: Getty Images/Cricket Australia

Waroona in WA's Peel region and Cudgen on the NSW Northern Rivers, respectively.

"We've spent the week away together, and he's, no doubt, learning a lot. I have to really stop and check myself, because it's bizarre, and it is really cool and something that I'm really proud of. I'm really proud of him for putting his best foot forward," Pat Rosser said about sharing the experience with son Jimmy.

"And it's a bit uncomforta-

ble when you're a young fella coming into a sporting team that's always done really well, that's had a lot of pressure on them, and a lot of success. But I'm just a proud dad."

The more senior Rosser first represented New South Wales in the State and Territory of the then Imparja Cup some 21 years ago. Jimmy, born five years later, embraced his opportunity in 2026.

"It's definitely a step up to what I've played. But the vibes

and feeling around, it's good (to have) the culture as well as the cricket," he said.

"He just told me to enjoy myself and take it all in. It's pretty special to play with him. He said to take it all in, enjoy yourself and have fun," Jimmy added of his dad's advice ahead of the tournament.

Great Barrier Reef Arena will again host the National Indigenous Cricket Championships on Yuwibara Country in 2027.

Victoria create history with championship victory

CALLAN MORSE
& JARRED CROSS

Victoria made history this month, claiming the women's National Indigenous Cricket Championship for the first time.

Bolstered with professional talent, they lifted the trophy after a faultless run through the tournament in Mackay on Yuwibara Country.

Victoria posted 3-157 in the final — led by an unbeaten 42 (33) from WBBL and WNCL keeper-batter Emma Manix-Geeves — the total proving more than enough for the Vics to overcome New South Wales and take home their inaugural piece of NICC silverware.

Victoria eventually claimed a comfortable 58-run victory after bowling NSW out for 99, with



Victoria celebrate their win. Picture: Getty/Cricket Australia

Ella Hayward and Annabelle Glossop taking 3-18.

Former AFLW Sydney Swan Jaide Anthony (2-9) also chipped in with the ball. It was Victoria's first title in almost 20 years of the women's division at the

National Indigenous Cricket Championships, formerly a division of the Imparja Cup.

The inclusion of Manix-Geeves, who returned for her first NICC in more than half a decade — as well as Melbourne

Stars and Victorian all-rounder in Hayward — guided the side's success throughout their undefeated campaign.

At last year's tournament Victoria recorded a solitary win.

"(Victoria) have really struggled the last couple of years," Manix-Geeves told National Indigenous Times before the final. "Credit to the girls for always showing up and coming back ... it's nice to be playing some good cricket this year. In particular, for those girls that have gone through those hard tournaments."

In the men's competition, a spectacular display of striking from Brock Larence led Western Australia to victory.

An unbeaten knock and two wickets from the Biripi all-roun-

der saw WA comfortably account for Victoria at Mackay's Great Barrier Reef Arena on Sunday.

Opening the batting, Larence blasted 12 boundaries — including seven sixes — on the way to 83 not out (50) in WA's successful pursuit of Victoria's 9-122.

After WA lost former Australian international D'Arcy Short (11 from 6) and the hard-hitting Dane Ugle (1 from 3) early, Larence partnered with Kalgoorlie batter Bevan Bennell (22 from 26) and the pair steadied the chase in an 82-run third-wicket stand.

Despite losing Elijah Dare and Dekan John-Furnace late in the chase, Larence kept his cool, striking two sixes from the 16th over to see WA home with five wickets and 23 balls to spare.