

Aboriginal News Territory Way

May 2022

Welcome to the Aboriginal Affairs newsletter – May 2022.

Keeping you up to date with what is happening across the Northern Territory, your region and community.



National Sorry Day 2022

Every year on 26 May, National Sorry Day remembers and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as 'The Stolen Generations'.

National Sorry Day is a day to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation. While this date carries great significance for the Stolen Generations and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, it is also commemorated by Australians right around the country.

The first National Sorry Day was held on 26 May 1998, one year after the [Bringing Them Home](#) report was tabled in Parliament. The *Bringing Them Home* report is a result of a Government Inquiry into the past policies which caused children to be removed from their families and communities in the 20th century.

Following this, in 2000, there was one issue that was high on the agenda at the [Sydney Harbour Bridge walk for reconciliation](#) – an apology to the Stolen Generations.

It was also high in the sky, when a group of people – independent to the organisation of the walk – had the word 'sorry' written in the clear blue skies above the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Such was the intensity of feeling and support for Stolen Generations members – many of whom were among the huge crowd that day.

We cannot begin to fix the problems of the present without accepting the truth of our history. Sorry Day asks us to acknowledge the Stolen Generations, and in doing so, reminds us that historical injustice is still an ongoing source of intergenerational trauma for Aboriginal and Torres Islander families, communities, and peoples.

[Learn more about National Sorry Day.](#)



Reconciliation Week - 27 May to 3 June 2022

The National Reconciliation Week 2022 theme, "Be Brave. Make Change." is a challenge to all Australians—individuals, families, communities, organisations and government—to *Be Brave* and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can *Make Change* for the benefit of all Australians.

Last year Reconciliation Australia encouraged all Australians to take action; not just in National Reconciliation Week but every week of the year.

We saw unprecedented response to our suggested actions for everyday and for braver action. This year Reconciliation Australia are asking everyone to make change beginning with brave actions in their daily lives – where they live, work, play and socialise.

National Reconciliation Week—27 May to 3 June is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

[Find out more about National Reconciliation Week](#)
#NRW2022 #BeBraveMakeChange



Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum – 27 May 2022

On 27 May, 1967, an overwhelming majority of Australian citizens voted “yes” in a national referendum to amend clauses of the Australian Constitution concerning First Nations people. Campaigners for the “yes” vote successfully argued that those references were discriminatory and excluded First Nations people from citizenship.

The historic decision has been remembered by some as the moment First Nations people won equal rights, including the right to vote and equal wages.

Though the referendum did not end legal discrimination or lead to parity between First Nations and non-Indigenous people in social, economic and health status, it was the catalyst for some significant legislation and has been of undeniable symbolic significance. In a sense the referendum has come to represent, as a form of historical shorthand, a decade of change from the early 1960s to the early 1970s.

[Learn more about the 1967 Referendum.](#)

The [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) was delivered on the 50th anniversary of the 1976 referendum (27 May 2017). The statement calls for structural reform, including (but not only) changing the constitution.

Learn more about the [Uluru Statement](#).

Aboriginal Interpreters Legal Training

The AIS Training Team recently collaborated with staff from the Top End Regional Office and staff from the Darwin, Palmerston, and Litchfield Offices to deliver legal training to Aboriginal interpreters. By working together we were able to engage the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) to assist with the training. NAAJA were fully supportive and provided the venue and their lawyers to assist with the training. The training was a success and NAAJA and the AIS training team will continue to work together over the coming months to ensure that Aboriginal interpreters are receiving this training. This training is important to Aboriginal interpreters as they often do interpreting in legal and courtroom settings.

Training Liaison Officer, Kenny Sutton from the Top End Regional Office and Nora Kempster and Esther Dean from the Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield Office were instrumental to this training and were key contributors in the preparation of the training and in engaging NAAJA.



Aboriginal Interpreters Training in Nhulunbuy

Three interpreters from East Arnhem recently undertook Legal Training in Nhulunbuy. The training was a joint effort between the AIS training team and the staff in the CM&C East Arnhem office.

The East Arnhem office is working hard to re-build a strong regional interpreter service through developing experienced interpreters in higher competencies and attracting new interpreters to this important community development role.

Basic legal training is a crucial part of Aboriginal Interpreter Service training and professional development, as it breaks down crucial legal terminology into plain English and language.

Having legally trained interpreters is critically important to the operation of the law and justice system in the regions. Charmaine Mununggurr, Dorothy Bidingal and Ruth Guyla-Hansen undertook the training with support from CM&C and The North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service (NAAFLS). Supporting roles included the Judge, Defence Lawyer and Solicitor for the interpreters training.

One of the training tasks in the legal workbook is a 'mock' plea hearing. With access to the Nhulunbuy Court House, it allowed the interpreters to have a near real life court proceeding – as well as an opportunity for Regional Project Officer, Jarryd Evison-Rose, to wield a gavel!!

This training wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of Kadeja James, AIS Training and Liaison Officer (TLO) East Arnhem. CM&C's East Arnhem office would also like to thank AIS Trainer Maria Corpus who came from Darwin to deliver the training. All interpreters and the CM&C team appreciated her instructive and patient approach in assisting the Interpreters to achieve a successful outcome.

CM&C East Arnhem is excited to be welcoming three new legally trained interpreters to our team!



First Circles Update

On 19 -21 April 2022, the First Circles team held their third workshop in Alice Springs.

Over the two and a half day workshop, the program had a focus on these key areas:

- Community Development and Leadership programs;
- Three levels of Government and the differences in responsibilities and service delivery;
- Developing their leadership and public speaking skills;
- Preparing discussion topics for their presentations to Cabinet.

The First Circles team have now locked in a date for the fourth and final workshop with the Chief Minister and Cabinet Ministers in August 2022.

There will also be a Graduation Reception held to celebrate the current members for completing the First Circles Program.

The fourth and final workshop is an opportunity for members to put the skills they have developed from the three workshops in practice, members will have the chance to speak to the Chief Minister and Cabinet on ideas and issues in their community that they would like to highlight.

The cabinet presentation is opportunity to practice:

- structuring members presentations to Cabinet;
 - consulting with key community stakeholders to ensure members have the support of community when advocating on key issues;
 - speaking with influence; and
- using this unique experience to build members confidence on their leadership journey.

First Circles Member Profile

Laelia Dunn



Community	Language	Employment
Milingimbi Yurrwi	Djambarrpuynu	NDIS Community Connector Team Leader

Laelia is currently working as a Parenting Educator for the Faft (Families as first teachers) program with Catholic Care NT.

Laelia's passionate about working with children, developing, supporting and encouraging, them to get the best out of life and to live the best life possible in their home community. Laelia is passionate about sport and enjoys playing in the Women's AFLNT and in her community.

Laelia has advised that she applied for the First Circles program to help her community and people to understand the government more. To have an opportunity to help lead a better and brighter future for Aboriginal people.

Laelia recognises the importance of leading by example and making positive healthy choices for the youth in her community to use as a role model.

What motivates and inspires me is the children I work with every day, educating them, supporting them, giving them a safe place to go to and seeing them happy. Giving children confidence & courage to achieve their goals and chase their dreams. My goal is to develop a foundation for up and coming youth leaders.

Some of my achievements:

- Playing for the Women’s AFL and being involved by supporting the young women in the community, being a mentor on and off the field, providing them with confidence.
- I am heavily involved with a lot of programs within the community and I am always trying to find the best way to create pathways. Through football, there has been a lot of good opportunities and that is what I want to encourage for the young women in my community and to help them become leaders in the future, encouraging the youth to make the right choices in life.
- I represent my Munupi clan group on the Tiwi Board.
- I’m also a Director of the TEABBA Radio board

First Circles Member Profile

**Jeremiah
Larrwanbuy
Baker**



Community	Language	Employment
Pirlangimpi	Tiwi	Faft Early Parenting Educator

I work at Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation under the NDIS team. I am a fully initiated Gurruwiwi clan member of the Galpu tribe, within the Dhuwa moiety group of the Ringitj'mirr mala Yolŋu Nation of North East Arnhem Land.

Designated by birth as a traditional custodian for my Maternal Grandmother (Djambarrpuyŋu) and Mother (Wangurri) tribal groups within the Dhuwa & Yirritja Yolŋu Nation. My obligation on behalf of these two tribes is to assist in mediation during traditional governance & cultural ceremonies.

This First Circles program may further develop my skills and knowledge on how best to work collaboratively with any Government and/or NGO consultations outside of traditional Yolŋu governance, which may ultimately provide a more productive voice for Yolŋu. I love my country, culture, ceremonies, language, the many customs and history.

I feel the program will complement other studies & training that I have completed. I’m passionate in working towards establishing a system where roles and positions, task and responsibility is in “synergy” between Yolŋu traditional governance and mainstream Government and Non-Government organisations.

What motivates and inspires me is our Yolŋu culture is so strong and complete, and the fact that it’s well established to accommodate past present and future, if given the chance.

Some of my achievements that I am proud of & just to name a few are;

- Having a wife with 3 kids & providing them a better life than I had at home
- One of the only Yolngu in my generation to have achieved / dedicate 20+ year in the NTPS
- Registered with National Accreditation Authority for Translators & Interpreters
- Member of Cultural Advisory Board of Australasian College of Emergence Medicine
- Cert III-IV Training and Assessment, now can provide real training for my mob
- Cert III-IV Social Housing, now will be able to work on overcrowding issues

Expressions of Interest – First Circles 2022-23

The First Circles Leadership Program is an NT Government flagship program aimed to help identify, mentor and support Aboriginal emerging leaders from remote communities across the Northern Territory.

The First Circles Leadership Program helps members develop and expand their leadership skills, increase their personal governance capabilities and learn more about the impact of public policies and programs on their communities, and help influence and contribute to change.

The program includes up to 30 Aboriginal Territorians from a mix of communities in the southern and northern regions of the Northern Territory.

Members of the program engage with government at the highest level including an opportunity to present and meet directly with Cabinet, providing advice and guidance on policies, projects and initiatives that impact on them, their families and communities.

Many members go on to represent their community on a national platform. Minister for Aboriginal Affairs,

Member for Arnhem Selena Uiibo, is a First Circles graduate.

The program is calling for expressions of interest from Aboriginal people that want to be part of the program in 2022-23. Nominations are now open and close 30 July 2022.

For more information, visit:

aboriginalaffairs.nt.gov.au/first-circles/how-to-apply

NT Aboriginal Leadership and Governance Forum 2022

The Northern Territory Government in partnership with key stakeholders, are excited to announce the return of the NT Aboriginal Leadership and Governance Forum.

The forum, to be held on 9 November 2022, will stimulate and inspire self-determined leadership and governance by Aboriginal people.

The highly anticipated forum will create an important opportunity to showcase and recognise exceptional Aboriginal leadership and governance in the Northern Territory.

The forum is designed to create a space for sharing, learning and exchanging how Aboriginal people and groups are influencing and reclaiming their leadership and governance that ensures culture, people and places are at the heart of their decision making and in turn achieving community aspirations.

Providing an opportunity to bring together delegates, from across the Territory's regional and remote communities, that includes elders, senior members of Aboriginal organisations and businesses, emerging leaders, together with heads of corporate, government and community organisations to share, inspire and connect.

The forum is a key event for Aboriginal Affairs in the Territory in 2022. It will include a welcome reception, keynote presentations, a governance masterclass, panel discussions and a networking event.

Ticket sales for early bird registration will open in July 2022.



New Office Location – Office of Aboriginal Affairs

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs including the Aboriginal Interpreters Service and the Aboriginal Affairs Strategic Partnership units have relocated to a new office location at Level 6, RCG Centre, 47 Mitchell Street, Darwin.

Key Dates and Events:

Event	Date
National Sorry Day	26 May
Reconciliation Week	27 May – 3 June
Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum	27 May
Barunga Festival	10 - 12 June
NAIDOC Week	3 - 10 July
Garma Festival	29 July - 1 August
Gurindji Freedom Day Festival	26 – 28 August
NT Aboriginal Leadership and Governance Forum	9 November

Talk to us anytime!

Office of Aboriginal Affairs

08 8999 8905

aaa@nt.gov.au

aboriginalaffairs.nt.gov.au

