

NIT

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TIMES

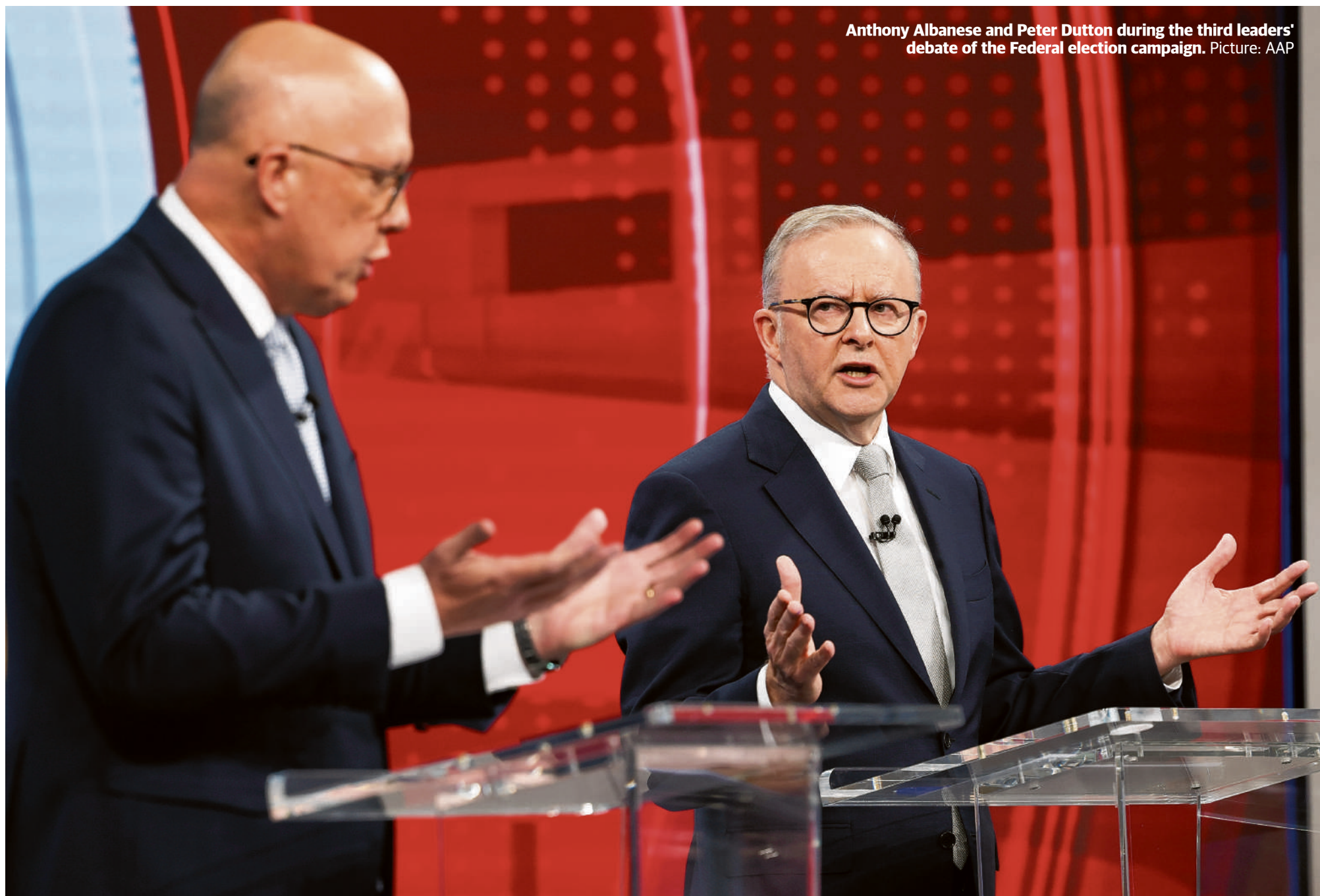


YIRRAMBOI

Festival will bring culture to city streets

STYLE UP STARTS PAGE 9

Anthony Albanese and Peter Dutton during the third leaders' debate of the Federal election campaign. Picture: AAP



HIGH STAKES

Indigenous issues sidelined by both sides in battle for votes

DECLAN BRENNAN

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders have raised concerns over the sidelining of First Nations issues this Federal election campaign, with some arguing Labor has retreated since the defeat of the Voice to Parliament while the Coalition is openly hostile to Indigenous-led solutions.

Shadow minister for Indigenous Australians Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, who this month said she wanted to

ELECTION ANALYSIS PAGE 7
ELECTION OPINION PAGE 16

“make Australia great again”, has so far revealed few specific policy reforms for First Nations people, apart from a commitment of \$115.9 million to support Indigenous students attending boarding schools.

Senator Price’s main plans—an audit of Indigenous organisations and a royal commission into sexual abuse in remote

communities — have remained central, attracting criticism from more than 100 Indigenous organisations who say yet another inquiry would be divisive and unnecessary.

Earlier this year, SNAICC – National Voice for our Children, argued the focus on abuse only in Indigenous communities was a “political ploy that

would not make one child safe”.

“(Opposition Leader Peter) Dutton first made these claims in 2023, and hundreds of organisations and individuals rejected his stance, instead calling for action on solutions backed by evidence. It is beyond disappointing we have not been heard,” SNAICC chief executive Catherine Liddle said.

This month, the Country Liberal candidate for Lingiari, Larrakia woman Lisa Siebert, said any inquiry into abuse should be broadened to investigate

non-Indigenous cases as well. Senator Price said this month \$34 billion was being spent annually in Indigenous affairs, based on a 2017 report.

“We don’t know what the current figure is at the moment, but what we do know is that Closing The Gap measures are going backward and we do know that despite the fact that we spend billions of dollars in Indigenous affairs, nothing is changing to improve the lives of

CONTINUED PAGE 3

45-year fight for return of land over

DECLAN BRENNAN

Wakaya-Alyawarre Traditional Owners received a deed of grant to more than 484,000ha of land this month, more than four decades after first making their claim.

Near Canteen Creek in the Barkly region of the Northern Territory, the Central Land Council first lodged the Wakaya Alyawarre (Repeat) Land claim in 1980, fighting for recognition under the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976.

It was finalised last year, with the Governor-General signing a deed of grant to the Wakaya-Alyawarre Aboriginal land trust in February.

On April 16, the Federal Government delivered a deed of grant to the trust, recognising in law the Wakaya and Alyawarre peoples' ongoing spiritual and cultural connection to their Country.

Last year, Aunty Eileen Bonney, the only surviving senior member of the original land rights claim group from 1980, said she was happy the resolution occurred "while I'm still living".

"I'm feeling happy to get this title, she said the day before the handover.

"I waited a long time when I was young. I kept talking and kept fighting until I got old. And now it's going to happen."

Speaking at the handover on Country, Federal Minister for

Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy, said: "I recognise your strength and leadership over many decades Aunty Eileen Bonney, you and all your families, and all the families here."

"I know that there are many Traditional Owners who are no longer with us."

"But I also know that we have our young generation and the next generations now, who need to know this story and that 44 years of struggle."

The senator said having seen the length of time it took for her people — the Yanyuwa Garrwa people of Borroloola — to receive their land back under the Land Rights Act, the handover was emotional and special.

"In July last year, when I was appointed as Minister for Indigenous Australians in this country, one of the first things I saw was this area here for you Aunty Eileen and all the families here, how long you've waited," Senator McCarthy said.

"And I knew both in my heart, but also in general fairness, that this had to be processed."

Since the first claim was lodged, Traditional Owners have won back two parcels of the original claim area while agreeing to withdraw the Canteen Creek township area from the rest.

The amendment to the Northern Territory's Abor-



ABOVE: Eileen Bonney, holding a framed copy of the title deed, is the only surviving senior member of the original land rights claim group. BELOW: Eileen Bonney with Senator Malarndirri McCarthy.

iginal Land Rights Act 1976 (Land Rights Act) will allow Traditional Owners to be granted more than 484,000ha of land about 275km south-east of Tennant Creek.

The Wakaya-Alyawarre (Repeat) land claim is one of the CLC's last two outstanding claims under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, having now won back more than half of the land in the southern NT for Traditional Owners.

On April 15, CLC chief executive Les Turner said the handing back of the land "honours the determination and strength of the Traditional Owners who never gave up on their claim".

"It's a moment to celebrate and reflect on the sacrifices of those who didn't live to see this day," Mr Turner said.

Senator McCarthy said the handover and milestone reaffirmed the Government's "commitment to finalising unresolved land claims in the Northern Territory and increasing First Nations rights and interests in land and sea Country".

"Today we celebrate that the law now reflects the Wakaya and Alyawarre peoples' right to own and control their traditional lands," she said.

"I acknowledge the decades of work and advocacy by Traditional Owners and the Central Land Council to get us to this momentous day."



Senator McCarthy presents the title deed.

MADALAH a lasting influence on teacher

GIOVANNI TORRE

Noongar teacher Simon Hayward's journey as an educator began with MADALAH, a not-for-profit organisation providing scholarships for Indigenous secondary and tertiary students.

"They helped me with my cultural identity. Taught me a lot about my culture that I didn't know," he said.

"They became one of the main sources of my networking because they set up events and things where I've met lifelong friends ... and provided a lot of opportunities." Graduating

from high school in 2018, Mr Hayward started working as a mentor for MADALAH while pursuing further education.

"I went to high school with a MADALAH scholarship, and then from there, I was studying a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Exercise and Health. They continued to fund me through my Masters of Teaching to help me out," he said.

"The best thing about being a mentor was being that role model the kids can look up to and say 'they're doing well in life, so I can as well'," he said.

MADALAH has been helping

students since 2009 and is currently supporting around 500 scholars across high schools and universities around Australia.

Mr Hayward, 24, is loving life as a teacher.

"It's awesome. I'm all about opportunities ... I try to give as many opportunities to kids as I possibly can," he said.

"That's kind of my philosophy in life, because growing up, I come through a struggling background in a broken home.

So, opportunities were limited, but when they came, I really had to take them, and I like being in that position to provide stu-

dents with that opportunity."

Mr Hayward said MADALAH had a lasting positive influence on him.

"People view MADALAH as a home away from home, like the people in the program, they become your brothers and sisters," he said.

"Everything they taught me there, I'm able to take out, because they're all about relationships and building connections, and providing opportunities.

"I've taken all that from MADALAH and put it into my own teaching philosophy."



Simon Hayward

The National Indigenous Times is proudly produced by The West Australian in partnership with the NIT editorial team. NIT is circulated in every State and Territory by Seven West Media and News Corporation.

SALES CONTACT
Ads Manager:
 adsmanager@nit.com.au
 0414 608 795
 Print ads must be confirmed by Tuesday prior to print

EDITORIAL CONTACT
Editor:
 Giovanni Torre,
 editor@nit.com.au, 0437 989 411
Business Editor:
 Zak Kirkup, kirkup@nit.com.au
Lifestyle: styleup@nit.com.au

CIRCULATION
 Distributed on the last Tuesday of each month in The West Australian in WA, and the last Wednesday of each month in The Courier-Mail, The Daily Telegraph, Adelaide Advertiser, NT News, The Mercury and The Herald Sun.



The National Indigenous Times is a Supply Nation-certified 100 per cent Aboriginal-owned media company.

Anger at lack of progress

DECLAN BRENNAN

April 15 marked 34 years since the royal commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody brought down its findings, and First Nations people continue to be disproportionately represented in Australia's prison system.

At least 590 Indigenous people have died in custody since the royal commission, with governments across the country continuing to implement policies in direct contradiction to the recommendations.

So far, no one has been found criminally responsible for any of the deaths.

The latest data revealed young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are being locked up at 27 times the rate of non-Indigenous people, while out-of-home care sees Indigenous children removed from their families at 10.4 times the rate of non-Indigenous children.

"This is an appalling abuse of both children and the systems meant to protect them. It now costs an average of \$1.1 million each year to imprison a single child in Australia. This funding is not preventing harm; it is entrenching it," Children's Ground chief executive Jane Vadiveloo said.

In 1991 the royal commission called for Indigenous people to be incarcerated only as a last resort, as well as for better alternatives to prison, better access to health care and legal support, and action on the root causes of incarceration — poverty, racism, and systemic neglect.

In the past 12 months, Queensland has introduced laws that could see children as young as 10 sentenced to life in



Protesters are seen during a Stop Black Deaths in Custody rally in Perth in 2021 to mark 30 years since the royal commission. Picture: AAP

prison; the NT has lowered the age of criminal responsibility to 10; and Victoria and NSW have introduced "tough" bail laws which the Victorian premier accepts will see more children incarcerated on remand.

"We are seeing more and more State and Territory governments prioritising looking tough rather than implementing evidence-based policy that will make communities safer," National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services chair Karly Warner said earlier this year.

"How many lives will be destroyed before Premiers and

Chief Ministers across the country realise that locking up children has never worked anywhere?"

In the last financial year, 24 Indigenous people have died in custody.

Change the Record's national director, Blake Cansdale, said "these deaths are not just numbers; they represent lives tragically lost, families grieving, and a national failure to uphold the rights and safety of First Nations peoples in Australia".

More than one per cent of the total NT population is incarcerated — almost 90 per cent of them Indigenous.

In Queensland, children are

held alongside violent adults in watch houses, sometimes for more than 30 days.

Gomeroi woman and Amnesty International Indigenous rights campaigner Kacey Teerman said: "Every child in a watch house, in youth detention, every adult in a cell, is part of a system that continues to disproportionately harm Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

Earlier this month, a report found crisis care units in WA's prisons did not meet the needs of inmates suffering acute mental health issues.

It came after two Indigenous deaths in custody in the state in

the preceding five weeks. When Victoria introduced its new bail laws, it reversed reforms implemented after the death of Veronica Nelson.

The Gunditjmarra, Dja Dja Wurrung, Wiradjuri, and Yorta Yorta woman died in custody in 2020 in a "vomit-ridden" prison cell, having been arrested and denied bail for alleged shoplifting.

Ms Vadiveloo said: "The anniversary of the royal commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody is a powerful reminder of the cost of inaction — and the responsibility governments have to ensure that justice is not delayed any longer."

Advocates fear parties backing away from big issues

FROM PAGE 1

marginalised Indigenous Australians," she said.

Karl Briscoe, chief executive of the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners, told NITV a "reset" shouldn't just mean "shifting the blame".

"(The 2017 report) shows \$27.4b of the \$33b for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians actually goes to mainstream (not Aboriginal community-controlled) organisations," the Kuku Yalanji man said.

"We welcome a conversation, but it must be rounded in fairness and honesty."

Senator Price has criticised land councils and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, arguing the latter shouldn't be the preferred choice to lead Closing The Gap solutions. However, the Productivity Commission last year recommended that governments recognise the expertise of ACCOs in what worked for their communities.

Commissioner Romlie Mokak,

“We are worried politics is freezing Aboriginal Australia in time, in October 2023.”

Bridget Cama and Allira Davis

a Djugun man and member of the Yawuru people, said: "Efforts to improve outcomes are far more likely to succeed when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lead their design and implementation."

Last week, Indigenous advocates panned as "retrograde" the Coalition's plan to reinstate the activity test for parents wishing to access child care.

In February, Labor and the Greens voted for the three-day guarantee, which would abolish the Liberal-era activity test and allow families to access three days a week of subsidised early childhood education and care, regardless of how much they

worked or studied. The test's abolition was welcomed by Indigenous childhood education and care experts who argued evidence showed "vulnerable children get the greatest benefit from accessing quality ECEC".

Ms Little said the latest data revealed developmental readiness for school was "worsening".

"We simply cannot afford to remove equitable ECEC subsidies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children," she said.

"It's more important than ever that we see a bipartisan commitment to quality early childhood education and care to ensure our children get the best start in life."

"We urge the Coalition to reconsider their retrograde stance on the activity test."

Labor has also pivoted to stress its focus on "practical" measures.

The Federal party walked away from national truth-telling/a Makarrata commission in the March Budget, and has focused on funding mental health and domestic violence services in Indigenous communities, subsidising remote

grocery costs, and upgrading infrastructure such as seawalls in the Torres Strait.

Uluru Youth Dialogue co-chairs Bridget Cama and Allira Davis said communities were concerned the resounding "No" vote on the Voice to Parliament was creeping into other Indigenous policy areas — a view reinforced by State-level Liberals and Nationals backflipping on their support for a State-based Voice and truth-telling.

"We are worried politics is freezing Aboriginal Australia in time, in October 2023," they told AAP.

"What no one talks about is (economic empowerment) hasn't closed the gap. It has worked to create a burgeoning elite middle and business class, which is great, but it is not helping the vast numbers of those left behind."

Last week, former Liberal minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt said there was a real possibility of a future class action against all levels of government for their failure to close the gap.

Mr Wyatt told NITV's The Point all jurisdictions signed off

on the Closing The Gap agreement, including national and State Cabinets, indicating broad consensus for the plan.

"Twenty years time from now, I think it's quite feasible someone could go to a class action lawyer and say 'all tiers of government have failed, therefore could you take a class action on our behalf?'," Mr Wyatt said.

The latest Closing The Gap figures revealed just five of the 19 metrics were on target, with a backwards slide in the rate of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care, youth incarceration, and rates of suicide. Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are being locked up at 27 times the rate of non-Indigenous people, while OOH sees Indigenous children removed from their families at 10.4 times the rate of non-Indigenous children.

While some Australians have already cast their vote, Saturday May 3 will see the majority of voters go to the polls in what could prove an important turning point in the future of policies affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

Summit a voice for youth



The 2024 Koorie Youth Summit. Picture: Benny Clark

JARRED CROSS

The head of the Koorie Youth Council says the views of Indigenous youth are too often ignored when it comes to issues affecting the community.

Acting chief executive Leyla Quartermaine made the comment ahead of the Koorie Youth Summit — Victoria's largest gathering of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria are rarely given genuine space to share their voices, aspi-

rations and experiences," she said.

Since 2014, the summit has brought together mob from around the State to inspire one another to be the next generation of positive change.

The summit heads to Yorta Yorta Country in May, with 2025's theme, Wisdom to Power: Purpose, Passion, and Action, reflecting the work of previous generations of Aboriginal Victorians, and plans for the future.

"In the wake of the failed (Voice to Parliament) referendum and ongoing challenges like bail reform, our voices have

been pushed aside," Ms Quartermaine said. "The summit reminds us that our voices matter, we matter, and that there's strength and hope in coming together as a community."

Between 150 and 200 people attended the 2024 summit in Naarm (Melbourne).

Koorie Youth Council community engagement facilitator Jye Charles said the 2025 event came after a challenging few years.

"We want the 2025 Koorie Youth Summit to focus on connection and grounding. With the exciting opportunity to host on

beautiful Yorta Yorta land, this summit will be extra special," he said.

"After such a challenging past couple of years for our communities, we want young mob to come together to share space, feel empowered, and leave the summit strengthened in the knowledge that their voices matter — that they matter.

"The summit isn't just a one-off event; it has ripple effects in the lives of all young mob who attend. In a frightening time in the world, events like the annual Koorie Youth Summit are crucial for our wellbeing and con-

nection to one another." Mr Charles said to properly make positive change, the diversity of opinions, positions and voices from across the State must be included.

"Since its inception, the Koorie Youth Summit has been a space where young mob in Victoria can feel comfortable, welcome, and their voices listened to," Ms Quartermaine said.

"Often, we see and hear in the media our people always being spoken about in a deficit. Our young mob are much more than that — we are powerful, intelligent, and resilient."

Recognition of failure could be a start to change

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The head of the peak body for Indigenous children says the acknowledgment of both main parties' political leaders of a failure to close the gap is welcome, but more must be done, including visiting communities.

During the leaders' debate on April 16, Anthony Albanese and

Peter Dutton conceded "neither side of politics has done well enough for First Nations people".

"That's just a fact and that's something that breaks my heart," the Prime Minister said.

Presented with several failed closing the gap figures, Mr Dutton echoed the PM's sentiment.

"I think it's heartbreaking

to see those figures," he said.

SNAICC — National Voice for our Children chief executive Catherine Liddle said it was "great to see the acknowledgement that they haven't stepped up to the mark in the way they should have".

The latest Closing the Gap figures revealed only five of the 19 metrics were on target, with a

backwards slide in the rate of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care, youth incarceration, and suicide rates.

"We know that both sides of politics four years ago signed up to the national agreement on Closing the Gap," Ms Liddle said.

Ms Liddle said talking to Indigenous people was "funda-

mental to being able to create appropriate policies".

"You cannot, in a leadership position, come up with promises or commitments or policies or programs if you haven't gone and consulted with the community who is suffering in the first place, who will be the beneficiaries of a program," she said.

NIT

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TIMES

Explore our jobs board to discover exciting new career opportunities

www.nit.com.au/jobs



Ancestors return home

JOSEPH GUENZLER

A repatriation ceremony was held at the Queensland Museum on April 14 to mark the return of 36 ancestors, including six identified ancestors belonging to four Queensland communities.

The ancestors arrived in Meanjin following a 36-hour journey from London.

The ceremony took place in the museum's loading bay to allow the ancestors to be welcomed in keeping with cultural protocols.

Yuggera man Aaron Ruska conducted a smoking ceremony, welcoming attendees and the ancestors back on to Country.

Woppaburra, Warrgamay, Wuthathi and Yadhigana communities each received one or more of the ancestors.

Warrgamay man Thomas Holden said one of the ancestors returned had been taken in 1907 and later sent to London, where he was held in collections.

"This ancestor was taken from us in 1907 and then he was shipped out in 1924," Mr Holden told National Indigenous Times.

"And there he remained for a period of time until 1942 when they had a bombing.

"They lost his skull, and what remains is two femur bones and a king plate, which finally has been returned to the Warrgamay Traditional Owners, and specifically to his bloodline descendants."

The remaining 30 ancestors will be cared for by the museum while further research is undertaken to determine their Traditional Custodians.

Queensland Museum Network chief executive Jim Thompson addressed those gathered, vowing to treat the ancestors with dignity and cultural safety.

Many attendees shared reflections during the ceremony, expressing both grief and relief at the return of their old people.

Mr Holden said the repatriation brought mixed emotions and important historical insights.

"It's a big lot of sadness and it's a big lot of happiness all at the same time," he said. "If this process didn't go through, we



Aaron Ruska performs a smoking ceremony at Queensland Museum. Pictures: Joseph Guenzler

wouldn't actually have known what happened to him.

"The British museums and the College of Surgeons had a lot of information — locations of burial, who picked him up, where he came from. That just strengthens us to go back to our country."

Mr Holden said the repatriation effort was not only for today's communities, but for future generations.

"It's going to be the next generation, which is our youth, who will have to carry out some of that legwork to ensure the process is done with dignity and respect and culturally aligned," he said.

Dau'wai (stringy bark tree) Kau'bvai (native bee) man and repatriation manager for Queensland Museum Danny Williams said the museum

worked with communities to ensure the process was culturally appropriate.

"We actually talk with community right from the get-go," he said.

"We ask community how they want their ancestors cared for, what protocols they want us to follow — and we follow those protocols."

Mr Williams said the next stage would involve researching the 30 unidentified ancestors.

"We'll ... go through all Queensland Museum material, State Library, National Archives to see what information we can find. It's not a quick process. It can take weeks, months, or years," he said.

"Our hope is to identify where all the unprovenanced ancestors come from and have them go

home." Queensland Museum's director of First Nations, Kabi Kabi and Wiradjuri woman Bianca Beetson, said staff were committed to working with care and integrity.

"We don't do anything in regards to the ancestors without community permission," Ms Beetson said.

"Those ancestors we care for belong to community, and we will care for them like they are our own."

She noted only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff were involved in handling the remains to ensure culturally safe practices.

"Today's been really special," Ms Beetson said.

"We will continue to research, cross-match records, and do everything we can to help these ancestors return home."



Thomas Holden addresses those in attendance at the ceremony.

Alliance takes a stand

CALLAN MORSE

The National Indigenous Health Leadership Alliance took a stand for self-determination and cultural safety this month ahead of the Federal election, and following the publication of key documents, including the Productivity Commission review and Close the Gap Day reports.

A partnership of Indigenous health and wellbeing organisations committed to dismantling systemic barriers within Australia's mainstream health system, the Alliance said it welcomed all commitments

to improve the effectiveness, accountability, and outcomes of government investment in closing the gap.

Acknowledging shadow minister for Indigenous Australians Jacinta Nampijinpa Price's calls to audit expenditure and inefficiencies, it said a focus on efficiency "must not come at the cost of equity, cultural safety, or self-determination".

"As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations working across all levels of the health system, we are also frustrated with the lack of meaningful

progress," NIHLA said.

Closing the Gap data released in March indicated that, despite some States and Territories reporting gains in key health indicators, targets relating to child protection and suicide required urgent attention.

NIHLA said a funding stream review must include funding "going to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations" that claimed to contribute to Closing the Gap, as the barriers to progress were "systemic failures in how that funding is governed, allocated, and delivered".

Lifeline 13 11 14

Climate anger at Dutton

DECLAN BRENNAN

Torres Strait climate activists are frustrated at Opposition Leader Peter Dutton's comments this month that he "can't tell you whether the temperature has risen" in parts of Queensland.

At the second leaders' debate on April 16, when asked if the impacts of climate change were getting worse, Mr Dutton told moderator David Speers: "I don't know because I'm not a scientist and I can't tell you whether the temperature has risen in Thargomindah because of climate change, or the water lev-

els are up." With scientists confirming the sixth coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef in Mr Dutton's home State of Queensland in less than a decade, Elders from the Torres Strait — at risk because of rising sea levels — criticised Mr Dutton's comments.

Elder and climate activist Aunty McRose Elu said Mr Dutton had "exposed himself as someone who does not understand the basic climate science".

"How can you hope to be the leader of our nation if you are not tuned into the most critical issue affecting the

lives of people in this country?" she said.

"In the Torres Strait, sea walls have been breached and our islands have flooded."

Earlier this month the Federal Labor Government committed \$77 million to seawall structures and waste infrastructure for the Torres Strait in a bid to help boost climate resilience. Benny Dau, a proud Torres Strait Islander man from the Samu clan said Mr Dutton needed to visit the area.

"The water is at our doorstep. Our families, our homes, our culture, and everything we know is at risk," Mr Dau said.

Be heard on justice for youth

CALLAN MORSE

Prominent members of Tasmania's Aboriginal community highlighted the importance of the State's proposed Aboriginal Youth Justice Engagement Strategy this month as the consultation period opened.

"Have your say on the Tasmanian Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy" aims to start community discussion and develop strategies to address the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in Tasmania's justice system.

Following the consultation's launch on April 15, Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation chair Nick Cameron, who also chairs the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance, told National Indigenous Times "it's such an important consultation process ... we can't get it wrong".

The Pairrebeene/Trawlwoolway man said the consultation followed dialogue between TRA-

CA and the government on the state's Closing the Gap Implementation Plan.

"When we first looked at that implementation plan, a couple of key areas were pretty light on or even missed off completely as a priority area," he said.

"Justice, education and employment were the three main key initiatives that weren't very strongly represented in the initial plan."

Mr Cameron said "there has to be a very clear linkage" between outcomes of the TAYJS community consultation and the implementation plan for Closing the Gap. "The Justice Department and bureaucracy has to work collaboratively with all Aboriginal groups around Tasmania," he said.

Mr Cameron said organisations and communities "need to be supported to be able to do on-the-ground support activities" to prevent young mob from entering the justice system.

Indigenous adviser to Amnesty International Australia Uncle



Indigenous adviser to Amnesty International, Uncle Rodney Dillon Picture: AAP

Rodney Dillon echoed the call for consultation to better identify intervention and community support programs for the State's Aboriginal youth.

"At the moment (we're) talking about Aboriginal-led solutions to make change," he said.

"If kids do get in the system, we've got to do everything possible to stop them from coming back into it.

"Recidivism is so high in this all around the country... We've got to develop things that (are) going to stop kids from staying in this system, and help them get away from this."

Mr Dillon commended the Parliament for showing initia-

tive in adopting a preventative Aboriginal youth justice model ahead of other jurisdictions where governments "got in on saying 'we're going to lock up more kids'".

"In Tasmania it's unique here because both sides of government, and I give them both credit and the Greens for this as well, are all on side on making change," he said.

Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service chief executive Jake Smith said the agency encouraged members of communities across the state to have a say in the engagement process.

"We believe the strategy must put Aboriginal youth, people

and communities at the centre and that long-term, community-based solutions and investment is required," Mr Smith told National Indigenous Times.

He said the strategy would need "clear goals, time frames and accountabilities to ensure real action". Tasmanian Minister for Children and Youth Roger Jaensch said there is a "need to do more to close the gap".

"Either directly or through these organisations, we want to hear the stories and insights of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and families about their priorities for early intervention and diversion," Mr Jaensch said.

into Partnerships

We're working together with Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation to explore renewable energy projects in the Pilbara.

Discover more of what we're into at riotinto.com/into

Rio Tinto



Student trusts her gut with help of foundation

JARRED CROSS

GO Foundation alumnus Makayla Rodrigues wants others to know trusting your gut and backing yourself is the greatest form of self-investment.

The Gomeri and Worimi woman recently completed her Social Work Bachelor's degree and is working as a First Nations community development worker at community counselling and support service Interrelate.

At the back end of high school, her scholarship with the GO Foundation helped her transition into university life and studies, with the added complexities of COVID-19 lockdowns.

"I got early entry into the University of Wollongong with no idea of what I needed for uni," Ms Rodrigues said.

The GO Foundation's financial support allowed her to buy her first laptop and set up to study at home.

"It definitely made a massive difference for me," she said.

Founded in 2009 by AFL greats Michael O'Loughlin and Adam Goodes, the GO Foundation has awarded scholarships to nearly 2000 students since 2014 across Sydney, Adelaide and Canberra.

Sixty per cent of scholarships go to Indigenous young women, and more than 90 per cent to public school students, under the organisation's own targets, acknowledging "the important role that women play in our families and communities", GO chief executive, Biripi and Gadi-gal woman Charlene Davidson told National Indigenous Times.

Students attended and completed schooling at above the national standard — something the organisation was deeply proud of, Ms Davidson said.

The foundation has doubled the number of university scholarships awarded in recent years.

Earlier this year, Governor-General Sam Mostyn was appointed as patron after a decade previously on GO's board.

For Ms Mostyn, GO's strength is supporting the students to dictate their own futures.

"That is their decision and GO doesn't predetermine what success is, other than committing to doing the work and setting a bit of a plan for what that looks like for the individual students," she told National Indigenous Times.

Ms Davidson said half of students' interests centred on "caring professions", including social work, medicine, health and into law and justice.

Ms Rodrigues shares that passion.

"I think anything in community and anything with mob is where my passion lies," she said.

"Taking any opportunity is worth it.

"Trust yourself and back yourself, as hard as it can be sometimes to follow your gut and not be stressed about what you want to do and where you go.

"That's the best investment you'll ever make in yourself."



Opposition Leader Peter Dutton and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during the third leaders' debate last week. Picture: AAP

There is little hope in Federal election

ANALYSIS
HANNAH MCGLADE

This Federal election raises a real conundrum for Aboriginal people who saw a defeat of our constitutional referendum for a Voice and process of treaty and truth-telling.

There's no doubt we're seeing a retreat from a commitment to Indigenous rights, and an era of racism that belongs well and truly in the past. Since the referendum we've also seen the ALP, once known to be friends, retreat from justice and human rights for our people.

The referendum is interpreted to mean No to our people, regardless of the racism underlying it and our rights as Indigenous peoples.

There's no progress on the implementation of the Senate inquiries concerning the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples or Aboriginal cultural heritage laws. We see policy developments in mining and heritage, instead of binding laws, as well as investment in Aboriginal businesses which will only ever benefit a few. The narrative of non-binding protocols and non-legislative approaches to managing our

issues including extraction industries and corporations is seriously problematic and regressive for First Nations rights.

The commitment to the dedicated national action plan on violence against Aboriginal women and children is one of the few positives, as well as the appointment of a national Aboriginal Children's Commissioner, but these were hard-fought for by Aboriginal women who still have no independent voice to government.

The Coalition of Peaks, working closely with the government, can't speak freely and publicly on behalf of communities and our interests.

The Coalition persists in the Close the Gap policy in the face of shocking violations of fundamental human rights in law and justice especially, leading now to the most regressive law reforms seen in this country.

These laws target Aboriginal children and are associated with children dying in custody. They're now subject of an early warning urgent action communication that I recently wrote to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial

Discrimination. We must call out to UN bodies because our governments, including the Federal ALP, are failing to uphold and protect the rights of Aboriginal children — even refusing to sign or ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child so Aboriginal children whose rights are abused can bring that before the UN treaty body.

We have heard so little from the Federal Government about this dire situation.

Meanwhile, the NT has lowered the age of criminal responsibility to a mere 10 years of age; Queensland has increased life sentences for children and removed the principle of detention as a measure of last resort; Victoria has passed bail laws that will see more children incarcerated, even though prisons are overflowing with children not even sentenced; and WA continues to incarcerate children in adult prisons, subjecting them to inhumane practices including solitary confinement that costs them their very lives.

Under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in

decision-making through their own representative institutions.

This goes to the heart of Voice. And just because the Voice lost at referendum, following a campaign derivative of American politics and funded by billionaires and fossil fuel companies, doesn't mean we should abandon advocacy to be heard.

This includes the right to free, prior and informed consent before measures affecting us are adopted or implemented, as stated in Article 19 of the UNDRIP.

Article 18 provides we have the right to participate in decision-making through representatives we have chosen.

Why can't we advocate for an elected representative body for First Nations people?

As the campaign closes, the racism of the Liberals and CLP is on display — but the ALP's failure to respect UNDRIP and Aboriginal Voice, gives us little hope in this 2025 election.

Dr Hannah McGlade is a Kurin Minang human rights expert, law academic and member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues



CREATING SUSTAINABLE CAREER PATHWAYS

“It’s been an amazing experience to work alongside an incredible team. I’m truly grateful for the trust and opportunities we have been given, and I’m excited for what’s ahead.”

Elysia Douglas

A proud Ballardong, NyakiNyaki and Whadjuk Noongar woman, and recent VTEC graduate

Since 2006, Fortescue’s Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC) program has provided over 1,500 graduates with lifelong skills to support a sustainable career in the resources sector and beyond.

fortescue.com

STYLEUP

FASHION, BEAUTY & LIFESTYLE

YIRRAMBOI

Festival to unite
people in the
heart of Naarm

ALSO INSIDE

Swimwear's
cultural
connection **P13**
Art festival
celebrates
women **P14**

YIRRAMBOI places First Nations arts in spotlight

MARIA MAROUCHTCHAK

The First Nations-led festival YIRRAMBOI is set to transform the streets of Naarm/Melbourne during the 10-day showcase in May.

Since 2017, YIRRAMBOI has provided a stage for First Nations artists and performers to thrive.

From May 1-11, YIRRAMBOI is reclaiming centre stage in Naarm's arts precinct with its dedicated Uncle Jack Charles Festival Hub — named in honour of the late legend of First Nations storytelling.

The 2025 festival will explore the theme Futures, Past, celebrating the connection between the past and present, looking forward to paving the way for future generations.

Wakka Wakka and Kabi Kabi co-lead and lead creative producer J-Maine Beezley told Style Up YIRRAMBOI was “a cultural and community responsibility”

“We facilitate and create a platform that provides a stage for authentic and unapologetic voices and stories to be heard,” he said.

Breaking down barriers on how First Nations art is traditionally perceived is central to YIRRAMBOI's mission as it highlights the diversity of Indigenous cultures and people around the nation and the world.

“We remove the red tape on what's perceived to be First Nations art, we highlight our diversity, and bring the stories of now to centre stage,” Beezley said.

This year's festival will be built on four pillars: Legacy, Joy, Reclamation and Akin.

Taungurung and Filipino co-lead and lead creative

Sherene Stewart emphasised the foundation of these pillars in forming the festival's most ambitious program to date.

“Legacy is both a gift and a responsibility, intricately woven into the very fabric of our communities,” she told Style Up.

“The wisdom and strength of those who came before us, whose foundations laid the groundwork and shaped the path we walk today.”

Interpreting Joy as a vessel of “resistance and resilience,” Stewart said it “underscores the festival's dedication to celebrating who we are, our creativity, and cultural vitality”.

Through Reclamation, a driving force behind the curation process has been to foster a space where “identity, cultural expressions and visibility” are celebrated.

To Stewart, Akin shines a spotlight on global First Nations communities' interconnectedness.

A Canadian delegation from Turtle Island is set to journey to Australia for the event, in what is expected to be “a powerful celebration of shared histories, diversity and the enduring solidarity”.

“It acknowledges the collective strength, unity, and solidarity found in these relationships,” Stewart said.

Steered by an all-First Nations producing and curatorial team, Beezley said it was important to work as equals and pay homage to the collective of voices leading the event.

“Our producing and curatorial team are all First peoples. We work as equals, we make collective decisions and honour that we all have our part to play within the community and we carry that through to the

The Yirramboi team.
Picture: Joshua Scott



festival,” he said. On the program, Blakyard will make its return, alongside the fan-favourite Blackout, as YIRRAMBOI sets the stage for groundbreaking new performances.

Highlights include Marrugeku's Cut the Sky and Motherless Collective's Three Blak Ravers.

The story of respected Taungurung Elder Larry Walsh will be brought to life through the theatre performance Lazarus, while Alexis West and Kamarra Bell-Wykes will present House Arrest — an exploration of transgenerational trauma, connection and escapism.

Stewart described YIRRAMBOI as a “response to the aspirations, dreams, and stories of our communities here in Victoria”.

“YIRRAMBOI empowers and amplifies First Nations voices by creating a platform that is unapologetically ours,” she said.

“The festival provides a platform for our voices to reach audiences locally, nationally, and internationally, reminding the world of the brilliance that comes from our communities.

“It's about creating a space

where First Nations artists can lead the conversation, set the agenda, and define what it means to be a First Nations creative today.”

Gunnai, Kurnai, Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri DJ Sky Thomas (aka Soju Gang) has taken on the role of music producer for YIRRAMBOI.

“It's special being part of an event that is made of community blackfellas who love art or are artists themselves,” she said.

“YIRRAMBOI is getting bigger every run we have, but it feels warm and familiar. It celebrates us, how far we've come, and understanding the path laid out before us to continue down, understanding that we are not a monolith so the way we experience, practise, perform and create shouldn't be viewed as monolithic either.”

Thomas said they strove to create a space where First Nations creatives and communities could authentically express themselves without being confined by expectations.

“We allow our creatives, and furthermore, our community to show up as they are. There isn't a set idea of what First Nations

art/performance looks like, sounds like, feels like,” she said.

“Indigenous creativity is limitless and we hope to continue to create space for that to exist for our artists.

“We also connect with our artists and community on a grassroots level.

“Our job and responsibility to Mob does not finish when the festival does. We continue and build our relationships with our artists, we check in with community and participate in community events. We are community members working for our community.”

As YIRRAMBOI prepares to light up Naarm, the festival stands as a testament to the power of culture, community, and creativity.

“The best way people can support YIRRAMBOI Festival 2025 and the incredible artists involved is by showing up — physically and emotionally,” Beezley said.

“Attend the events, engage with the work, and take the time to understand the stories being shared.

“Knowledge is power. “However, knowledge is nothing without understanding. “Come with open hearts.”



Motherless Collective presents Three Blak Ravers.



Becca Hatch



Miss Kaninna Picture: Tristan Stefan Edouard

Labels bound for Fashion Week

PHOEBE BLOGG

Australian Fashion Week, set for May 12-16, will feature Indigenous labels including Liandra, Ngali, Miimi & Jiinda, Buluuy Mirrii, and Joseph & James.

Joseph & James founder Juanita Page said she was thrilled to showcase the brand at AFW in addition to being offered the opportunity of a solo runway.

"We're really looking forward to presenting Joseph & James at this year's Australian Fashion Week with our upcoming collection, Gathering," Page said.

"Although we originally applied to be part of a group show, we were incredibly honoured to be offered a solo runway.

"Gathering is an ode to the moments that matter most — where connection is woven into every moment, and memories are made around every table.

"This new collection reflects the value of slowing down, spending time, and building relationships with loved ones over food."

Buluuy Mirrii founder Colleen Tighe Johnson said she was looking forward to showcasing her brand's newest collection.

"We are very excited to be part of AFW this year as it has been a real year of growth of me as a designer and also the business and the team I have built up over



Models walk the runway wearing creations by Miimi & Jiinda at Australian Fashion Week 2024 in Sydney. Picture: AAP

the last 12 months," she said.

Johnson said Buluuy Mirrii's collection would feature Australian fine wools as well as mixes, silk, and cotton.

"This year will be our Women's Business art and sto-

ries within the elegant and shapely '40s styling," she said.

"I love being able to show the beauty of the stories on shapely and flowing designs, giving full expression to the heritage of the

what is very personal to me as these are the stories I grew up (with).

Led by the Australian Fashion Council and presented by Shark Beauty, Australian Fashion Week is also celebrating a new

chapter with the announcement of AFC leading events operations and also introducing The Studio, a new experience open to registered members of the public, offering a curated Fashion Week experience.

Build stronger careers, together.

Challenge accepted.

From early career pathways to international assignments and executive development, Woodside supports First Nations employees at every stage.

Most recently, Jenayah Elliott returned from a two-year international assignment in Houston - broadening her global perspective and stepping into a new level of personal and professional growth.

Whether it's stepping into new environments or growing into leadership, our people are shaping the future.



Scan the QR code to hear Jenayah's story.





Jalayimiya Swim's Core Collection. Picture: Sarah Kemp

Confidence & comfort key factors

PHOEBE BLOGG

First Nations fashion designer Brodie George says her new swimwear collection pays homage to cultural connection and also the importance of confidence and comfort.

"The Core Collection is a return to the essentials designed by listening to our community and understanding what our customers truly want and need in swimwear," she said.

It's a collection built on connection, comfort and confidence designed to support real bodies and real stories.

"The artwork titled Yimpiyimpi is the Walmajarri word for 'clouds wafting and floating across the sky'. The artwork is intricate and ethereal, using fluid patterns and serene shades of blue to reflect the soft beauty of nature and our deep connection to it."

George said she engaged with consumers to find out what they were looking for in terms of style, size and fit.

"This time around, I've been really intentional. Every style in the Core Collection, from the underwire one-pieces to the staple bikinis, was shaped by our community through Instagram polls, feedback and what's consistently been most loved," she said.

"I wanted every piece to feel like it was made for someone —

not just a trend. It's swimwear that fits, supports and celebrates everybody, while still holding space for storytelling through art."

George said the models for the collection's photo shoot were all Aboriginal women.

"It's really important to me to represent a range of body shapes and sizes too," she said.

"Our models are real people — friends, family and supporters of the brand. We don't edit or retouch their bodies. The goal is to celebrate natural beauty and create swimwear that actually fits and feels good on all kinds of bodies," said George.

She said the past year had been a big one for the brand, featuring as part of New York Fashion Week and having a viral TikTok moment among other things.

"This year, the focus has shifted more towards business growth, refining the back end, being more strategic and choosing carefully which runway shows or events to be part of," she said.

George said breaking into the Australian fashion scene was "really tough" for many.

"There seems to be a gap when it comes to real opportunities and recognition here at home," she told Style Up. "I'm hopeful that's something I can change for myself and others."

Comedy a crack in the darkness

JOSEPH GUENZLER

Following his big win at Deadly Funny 2025 on April 14, Dhinawan Baker says the national comedy competition is more than just laughs — it's a powerful space for healing, connection, and Black excellence.

The proud Gamilaroi and Bigambul man, pictured, said he didn't travel to Melbourne aiming to win the title.

"I just went down there for the experience," he told Style Up. "Winning the title was just an absolute bonus that came with it."

For Baker, the heart of his set came from the people he grew up around. "In our communities we have so many characters, and those characters have entertained us for years," he said.

"We're only as funny as the people who came before us."

Baker said comedy had a vital role to play in healing,



Picture: Joseph Guenzler

both for Indigenous people and the wider community.

"There's no better feeling than having a good laugh," he said. "If you sit in a comedy act, especially when it's all Indigenous and all around Indigenous people, people get to see the beauty of our culture."

Humour, he said, helps "crack through the darkness".

Eight First Nations finalists competed in the Deadly Funny national final: Baker, Errolyn Strang, Yindyamarra Johnson, Matthew Bonson, Daniel Newchurch, Teresa Moore, Kimberley Benjamin, and Ngaire Pigram.

Stage production shares story of first Aboriginal Olympian

PHOEBE BLOGG

The story of Australia's first signed Indigenous Olympian, Francis Roy "Frank" Roberts, will be shared on stage by his cousin, Rhoda Roberts AO in NORPA's My Cousin Frank at Arts Centre Melbourne.

Running from July 9-12, My Cousin Frank will make its Naarm (Melbourne) debut during NAIDOC Week.

Roberts introduces audiences to a man who spent his entire life fighting, both in the boxing ring and for his family and culture. A Widjabul Wia-bal and Githabul man, "Honest Frank", as he was known, was raised on the Cubawee Reserve just outside of Lismore in New South Wales.

He competed at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics in the welterweight division as the first Aboriginal athlete to gain selection.

My Cousin Frank has been performed at the Byron Theatre and Star Court Theatre in Lismore, and also at the Adelaide Festival. Roberts said



Frank Roberts Picture: AIATSIS

she was proud to shed light on an often overlooked piece of Australian history.

"The process of writing this story has been a deeply personal and transformative one, involving extensive research, community consultation, and my own reflections," she said.

"It's been a journey of uncovering my family's history and ensuring the authenticity of the narrative, all while aiming to make an impact on the audience," she said.

"It struck me that Lismore is home to Australia's first

Aboriginal Olympian signed to an Olympic Team, a fact that had been largely overlooked.

"Imagine how proud Lismoreans would be to know this part of their history.

"This story is a national story — a First Nations family's journey in Australia's tumultuous era of dispersal and silence to navigating a world controlled by Government policy."

My Cousin Frank is presented as part of this year's NAIDOC Week. This year marks 50 years of honouring and elevating Indigenous voices, culture and resilience.

My Cousin Frank will go on to tour at Wodonga's HotHouse Theatre from August 13-16, with further destinations to be announced.

This performance contains themes, stories, and historical truths that may be confronting, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences.

My Cousin Frank, written and told by Rhoda Roberts AO, will show from July 9-12.

Exhibition has women at forefront

PHOEBE BLOGG

Upcoming exhibition *It's Always Been Always* is a tribute to Aboriginal women, celebrating their role as custodians, intrinsic connectors and cultural caretakers.

Bringing together a diverse range of small to large-scale works by six acclaimed Aboriginal female artists from across Australia, *It's Always Been Always* opens at Fremantle Arts Centre in May.

The exhibition will centre the voices of Blak women and their powerful connections to Country, Community, and Culture.

Curated by Whadjuk, Ballardong, and Wilman Noongar artist Zali Morgan, *It's Always Been Always* features newly commissioned and existing works by Wendy Hubert (Yindjibarndi — Juluwarlu Art Group), Kaylene Whiskey and the Iwantja Young Women's Film Project,

(Yankunytjatjara — Iwantja Arts), Harriette Bryant (Pitjantjatjara — Mimili Maku Arts), Jazz Money (Wiradjuri and Irish), Yabini Kickett (Bibulmun/Noongar), and Amanda Bell (Badimia and Yued Noongar).

Working across differing practices and media, including video, installation, paint and poetry, the artists will share stories of resilience and kinship, and the unique ways they sustain and nurture their relationships with land, family and identity.

Morgan, whose work often explores cultural legacy and connection between women and the land, said each artist would showcase their own story and experiences of womanhood.

"This exhibition champions female Aboriginal artists from across Australia. It seeks to reflect on the resilience of Indigenous women and pay homage to their strength and wisdom which has shaped our communities," she said.



ABOVE: First Nations artist Kaylene Whiskey. BELOW: Exhibition curator Zali Morgan.

"Each artist will bring her own story — stories of women, motherhood and femininity — stories that need to be told and which speak to broader contemporary issues in the Australian arts and political landscape.

"Now is the time to listen to First Nations artists and communities, and in particular, Blak women."

Curator and collections lead at Fremantle Arts Centre Abigail Moncrieff said it was a great honour to celebrate the strength and wisdom of these six women and their stories in the galleries in Walyalup (Fremantle).

"It's *Always Been Always* will transform the gallery into an immersive space with artworks ranging from a 9m painting by Yindjibarndi Elder, cultural custodian and linguist Wendy Hubert, to a site-responsive text installation by Amanda Bell, to the vibrant and joyous video work of Kaylene Whiskey and the Iwantja Young Women's Film Project," she said.

"It's *Always Been Always* will share the diverse stories of Indigenous women and celebrate their central role in preserving culture and shaping the future of their communities."



We are helping keep language alive.

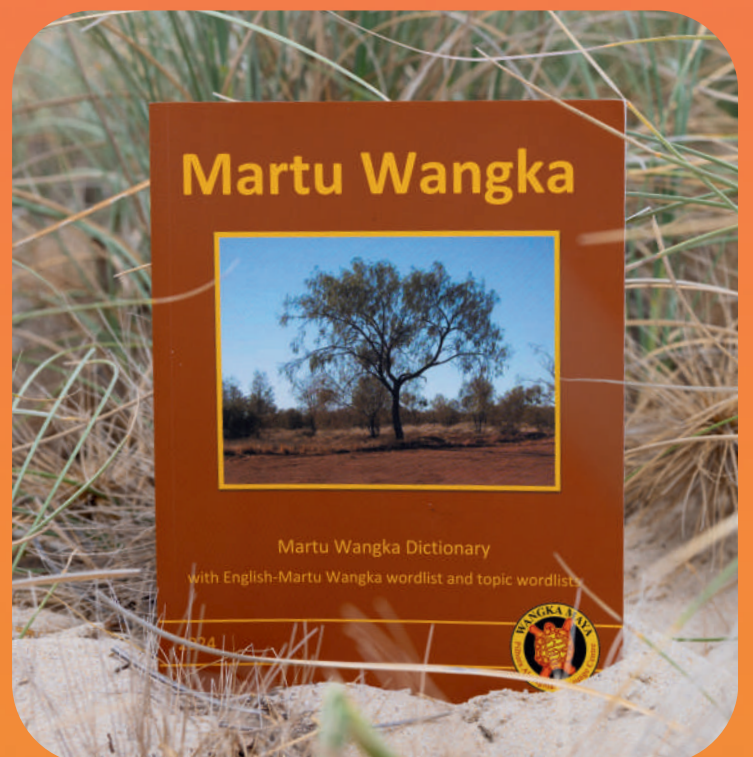
Proudly supported by our Roy Hill Community Grants program, we are helping preserve Pilbara languages and culture through meaningful partnerships.

Roy Hill provides grants of up to \$10,000 to eligible applicants to deliver community activations and outreach activities in our operational footprint.



Applications open
1 May – 30 June 2025

Scan the QR code to find out more.



We are Roy Hill

ROY HILL

Bill's rejection celebrated

JOSEPH GUENZLER

The Treaty Principles Bill, which aimed to redefine the legal status of Aotearoa's founding document, was decisively voted down in New Zealand Parliament this month.

Only 11 members of the ACT Party supported the Bill, with all other parties — including the governing National and New Zealand First — voting against it on April 10.

As the result was confirmed, the chamber erupted in celebration. Members of Parliament and supporters in the gallery sang a Maori song, or waiata, Tutira mai nga iwi, as Speaker Gerry Brownlee tried to maintain order.

Te Pati Maori MP Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke, who was a strong voice against the Bill, welcomed the outcome.

She told the House the overwhelming response to the Bill had proven the country was not as divided as some had suggested.

"This Bill has been absolutely annihilated," she said.

"We had two choices: to live or to die. We chose to live."

The Bill, introduced by ACT leader David Seymour as part of a 2023 coalition agreement, sought to replace decades of legal interpretation of the Treaty of Waitangi with a fixed, narrower definition.

The law would have removed established Treaty principles such as partnership and Maori self-determination, and proposed putting those changes to a national referendum.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon did not attend the final debate or vote.

His National Party ultimately voted against it, with Maori Development Minister Tama Potaka previously saying he looked forward to its "cremation".

Opposition to the Bill was strong and sustained.

In November, an estimated 40,000 people marched on Parliament during the Hikoi mo te Tiriti protests.

Earlier, more than 300,000 public submissions were received by the select committee, with the vast majority opposing the Bill.

Labour leader Chris Hipkins described the legislation as "a grubby little Bill, born of a grubby little deal".

"It will forever be a stain on our country," he said.

Despite the Bill's defeat, Mr Seymour remained defiant.

"A free society takes hard work and uneasy conversations. I'm proud my party has the bravery to raise uneasy topics," he said.

The Treaty of Waitangi, signed in 1840 between more than 500 Maori chiefs and the



Members of Parliament celebrate the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill's rejection. Picture: AP

British Crown, is widely regarded as the foundation of modern Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Over recent decades, courts and the Waitangi Tribunal have established principles that help guide its interpretation in law.

The defeat of the Treaty Principles Bill holds wider significance beyond Aotearoa.

In Australia, similar tensions have played out, where State and Federal governments have been slow or resistant to fully recognising Indigenous sovereignty

and self-determination. The treaty process has been stalled indefinitely in the Northern Territory, and in Queensland the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry was shut down and any progress towards Treaty halted.

BHP

"More lifeguards, more opening hours, more fun. To me that's big."

Discover how Talent Pool is giving purpose to young people in Newman - and the kids at the pool more opening hours and more fun!

Scan for more.

Labor has plans for First Nations

OPINION
MALARNDIRRI MCCARTHY

I am ambitious for First Nations people. As Minister for Indigenous Australians in the Albanese Labor Government, I know my colleagues share my view. We are already delivering but there is more to do, and if we are given the honour of being re-elected on May 3, we will have a range of priorities.

CLOSING THE GAP

Closing the Gap — so all Australians have the same opportunities in life — should be a priority for all governments — Federal, State and local.

We are delivering substantial investments in health, in education, in housing, in jobs and economic empowerment, and in community-led justice reinvestment initiatives, but we know the job is far from done.

Crucially, our government is committed to working in partnership with First Nations communities and First Nations organisations, including through the Coalition of Peaks.

JOBS

We're delivering on our commitment before the last

election to replace the failed Community Development Program.

Our new remote jobs program is creating up to 3000 jobs in remote communities over three years, providing the dignity of work with decent wages and conditions.

These jobs are being created with First Nations people, putting communities in the driver's seat.

More than 100 employers will establish an initial 650 new jobs in remote communities across the country, with more to come.

That includes new jobs in the Kimberley in Western Australia, Central Australia, Arnhem Land, the Top End and Tiwi Islands, north and south Queensland, western New South Wales, and remote South Australia.

We're also establishing a new remote employment service to help jobseekers acquire skills and find pathways into work.

Free TAFE has also removed financial barriers so more than 30,000 First Nations people can learn new skills in areas of demand.

INDIGENOUS RANGERS

We're also delivering on our

commitment to double the number of Indigenous rangers by the end of the decade.

We've expanded the program, with more than 1000 new ranger jobs, including 770 jobs for First Nations women.

We're funding an additional 800 new ranger positions to create jobs on Country, caring for Country.

We're also expanding our Junior Rangers program with 10 new locations, including in every State and Territory, giving students the opportunity to learn new skills on-Country.

FOOD SECURITY

First Nations people in remote communities have paid high prices for food and other essentials for far too long.

Food insecurity can have serious health impacts, including cardiovascular and kidney disease.

After a decade of inaction when the Coalition was in government, we are acting.

We're slashing the cost of 30 essential items in more than 150 remote stores across the country, to provide cost-of-living relief.

We're investing in food storage capacity for remote



Senator Malarndirri McCarthy. Picture: Andrew Ritchie

stores most at risk of being cut off, to ensure communities can access nutritious food — from Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama in Cape York, to Amata and Kaltjiti in the APY Lands, to Gunbalanya in Arnhem Land.

HOUSING

We're unlocking more than \$4.7 billion to build homes, address homelessness, and support First Nations renters and first home buyers — as part of our \$43b Homes for Australia Plan.

Our remote housing agreement with the Northern Territory Government, Aboriginal Housing NT and Land Councils is already delivering new homes in communities.

The program will build 270 new homes each year over

the decade, with the aim of halving overcrowding in communities.

We're also investing \$200 million for housing repairs and infrastructure across remote WA, SA, Queensland, and the NT.

Peter Dutton and his shadow minister for Indigenous Australians have no plans and nothing positive to offer First Nations Australians — only a royal commission and cuts.

The Albanese Labor Government is building Australia's future for all Australians.

Let's continue to build that future, together.

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy is the Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians

We'll audit all govt spending

OPINION
JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

The amount of money spent on Indigenous affairs hasn't been accounted for since 2017.

We don't have an up-to-date figure of how much we're spending in 2025.

We also know Closing the Gap targets are not where they should be — only four targets are on track to be met. Given we are spending billions but not making any progress, we think something needs to change. We also think it makes sense to start that change by reviewing what is and isn't working for the benefit of our most marginalised.

An audit will let us see where money is being used well and getting results, and where it's being wasted without producing outcomes for those who need it.

Only then can we make sure funding is being directed in a way that will help us close the gap.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO SEXUAL ABUSE IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

There is good reason to believe a lot of sexual abuse goes unreported. However, even the data that is available about sexual abuse of Indigenous children is utterly unacceptable. Nationally, the rates of sexual

abuse as a category of substantiated child protection notifications for Indigenous children are 2.8 per 1000 children, whereas for non-Indigenous children, the rate is 0.5 per 1000 children.

We the safety, protection and freedom from abuse for all children is important.

Holly-Ann Martin, a child abuse prevention educator with 35 years experience in the field, makes clear this issue is far from resolved. She believes it is an issue widely known by those familiar with these contexts but is rarely spoken about, especially by those in positions of power. We think that is unacceptable.

A royal commission means our most vulnerable will have the chance to be heard, and can keep their identity anonymous if they want, and real change can occur to stop these horrific crimes. We know these are uncomfortable issues, but the protection of the human rights of Australian children outweighs that discomfort.

IMPROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY IN THE NT

A Dutton government will support the Territory Government to implement initiatives to address crime and disorder in the Top

End, especially Alice Springs.

Antisocial behaviour in Alice Springs, and the NT generally, has been a national issue for two years, particularly since the lifting of alcohol restrictions that were later reinstated.

We have agreed in principle to support the implementation of the Northern Territory Government's seven-point plan to end the violence and crime, and ensure community safety returns to the Top End.

SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LANGUAGE-BASED LAND COUNCILS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Coalition believes power should be given back to community wherever possible.

Land councils, especially those in the Northern Territory, are some of the most significant organisations in the lives of Traditional Owners.

Yet their operations, such as section 19 lease processing, is not up to the standard that would be expected of other organisations.

That's why we want to help language groups who want to form their own land councils to do so.

By supporting language groups in this way, we can empower grassroots



Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price. Picture: Ian Munro

decision-making when it comes to what can or can't be done on Indigenous-owned land.

We think the super shires which were established by the Northern Territory government took a lot of power away from local communities.

That's why, in conjunction with the current Northern Territory Government, we would support local community councils to be established.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO LAND COUNCILS AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

The Coalition believes many of the Indigenous bodies and land councils that have been set up for the benefit of Indigenous Australians aren't working well.

We think many of them could be doing better, especially when it comes to their leadership and governance.

We believe organisations

should have consequences if they aren't doing the right thing by their members, and that the organisations and their leadership shouldn't be able to get away with things that aren't right because they are in powerful positions.

By holding an inquiry, we would have the chance to hear from people who have real-life experience about these things.

It would give people the chance to tell us whether the organisations are working well, or whether people have concerns about their behaviour.

We'd like these organisations to be operating well and helping to actually close the gap, which is why we need to know how they are failing, so that the failures can be corrected.

Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price is the shadow minister for Indigenous Australians

We need to see businesses as viable ventures

OPINION ALEX SANDERSON

For most Indigenous entrepreneurs, building businesses remains a challenge because of long-standing barriers, the greatest being access to capital.

Indigenous businesses rely primarily on two forms of funding: government grants, and loans through Indigenous Business Australia.

While these mechanisms are essential, they also create a cycle of dependency, restricting Indigenous businesses from tapping into the broader options readily available to non-Indigenous businesses, limiting their ability to build financial independence and achieve economic self-determination.

The State of Indigenous Business Report 2024 by Supply Nation reveals Indigenous business owners face significant difficulties securing other types of funding, such as bank loans, private investment, and commercial finance. These challenges are rooted in systemic inequality.

Indigenous Australians continue to experience much lower rates of personal savings, home ownership, and inherited wealth – less than half that of non-Indigenous Australians – making it harder to offer collateral when seeking investment.

This gap stems from a long history of policies and laws that denied Indigenous people the opportunity to build and pass on financial security.

What makes this gap even more striking is the size and success of the Indigenous business sector itself.

In 2024, Indigenous businesses contributed an estimated \$4.9 billion to the Australian economy.

Corporate and government organisations spent a record \$4.6b purchasing goods and services from Indigenous-owned businesses.

Despite this growth, access to private-sector funding such as venture capital, equity investment, or mainstream business loans, remains out of reach for many Indigenous entrepreneurs.

Without these options, opportunities to build long-term sustainability are limited.

With a thriving sector and a strong customer base, Indigenous entrepreneurs are still largely invisible in Australia's investment landscape.

According to the Australian Investment Council's 2024 Annual Report, Australia's private capital industry has seen significant growth, with assets under management reaching \$140b, up 33 per cent from 18 months prior.

In contrast, IBA assets under management is just over \$2.3b, growing on average 7.1 per cent per year.

This difference highlights a broader issue: the over-reliance on government grants and loans positions Indigenous businesses

as social programs rather than viable commercial ventures.

To foster economic empowerment, there needs to be a shift in perception by the investment ecosystem – one that recognises Indigenous businesses as investable enterprises capable of driving growth.

To foster economic empowerment, the investment ecosystem must rethink how it engages with Indigenous businesses.

Australia has 34 active angel networks, managing portfolios of more than 350 companies and \$600 million in funding – a clear opportunity to bridge the investment gap.

These networks can embed Indigenous business frameworks into their programs, offer mentorship, ensure Indigenous representation, and create pathways for Indigenous entrepreneurs to access early-stage capital.

Similarly, Australia's 234 accelerator and incubator programs, supporting more than 2400 companies, must play a role. It is not enough to have one Indigenous-focused angel syndicate and accelerator.

Every syndicate and accelerator has unique capabilities and resources to offer, and all must contribute to advancing Indigenous entrepreneurship.

Investment firms at all stages of the business life cycle must also commit to including Indigenous businesses within their portfolios, continuously adapting their investment criteria to reflect the unique structures of Indigenous businesses.

Finally, banks have a key role to play, developing flexible lending models that move beyond traditional collateral requirements and providing dedicated Indigenous banking teams who understand the specific needs of Indigenous entrepreneurs and businesses.

Westpac and Commonwealth Bank have taken early steps in this direction.

These steps are key to changing how investors view Indigenous entrepreneurs, shifting perception and turning Indigenous businesses from invisible to investable – no longer seen as social programs, but as scalable, high-growth enterprises driving innovation and economic growth.

Once implemented, these efforts could pave the way for a milestone moment, the listing of Australia's first Indigenous-owned business on the ASX – an achievement that would signal true progress towards Indigenous economic empowerment and self-determination.

Alex Sanderson is the founder and former President of UNSW First Nations Business Society, an Indigenous business coach and advisor at Yarpa, and an executive education facilitator (Indigenous programs) at the Australian Graduate School of Management.

Recognition & support for vets

ZAK KIRKUP

Indigenous veterans have long been underrepresented in Australia's historical records, their contributions overlooked.

A partnership between CommBank and Our Indigenous Veterans is working to change that, ensuring First Nations service members receive recognition for their sacrifices, and support in their post-service careers.

Our Indigenous Veterans, founded by Zita Vafiopulous, is dedicated to acknowledging the service of Indigenous people in the military. With a team of volunteers, the organisation is developing a database to preserve this history.

A milestone in this effort was the recent launch of the partnership between Our Indigenous Veterans and CommBank at RSL LifeCare in Wagga Wagga, which signifies more than historical recognition – it is a commitment to ensuring Indigenous veterans have pathways into business and economic success post-service.

Transitioning from military life to entrepreneurship presents challenges, and access to funding, networks, and business support is a barrier for many Indigenous veterans.

Through its Indigenous Business Banking division, CommBank is taking steps to bridge this gap,



Zita Vafiopulous (second from left) with veterans involved in the program.

providing sponsorship to develop a website where Indigenous families can document and share the service histories of their loved ones.

The initiative preserves records and also serves as a networking platform, allowing veterans to connect with opportunities and support services.

Ms Vafiopulous emphasised the role CommBank played in bringing the initiative to life.

"We have found working with the Indigenous unit so rewarding," she said.

"They believe in what they are doing, and it shows in the way they work with us and our own Indigenous Aunties and Uncles.

"They are very genuine women, and I could not ask

for better partners for this project."

She noted veterans "can do whatever they set their minds to, provided they are given the opportunity and the support for their ideas".

Julie Hall, senior manager of CommBank for Veterans, said it was the first dedicated banking program in Australia supporting veterans and their families transitioning into business ownership.

"Our mission is to empower all those who have served, past and present," she said.

CommBank has actively engaged with Indigenous communities and veteran organisations, ensuring their contributions are acknowledged.

"Because of this sponsorship, Indigenous families will have a dedicated place where they can tell their stories . . . boots and all, and not have them edited. They will receive the recognition that is justly deserved, as are all veterans. This is what our team believes in and our way of saying 'thank you for your service'," Ms Hall said.

"We cannot change what has been done in the past," Ms Vafiopulous said.

"We cannot go back to the 20th century and right the wrongs done to our Indigenous servicemen and women, but we can continue to move forward in acknowledging their culture, traditions, and treat them as equal in everything."

Jundalya makes strides in recruitment

Jundalya Human Resources is leading Indigenous employment for Mineral Resources, actively seeking Indigenous talent from across Western Australia.

Founded in February 2023, Jundalya is a 100 per cent Thalanyji-owned business which has already made 14 successful placements across MinRes' operations.

Jundalya director Karen Hayes has extensive experience and community connections in Onslow, Carnarvon and Port Hedland, and is committed to providing employment opportunities via the mining and construction projects in the region.

Jundalya and MinRes joined forces in October 2023, with the miner awarding Jundalya a MinRes business establishment grant and a services contract for recruitment services across all its sites.

Ms Hayes said the collaboration with MinRes fostered a multi-generational relationship, ensuring the voices of the Thalanyji people were heard and respected.

"It creates valuable employment opportunities and promotes sustainable development that benefits not just the local community, but the broader region," she said.

"Starting with just one dollar in the bank, the company has worked hard to establish itself in the recruitment market."

Ms Hayes said her dream had always been to run a recruitment business, and with Mineral Resources' help, that dream had become a reality.

"The positive impact on both the business and the community is clear, and there's a strong sense of confidence in moving forward, even though it's hard work," she said.



Jundalya director Karen Hayes. Picture: Jundalya

"Our aim is to become the leading recruitment and human resources company for the mining industry, known for our exceptional service to both clients and candidates.

"We strive to grow into a trusted partner in the industry, delivering value and excellence at every opportunity."

MinRes manager of Indigenous business development Ashley Carey said Jundalya had shown its expertise in connecting suitably qualified people with exciting opportunities at its Onslow Iron project and other MinRes roles Australia wide.

This report was produced with the support of MinRes.

VTEC graduates celebrate

This month, Fortescue celebrated its latest cohort of graduates from its award-winning Vocational Training and Employment Centre program.

The 10 graduates marked the occasion alongside friends, family and their new colleagues at a ceremony in Boorloo/Perth.

The event began with a Welcome to Country led by Noongar Elder Barry Winmar.

VTEC graduate Elysia

Douglas, a proud Ballardong, NyakiNyaki and Whadjuk Noongar woman, shared her gratitude for the program.

"It's been an amazing experience to work alongside an incredible team who have made the journey so much more enjoyable and meaningful," she said.

"I'm truly grateful for the trust and opportunities we have been given, and I'm excited for what's ahead."

Fortescue's chief operating officer Shelley Robertson

highlighted the program's impact.

"Every VTEC graduation showcases the remarkable impact of this trailblazing program, driving generational change for First Nations Australians," she said.

"By equipping graduates with lifelong skills, we are fostering sustainable careers in the resources sector and beyond."

Built on the principle of securing a guaranteed job upon completion, VTEC has

enabled more than 1500 First Nations Australians to gain full-time employment since the program was established in 2006. Delivered across Western Australia, including Perth, Busselton, Broome, Karratha, and Port Hedland, the program reflected Fortescue's "dedication to supporting First Nations communities and creating pathways for success", the company said.

This report was produced with the support of Fortescue.



Elysia Douglas

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

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



Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	08/3725	MINING EQUITIES PTY LTD	10BL	142.7km S'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 22° 54' S Long: 116° 3' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2113	MINERALS 260 HOLDINGS PTY LTD	17BL	14.5km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 55' S Long: 121° 0' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2114	MINERALS 260 HOLDINGS PTY LTD	37BL	41.7km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 19' S Long: 121° 9' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2115	DYNAMIC METALS LIMITED	3BL	27.5km S'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 26' S Long: 121° 35' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2116	LYNCH, Aubrey	4BL	16.4km NW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 5' S Long: 121° 34' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	29/1288	MT IDA LITHIUM PTY LTD	10BL	87.9km W'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 59' S Long: 120° 26' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/5195	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	10BL	43.3km W'ly of Wittenoom	Lat: 22° 15' S Long: 117° 54' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/5275	MAINLAND MINERALS PTY LTD	65BL	14km SW'ly of Whim Creek	Lat: 20° 56' S Long: 117° 45' E	KARRATHA CITY
Exploration Licence	52/4433	SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE MINING LIMITED	169BL	118.3km NE'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 24° 45' S Long: 119° 23' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/4434	SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE MINING LIMITED	8BL	130.7km NE'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 24° 42' S Long: 119° 31' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6911	CHANCEUX METALS PTY LTD	123.62HA	27km NW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 59' S Long: 121° 30' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	15/6927	CYBORA PTY LTD	6.22HA	30.3km SW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 22' S Long: 121° 25' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6928	CYBORA PTY LTD	8.39HA	30.8km SW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 22' S Long: 121° 25' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6943	KURRAWANG RESOURCES PTY LTD	199.02HA	16.8km SW'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 52' S Long: 121° 22' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6944	KURRAWANG RESOURCES PTY LTD	199.68HA	16km SW'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 52' S Long: 121° 23' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3510	TOMAHAWK RESOURCES PTY LTD	183.18HA	36.7km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 41' S Long: 120° 56' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3513	GOLDEN STRIKE PTY LTD	77.90HA	40.1km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 41' S Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3514	TOMPKINS, Gregory Dean	131.93HA	28.9km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 35' S Long: 120° 54' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3515	LORDING, Brett Norman	199.54HA	31.6km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 36' S Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5839	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	195.31HA	7.8km N'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 22' S Long: 121° 20' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5840	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	199.95HA	7.7km N'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 22' S Long: 121° 20' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2866	MCCLAREN, Kym Anthony	179.44HA	18.9km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 44' S Long: 121° 40' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2867	MANSEN, James Karl	125.77HA	18.7km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S Long: 121° 39' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2614	LEE, Shannon	88.52HA	24.3km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S Long: 121° 34' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2615-S	BOWDEN, Mitchell Sam	9.66HA	56.4km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 13' S Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2616-S	GUISE, David Jonathon	9.97HA	57.4km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 28' S Long: 121° 58' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2617-S	GUISE, David Jonathon	9.90HA	57.6km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 28' S Long: 121° 58' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2618-S	GUISE, David Jonathon	9.96HA	57.5km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 28' S Long: 121° 58' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of 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: 23 April 2025. Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **23 July 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. **Expedited procedure:** The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each licence may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **23 August 2025**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. Please note – Not all Intention to Grant notifications are published in the National Indigenous Times. For more information please contact the Department above.

* – 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²

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

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



Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	15/1921	MACPHERSONS REWARD PTY LTD	28.59HA	8.8km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 1' S Long: 121° 11' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	25/387	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	168.86HA	29.7km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 42' S Long: 121° 46' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	29/448	HAWTHORN RESOURCES LIMITED	17632.11HA	98.6km W'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 59' S Long: 120° 19' E	MENZIES SHIRE
		LEGACY IRON ORE LTD				
		HANCOCK MAGNETITE HOLDINGS PTY LTD				

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years. **Notification day: 23 April 2025. Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **23 July 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. The mining tenements may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **23 August 2025**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the mining tenements. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. Please note – Not all Intention to Grant notifications are published in the National Indigenous Times. For more information please contact the Department above.

NOTICE OF GRANT AMALGAMATION APPLICATIONS NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

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



Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg. No.	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
57/1257	REDScope ENTERPRISES PTY LTD	726190	110.57HA	104.6km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 48' S Long: 118° 46' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals. **Notification day: 23 April 2025. Native title parties:** Under Section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the applications. The 3 month period closes on **23 July 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. **Expedited procedure:** The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each amalgamation application may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **23 August 2025**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. Please note – Not all Intention to Grant notifications are published in the National Indigenous Times. For more information please contact the Department above.

Chamber urges govt backing

BRENDAN FOSTER

The Goldfields Aboriginal Business Chamber wants the West Australian Government to work more closely with regional chambers to empower First Nations businesses and drive long-term economic change.

Melissa Tombs, general manager of the Kalgoorlie-based chamber, said governments should engage with Aboriginal business chambers.

“The WA Government and national Government should be looking to partner with regional Aboriginal business chambers to invest in First Nations’ long-term business sustainability,” she told the Indigenous Business Review.

“This partnership will help close the economic gap, create sustainable employment, and ensure that Indigenous communities benefit from the resources and opportunities in their regions.

“Funding for business sustainability, currently there are

other organisations funded via (the National Indigenous Australians Agency) to help startup Indigenous businesses and even microfinance startups, which is fantastic to encourage our First Nations entrepreneurs but there is a lack of initiative and funding for sustainability.”

The GABC, based nearly 700km east of Perth, offers a range of services to support Aboriginal businesses in the region, including networking opportunities, business development advice, and mentorship.

It provides advocacy and representation for Aboriginal entrepreneurs, helps with accessing funding and grants, and offers professional development workshops and events to enhance business skills.

“GABC also advocates for First Nations businesses, ensuring their voices are heard in policy and decision-making processes,” Ms Tombs said.

“Additionally, they provide training, professional development, and access to funding op-



GABC secretary Katrina Stubbs, vice-chair Judd Harris, and chair Rowena Leslie. Picture: GABC

portunities to help businesses thrive and create sustainable economic impacts in the Goldfields region.”

While the First Nations economy in the Goldfields region has experienced significant positive transformation, Ms Tombs said several Indigenous businesses still faced barriers.

She said while some of these barriers were multifaceted and required tailored solutions, some of the biggest challenges included access to capital and funding, navigating complex bureaucracy and procurement processes, limited capacity and skills development, and geo-

graphical isolation. Despite these hurdles, Ms Tombs said there had been a marked increase in the number of Aboriginal-owned businesses in various sectors, including mining, construction, tourism, arts, and hospitality.

“This growth is largely due to greater access to business support services, funding opportunities, and resources provided by organisations like the Goldfields Aboriginal Business Chamber,” she said.

The chamber will host the first Yuwa Aboriginal Business Conference & Expo in June. Media personality and First

Nations advocate Stan Grant will act as MC for some of the events, including a keynote speech by renowned chef and Meriam woman Nornie Bero.

“GABC is bringing together stakeholders, business community, marketing opportunities and business developments to achieve business community collaboration, investment opportunities and cross-promotion of Aboriginal businesses,” Ms Tombs said.

“The conference will serve as an opportunity to showcase Aboriginal businesses’ strengths and also drive new business opportunities.”

environment plans

seeking relevant persons’ input

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

our activities

To support the reliability of the Gorgon offshore gas gathering systems, Chevron Australia plans to install an electrical power and communications umbilical, approximately 135 to 200 kilometres off the northwest coast of WA. The umbilical lay route, between the Gorgon and Jansz-Io gas fields, is adjacent to existing infrastructure and areas previously disturbed as part of the Gorgon Gas Development.

The feedback we receive during consultation will inform and enhance the Gorgon Gas Development – Jansz Umbilical Environment Plan, which must be accepted by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) before activities may commence.

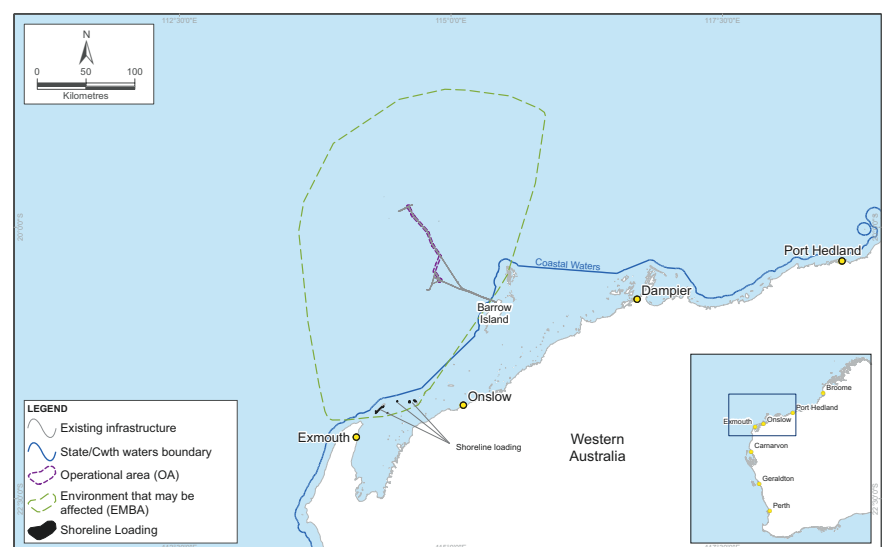
environment that may be affected (EMBA)

As part of our environmental assessment and consultation process, we create an EMBA map to provide geographical context for stakeholders to determine if their functions, interests or activities may be affected by an offshore activity during operations or in an emergency scenario.

The map shows the operational area (OA) and the EMBA, which is based on worst-case environmental scenarios – an unplanned release (oil spill) from a vessel collision and loss of containment from the hydrocarbon system. Shoreline loading refers to areas of the coast that may be impacted by hydrocarbons.

The EMBA has been defined through combining 300 simulations for each unplanned release scenario under different weather and ocean conditions. This means that in the highly unlikely event an unplanned release does occur, a much smaller geographical area would be affected.

The majority of the impacts and risks directly arising from installation activities would occur within close proximity of the OA.



Chevron Australia has systematic control measures to prevent and mitigate emergencies and to reduce the impact of planned activities on the environment, including ecological, social and cultural sensitivities.

we want to hear from you

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

Please contact us by **16 May 2025** to be included in consultations. Visit australia.chevron.com/feedback, call tollfree on **1800 225 195** or scan the QR code for more information.



SPORT

BRIGHT FUTURE

MENTOR KEEN TO GIVE KIDS THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES IN ATHLETICS

JOSEPH GUENZLER

Proud Jarowair, Wakka Wakka and Turrbal woman Larissa Chambers took on a new role this month as development officer at Little Athletics Queensland.

Chambers, who grew up in the Ipswich region, brings more than a decade of experience in Indigenous health and a life-long connection to athletics.

She has worked with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and was previously an ambassador and staff member for Deadly Choices.

Chambers told National Indigenous Times she is excited to unite her cultural identity and sporting background in a role that supports community participation.

"It's very exciting to have two worlds collide for me — my Indigenous background and my love of track and field," she said.

Chambers began her athletic career with Goodna Little Athletics at the age of nine. Despite early challenges with leg strength, she was determined to improve. "Mum got advice that I might need leg braces, but instead she put me in Little Athletics," she said.

"Running helped build that strength." What followed was a national and international sprinting career.

She represented Australia at the 2014 World U20 Championships in Eugene, Oregon, competing in the 100m and anchoring the 4x100m relay team.

Her personal bests include 11.69sec. in the 100m, 24.23 in the 200m and 55.67 over 400m.

Chambers said her journey was shaped by both triumph and hardship, including her father's stroke in 2014, which pushed her to step back from athletics and take up a role with Deadly Choices.

"Being a full-time athlete and having to work full-time to sup-



Larissa Chambers at training. Picture: Instagram

port yourself is tough," she said. "But the experience made me stronger, and now I'm back and building towards competition again."

In her new role at LAQ, Chambers will lead programs focused on community engagement, growth and athlete development.

She is currently designing a NAIDOC-themed school holiday event — something she says has never been done before by LAQ.

"I didn't see many kids like me doing athletics growing up," she said.

"Creating this event brings together sport and culture.

"Running, throwing, jumping — these are all things our

mob have done naturally for generations."

She said the event will aim to create a culturally safe and welcoming space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to explore athletics.

"I want to open up a doorway for our community to get involved," she said.

Chambers said her hope is for young people to be inspired after seeing someone who looks like them in leadership.

"Just seeing the excitement from young Indigenous kids when I visit schools is so special," she said.

"If I can inspire even one person through this role, I know I've done my job."

Having trained under the

same coach, Vic Pascoe, for two decades, she values long-term relationships in sport and sees athletics as a lifelong journey.

"I'm 30 this year and I'm not slowing down," she said.

"If you're passionate, you keep going."

Chambers plans to return to competition in Townsville and is aiming to qualify for future State and national championships.

As she settles into her new position, she says the focus remains clear — creating better opportunities for young mob in athletics.

"With support, mentorship, and proper access, our kids can go far and I want to be a part of making that happen," she said.



Larissa Chambers

Resilient Rioli leads Port to win after rough week

JARRED CROSS

Tiwi Islander football star Willie Rioli showed remarkable resilience this month, leading Port Adelaide to an important victory against Sydney after a tumultuous week saw him take time away from club duties.

Rioli took leave after receiving racist and homophobic slurs on social media after declaring his "hatred" for Hawthorn after the two clubs' Gather Round clash.

On April 14, Rioli collated and shared online separate abusive

messages received following an earlier post in which the former Eagle vented issues with the Hawks. In the earlier post, Rioli wrote: "My hatred for this club goes way past last year antics, what they did to my dad, and my brother, is why I can't stand them, not the players #Coco-club."

Later, he posted an Instagram story featuring direct messages from social media users, some featuring foul-mouthed explicitly racist tirades.

The AFL Players' Association

backed Rioli, with outgoing chief executive Paul Marsh saying: "The racist and homophobic comments sent to Willie on his social media accounts are beyond acceptable. For what feels like the 1000th time, we ask these so-called football supporters to stop racially abusing the players. Thanks to those fans who continue to call this out."

Rioli's father, Willie Sr, was drafted to the Hawks in 1990 but did not play a senior game for the club. Last June, former Hawthorn full-forward Jason Dun-

stall made disparaging remarks about Willie Sr's build and fitness during a Hall of Fame event. Willie Jr's cousin, Cyril Rioli, was a key figure in the Hawthorn racism scandal and legal proceedings against the club settled last year.

In a statement, Port Adelaide stated Rioli and his family "continue to carry deep-seated pain and sadness from past family experiences".

Rioli took a short break from his club, not attending training on Tuesday, April 15, before

returning to the track. On April 21, in his first game after the incident, Rioli starred for Port, racking up three goals, seven marks and 14 touches to lead his side to an eight-point win over the Swans.

Rioli's third goal proved crucial in wresting momentum back when the Swans threatened to overrun Port. Sydney had scored eight goals in less than three minutes to get within three straight kicks of the Power when Rioli slotted his third 15 minutes into the last term.