

National Link-Up News

National Link-Up News Edition 16 May 2011

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New Role for AIATSIS Family History Unit

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Family History Unit is now funded by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) to provide services exclusively for Link-Up Services.

This new role inspired the AIATSIS Family History Unit to conduct a review of their services in order to establish how they can better support the needs of Link-Up staff.

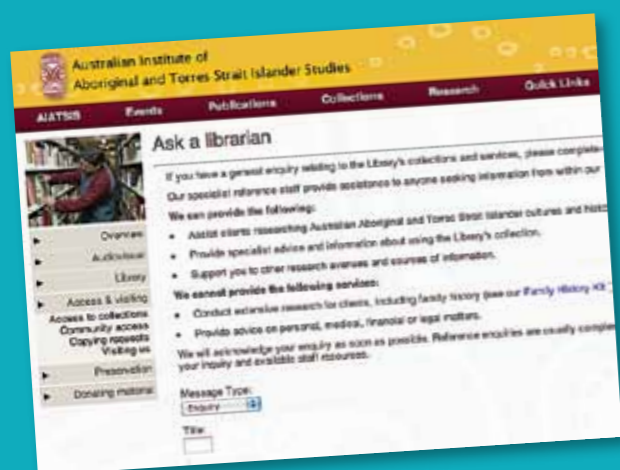
All Link-Up Services were consulted and many gave valuable feedback and suggestions which led to the development of a range of new services aimed at assisting and supporting family history research and access to family history information.

One of these new services is a dedicated free call number for Link-Up staff to phone the Family History team on – 1800 352 553.

As part of the Family History Unit's new role, services can no longer be provided to the general public. For Link-Up Services, this means that clients can no longer be directly referred to AIATSIS for a specialised, in-depth family history service.

Even so, the Family History Unit will maintain its website which is still a good starting point for people searching family history and clients can be referred to www.aiatsis.gov.au/fhu/about.html

The AIATSIS Library is also available for clients to access more generalised assistance relating to family, language, native title and culture. For information on the services provided by the AIATSIS Library see www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/reference.aspx



The AIATSIS Family History Unit looks forward to supporting Link-Up Services more closely. Their new range of services commence on 1 July 2011 and consist of:

- Family History Research training workshops in Canberra – 3 per year
- Refresher Family History Research training workshops – 1 per year
- 'Case File Reviews' at Link-Up Service sites – 1 per service per year
- Develop and publish a simple on-line 'Introduction to Family History Research' workshop module
- Develop a 'Research Checklist' for Link-Up Services
- Develop and publish a 'Beginners Guide to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family History Research'
- Develop and maintain best practice guidelines for conducting family history research for Link-Up Services
- Research and general inquiry requests from Link-Up Services
- 'Buddy System'
- Negotiate for, and then access, records from Canberra based record holding agencies (including AIATSIS) on behalf of Link-Up Services
- Maintain the ABI
- Assist Link-Up Services to build and maintain relationships with state and territory record agencies
- Local 'Information Sessions', in partnership with state record agencies (where possible), on-site at Link-Up Services at the same time as Case Review visits
- Establish, lead and administer a network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history organisations
- Redevelop and maintain the AIATSIS Link-Up Service webpage
- Establish and disseminate FHU marketing material to Link-Up
- Implement quality improvement and review strategies

The AIATSIS Family History Unit welcomes Link-Up Services' feedback, suggestions and questions about these new services.

Disclaimer:

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South Australia

Nunkuwarrin Yunti launches Stolen Generations Educational Resource Kit

A new Resource Kit to help improve awareness of the history and intergenerational effects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations was launched at Parkside Primary School on 11 February by the Minister for Education, Mr Jay Weatherill MP.

The wet weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of Unley Primary School students, however, the planned march to Parkside Primary School with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags was abandoned due to heavy rain.

The resource is targeted to upper primary school student groups and was developed as a resource for teachers to present information to students using interactive learning tools. The kit includes an electronic version of the package as well as fact sheets, music, documentary footage and links to relevant websites, books, DVDs, CDs and a wide range of other resources. It covers themes and topics about the impact of colonisation, Stolen Generations, the *Bringing Them Home* Report, the Apology, Reconciliation and the importance of cultural identity and country.

The kit was developed in response to many requests received over the years from schools for SA Link-Up to present information about the Stolen Generations. The Apology to Stolen Generations by the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on 13 February 2008 sparked further requests for information from schools and the community who wanted to find out more about Aboriginal people and their history.

At the launch, students from Parkside and Unley primary schools heard several emotional and moving stories from Link-Up clients about the importance of this type of information being taught in schools and their experiences of being removed from their families.

Jenni Caruso from the Croker Island Stolen Generations and currently Acting Dean of Aboriginal Education/Wilto Yerlo at the University of Adelaide commented that such resources are crucial to teaching and learning about the Stolen Generations in schools. In particular, Jenni noted she was so pleased that her daughter Demi, who is studying a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching and works part time for the SA Link-Up Program, will have a culturally appropriate resource from which to teach Aboriginal history in schools.

For further information about the kit, telephone SA Link-Up on (08) 8223 5217.

Photos: 1. A valiant attempt at a march was abandoned due to heavy rain 2. Students Lawson and Carly Dodd, Jenni Caruso and Demi Caruso



Survival Day

SA Link-Up participated in the Survival Day event at Tandanya on Wednesday 26 January. Staff from SA Link-Up and Nunkuwarrin Yunti promoted services and created awareness of the impact of removal in Aboriginal culture.

At least 1,000 people attended throughout the day. Activities included face painting, a water slide for the kids, music, and entertainment.

The Nunkuwarrin Yunti display included SA Link-Up, staff from the clinic providing free health checks, staff from the Tobacco team promoting the Quit Smoking Program, and also staff from the Towilla Purrtiappendi Counselling team.

It was a successful day with a few new clients signing up for Link-Up services.

South Australia *Apology Day*

On Thursday 10 February, SA Link-Up held a community event for the Anniversary of the Apology. Vicki Holmes and Aunty Irene Allen welcomed the community to the event.

Sharon Betty, then Acting Program Manager, gave an overview of what Link-Up are currently working on and the staff introduced themselves and spoke about their current projects.

Joy Makepeace graciously shared her story of removal, struggles and how she overcame them with the help of the SA Link-Up Program and how she gained her identity back. Everyone at the event thought Joy had amazing strength and was one of the highlights of the day.

After a light lunch, the Croker Island 2009 Reunion DVD was shown to the audience, highlighting the importance of documenting institutional reunions, and clients sharing memories, photos and stories.

This reunion brought together over 100 first generation clients from around Australia in the Northern Territory, where the majority were removed from their families and communities under Australian Assimilation Policies and then raised on Croker Island under the Methodist Mission.

The Croker Island reunion demonstrated the partnership of all Link-Up Services around Australia working together to support clients. Several clients played key roles in sharing personal reflections of their time on Croker Island.

Clients participated in a family day with extended families, visits to the Northern Territory Archives, slide shows of old photos, group dinners, fishing trips and some returned to Croker Island for the first time.

Community members expressed that it was very moving for the audience to be witness to such an inspirational and acknowledging event.

Croker Island Reunion **DVD Launch to Clients**

On 23 February, SA Link-Up launched the 2009 Croker Island Reunion DVD to South Australian clients involved in the reunion.

The photos and stories told by members of the Croker Island group on the DVD brought back floods of memories for the clients about growing up and looking after each other on the mission. They also recalled newer memories when the Children of Croker Island were reunited at the 2009 Reunion in Darwin and several members made the trip out to Croker Island by plane for the day.

The DVD tells the history of the establishment of the Croker Island Mission in 1941 and shows the policies of the time which is important information for everyone who was sent there. It also includes a story about the historical evacuation of the Mission, and the long trek made by the children.

For SA Link-Up staff, it was wonderful to watch the expressions and emotions of these amazing people as they watched the DVD with joy and sorrow.



Photos:

1. Edna Oosting and Eva Johnson
2. Betty Raymond and Son
3. Jenni Caruso and Harold Furber
4. Lorraine Siewes, Maggie Gray and Tania Gaston

Point Pearce Community Visit

Caseworkers Toni Liddle and Nicki Morey conducted a community visit to Point Pearce on 21-25 February 2011 to promote SA Link-Up to local organisations which provide services to the Aboriginal community of Yorke Peninsula.

Toni and Nicki presented information and showed the 'Why Me?' DVD to staff members at the Maitland Hospital. This provided an opportunity to network with people who work closely with the Aboriginal community at Point Pearce.

They also visited local schools in the area and provided information about the Stolen Generations including the Educational Kit and SA Link-Up information packs. Toni and Nicki also had an opportunity to speak with the Aboriginal Education Worker Eddie O'Loughlin from the Maitland Area School about the challenges he faces on a

daily basis. Eddie requested that SA Link-Up give a presentation to all school staff members to support him in raising awareness.

On Wednesday 23 February, Toni and Nicki attended a Community BBQ organised by Bringing Them Home Counsellor Rex Angie. Approximately 30 people attended including council members, community members and service providers.

The event gave the Caseworkers an overview of what services are available to the Point Pearce community and an opportunity to speak with community members about the SA Link-Up service.

Toni and Nicki said, "It was a privilege to sit and listen to the Elders share stories about what life was like living on the Point Pearce Mission in the past and it was a perfect opportunity to network with new and established contacts in relevant services such as Housing SA, DASSA, and the Aboriginal Mental Service".

Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Whyalla Community Visits

Photos:

1. Bec Edser (SA Link-Up) with Gail, Sara and Valma from Pika Wiya Health Service in Port Augusta
2. Tony Ratzmann, Donna Pickett (SA Link-Up), with Lyn and Colin Roughton from Tarpari in Port Pirie

At the beginning of March this year, SA Link-Up Counsellor Donna Pickett and Caseworker Bec Edser visited Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla.

Over the four days, Donna and Bec visited Bringing Them Home Counsellors Tony Ratzmann and Colin Roughton in Port Pirie and Valma Ah-Nge in Port Augusta. They also visited many other local government and non-government agencies in each town including Port Augusta Prison, Warni Kata in Davenport, and Nunyara Wellbeing Centre in Whyalla to promote Link-Up and to establish connections within these communities.

Donna and Bec also visited some existing clients in preparation for a reunion and other reunited families to find out how they are staying connected.

The partnership SA Link-Up has with services through these visits are integral for supporting clients and the team hopes to continue strengthening these working relationships.

Stop Press

It has just been announced that Sharon Betty is the new SA Link-Up Program Manager following Kay Goodman-Dodd's promotion to Manager of Social and Emotional Wellbeing Programs for Nunkuwarrin Yunti of SA Inc. At the same time, Lorelle Hunter has been promoted to the position of Cultural Team Leader. There will be more news about the new team in the next edition.



Western Australia - Yorgum

Link-Up Services Consolidate in Yorgum

In the beginning of 2011, Albany Link-Up and three Bringing Them Home Counsellors from the Great Southern GP Network were amalgamated into Yorgum Link-Up to provide a larger and more focused service.

With the amalgamation, came an exciting role for Caseworker Gail Wynne who has many family connections throughout the region and local knowledge.

An 'Open Day' in Albany gave the local community an opportunity to hear about the new arrangements for service delivery to the Great Southern region and an Apology Day event was also held in Albany.

Heartfelt Reunion in Wankajunka

A recent reunion held in the small isolated community of Wankajunka in the Central Kimberley region was especially close to the Yorgum Link-Up team's hearts, as one of their own staff members, Ms Beth Manchester, was reunited with her family.

Beth was taken from her mother at two months old and adopted to a loving family in Perth. She lived in Perth for most of her life and never knew much about her family until she came in contact with her biological mother who was residing in Perth. This was a huge turning point in Beth's life as she was eager to know all about her family and where she came from.

This year, Yorgum Link-Up assisted Beth to answer some questions, with the help of her cousin, about connections to her Father's family who reside in Wankajunka community, formerly known as Christmas Creek Station.

Beth met with her last living Aunty, Rosie, who was so pleased to meet her Brother's daughter. Beth was able to reconnect with her immediate family and extended family for the first time and saw the Country she has long been disconnected from.

The reunion was very emotional for everyone involved and now Beth maintains a very strong connection with all her family and is in regular contact with Aunty Rosie.

It was one of the most heartfelt reunions for the caseworkers and the Community of Wankajunka, especially the Elders, who were great hosts.

Other Reunions Around the West

- Back to Country Reunion and Graveside Reunion at Onslow/ Yanrey Station for the Taylor Family
- Back to Country Reunion at Turkey Creek/Warmun for the Kelly, Ring and Gregory families
- Reunion in Geraldton for the Neale/Raven family
- Back to Community Reunion at Beagle Bay for the Beasley family
- Back to Country Reunion at Dalgetty Downs for the Taylor family
- Back to Country Reunion at Paynes Find for the Clinch family
- Mead Graveside Reunion in Gove, Northern Territory

Photos: 1. Yanrey Station 2. Beth and family



Promoting Link-Up Services

Yorgum Link-Up has attended or hosted various events this year to promote Link-Up services including:

- NAIDOC Celebrations in Kalgoorlie hosted by BEGA Garnibirringu Health Service
- NAIDOC Celebrations hosted by Albany City Council
- NAIDOC Celebrations hosted by Yorgum Link-Up
- Apology Day 2011 hosted by Yorgum Link-Up
- New Norcia Annual Reunion

Building Research Resources

Yorgum Link-Up's Research Officer has been collating various resources to enable more information to be provided to clients. Articles have been obtained and various databases such as those covering several local WA newspapers including the Westralian Aborigine, a newspaper that was managed by the Coolbaroo League; those in connection to the genealogies of Daisy Bates, Norman Tindale and AP Elkin; Citizenship Applications; Colonial Secretary Office Reports; and Daisy Bates Papers on genealogies completed during her travels with various Aboriginal groups in WA.

New Staff

The amalgamation of Albany Link-Up and Great Southern GP Network Bringing Them Home Counsellors with Yorgum Link-Up has seen the team grow from seven workers to thirteen.

The team now includes six Link-Up Caseworkers, one Link-Up Counsellor, three Bringing Them Home Counsellors, one Research Officer and two Admin Officers.



Alana Colbung
Caseworker



Beth Manchester
Admin Officer



Casey Butler
Research Officer



Lesley Skuse
Counsellor



Ilesha Tammen
Admin Officer

Western Australia - Kimberley

Flower Power

Commemorates Stolen Generations

Each year, the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation (KSGAC) recognise those who were removed from country, language and culture with the distribution of a commemorative 'silk' native hibiscus flower.

The flower was chosen by Stolen Generations members and was endorsed by the Stolen Generations Alliance and National Sorry Day Committee. It is a symbol that people everywhere can display to show their support and respect for those who were taken from their families.

The native hibiscus is found widely across Australia and is a survivor. Its colour denotes healing and compassion and it

presents as a friendly, contemporary icon without political or social barriers.

A large quantity of silk imitation native hibiscus flowers have been produced and can be purchased for \$2.50 each, post-free. Boxes of 48 silks can also be purchased for \$88 by organisations, schools and businesses wanting to distribute these memorial flowers.

For more information or to purchase the flowers in bulk please contact KSGAC on tel: **(08) 9193 6502**, email: ksgac@iinet.net.au, or online: www.kimberleystolengeneration.com.au/flower.html

Kimberley Welcomes Back Frank Parkes as Coordinator



After going to South Australia for family reasons last year, Frank Parkes has returned to KSGAC as Coordinator of the Link-Up Service.

Frank said, "Hi everyone it's great to be back in the Kimberley, I really miss it and I have come back at an exciting time and look forward to the future. We will be

delivering many improved services to our clients and look forward to sharing these with you later."

"The review of the Bringing Them Home and Link-Up Manuals workshop with Urbis was a good way to improve the manuals and to network with other service providers in the Kimberley. The Social and Emotional Wellbeing Workforce Support Unit workshop also provided valuable resources to improve service to clients."

In the Kimberley Link-Up Office...



Christine Hill
Senior Link-Up
Caseworker



Jodie Shadforth
Reception



Tania Bin-Bakar
Administration

James McKenzie Joins Link-Up



In October 2010, James McKenzie commenced working with KSGAC. James is a Jabirrabirr man from the West Kimberley, a father and grandfather.

He has a special affinity with Link-Up Services because his own mother was taken away from her parents when she was 3 years old.

During James' working life, he completed a Mechanical Fitter's apprenticeship in Perth in 1986 before returning home to Broome where he has lived the majority of his life and worked with government agencies in Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Wyndham and Kununurra.

Before joining Link-Up, James worked for the Department of Corrective Services as a Juvenile Justice Officer and Community Corrections Officer for 14 years.

Queensland

Floods and Cyclone Yasi Disrupt Link-Up Queensland

Link-Up Queensland's head office had a disruptive start to the year with staff returning after their Christmas break only to be informed days later to evacuate the office due to the rapidly rising Brisbane River.

The Brisbane office access was cut off due to the rising water, though fortunately files and equipment remained high and dry during the whole experience.

Access to the Rockhampton office was also cut off due to the rising waters in the Fitzroy River, and the Townsville and Cairns offices had to shut down for a period due to Cyclone Yasi.

Photos: 1. Nearly waist deep in floodwaters 2. Streets became rivers



Although Link-Up (Qld) is now in a good position to develop a realistic Disaster Management Plan, what would normally have been a peaceful time to attend to 'important but not urgent jobs' ended up being extremely busy with packing and unpacking files, and dismantling and reconfiguring computer systems and server.

The disruptive weather also inhibited the progression of some reunions which is unfortunate. But Link-Up (Qld) are grateful that all their team's homes and families were safe and sound.

With that behind them, Link-Up (Qld) moved forward into 2011 busy and excited by some of the large scale healing events on the horizon such as the Cherbourg Dormitory Reunion and Palm Island Healing Gathering, and are progressing reunions.

Welcome New Staff

With Katelyn Iselin on maternity leave, Mati Mistry's daughter Subhadra is coming in on Mondays to volunteer as Receptionist. New Caseworkers have been appointed including Margaret North and Janine Dunleavy, and Bernard Kelly Edwards has moved from Caseworker to a member of the Multimedia Unit while Leonie Pope worked as a project officer on the Cherbourg Dormitory Reunion.

Catherine Illin has been appointed as the new Social and Emotional Wellbeing Counsellor in Cairns working alongside

Caseworker Nick Thompson in the Far North Queensland office. Vanessa Smith, who was Family Research Officer whilst Ruth Loli is on Maternity Leave, has returned to university and her position has now been filled by Rosie Rennie.

While CEO Melisah Feeney attended the conference in Ireland, Caseworker Manager Brian Marshall was Acting CEO and Caseworker Karen Collins took on the responsibilities of Caseworker Manager.

'Never Give Up' - Surat Reunion



Bernadette became a client of Link-Up (Qld) in 2006 and has been on a journey since in search of her biological Mum's family. Bernadette's Mum was removed by adoption at an early age.

Many searches were sought through government agencies and included respecting Bernadette's spiritual intuition of her place of country. She travelled out to Dalby on a regular basis seeking answers, desperately yearning for family members.

A setback came in 2007 when government red tape blocked Bernadette from receiving information about her biological Grandfather who had passed on. This information was labelled 'exempt from release' under the Act.

Caseworker Karen Collins built a strong rapport with Bernadette and visited her in September 2010 to discuss the progress of her case. Bernadette presented adoption papers which identified the name of her maternal Grandfather and which assisted in locating his place of burial in Surat, Western Qld.

In understanding the importance of her culture, Bernadette was exposed to spiritual feelings and to find her identity, and she gained the strength and determination to 'never give up'.

Bernadette contacted her sister Leann in Lennox Heads (NSW) and decided it was time to go on their journey to be reunited with their Grandparents and possibly meet other family members along the way.

What a special journey for both sisters! The significance of being reunited with their Indigenous family and the years of yearning for that day of returning home.

Link-Up (Qld) Caseworker and Counsellor assisted both Bernadette and Leann to prepare for this special occasion. Upon locating the biological Grandfather's grave, both sisters, Caseworker and Counsellor attended the Surat Cemetery for the reunion.

The spiritual connection between Granddaughters and Grandfather was an emotional and powerful experience. In the township of Surat, a little old lady called Aunty Betty was introduced to Bernadette and Leann, and a strong connection was felt between all three. Aunty Betty is a sister to the girls' biological Mother.

Their journey had just begun, with family members arriving from all around Surat. Bernadette and Leann spent some time with family and it was wonderful to see so much connection and respect flowing which indicated the healing for the two sisters had begun.

Link-Up (Qld) acknowledges and thanks all families involved in this special journey.

Mother Meets Son in Maroochydoore Reunion



Can you imagine 31 years of pain and heartache wondering where your son could be, what he looks like or whether you will ever get to meet him again! This painful experience left a young Mother traumatised on 14 November 1979.

Margaret has been a client with Link-Up (Qld) since 2005 and has been on a journey in search

for her son Matthew who was removed by way of adoption when he was born in 1979. Struggling to come to terms with many issues along the way, Margaret never gave up, knowing spiritually in her own heart that a connection was coming.

Caseworker Karen Collins researched many government agencies and community organisations, and was able to build up a strong rapport with Margaret to prepare her for a family reunion. At the same time, Matthew was receiving support from Social and Emotional Wellbeing Counsellor Ruth Link to prepare him for this very special occasion.

The importance of Margaret's cultural values was evident and she was exposed to spiritual feelings, love and support from her two daughters as well as the strength, determination and 'grit to keep going'.

What a special journey for Margaret; the significance of being reunited with her son Matthew after 31 years of yearning, heartache and sorrow.

A beautiful park beside the beach at Mooloolaba was the ideal location for the reunion as both Margaret and Matthew had suggested that a beach would be wonderful.

Margaret and daughter Lydia along with Caseworker Karen Collins waited for Matthew and his wife Anthea to arrive with Ruth Link. As Matthew walked towards Margaret, the atmosphere was phenomenal and the connection between Mother and Son was extraordinary.

Tears of joy, happiness and the accepting of each other flowed as both Margaret and Matthew were exposed to the understanding of culture and kinship by hugs and spiritual feelings.

The next few hours of the journey were embraced with reflection time for the family. It was wonderful to observe the respect, sharing of stories and, most of all, the strong connection.

After two days of cultural connection, followed by the high energy of excitement and sheer joy, the family exchanged contact numbers and made plans to stay in contact as this reunion marked the beginning of their healing journey.

Cherbourg Dormitory Reunion



From 15-18 April 2011, Link-Up (Qld) hosted the Cherbourg Dormitory Reunion. The Dormitory System was another way of breaking up families.

The Cherbourg Dormitory was established in April 1901 and was originally known as Barambah Aboriginal Reserve. By March 1906, 258 Aboriginal people lived on the settlement and in 1909, the Girls Dormitory was built followed by the Boys Dormitory in 1910.

In 1924, the Stopford Home for Aboriginal Girls was opened and in 1927, a dormitory for babies and mothers was established.

By the late 1930s, a quarter of the Aboriginal population were living in the village and another quarter were resident in the dormitory.

Those who lived in the dormitory have said that this time left a gap in their lives in the form of a stolen childhood and represented a miserable existence of survival after the permanent removal from their precious lands and families.

The fond memories that people have held onto through the dormitory are indeed their family, culture and kinship connections.

Link-Up (Qld) honours those fond memories and acknowledges the pain and suffering inflicted upon the people who were sent to the dormitories by holding this Cherbourg Dormitory Reunion.

The Cairns Post

Help Daisy Find Her Family for Her 100th Birthday!

(Extract from the Cairns Post editorial)

At the third anniversary of the apology to the Stolen Generation, Andree Stephens meets a woman who, at nearly 100 years old, is still searching for clues about her missing family. Hopefully, the region can help her. She loves fishing by the river, growing beautiful flowers and occasionally banging the sticks to accompany an amped-up guitar when there's a get-together. She is the matriarch of generations of children and lives in a stately Queenslander full of life and family. If only Daisy Melba Archer knew her past.

"I am a member of the Stolen Generation," she says gravely. "I remember I was with my grandparents down at the riverside. They noticed me because I was the only half-caste. The rest were dark. Police come and grabbed me. Just took me. Nobody knew nothing. My parents didn't know, they were working down on the farm somewhere. I was just swimming with the other kids."

She smiles. "Oh, yeah, swimming down that river with no clothes. In that year there were hardly clothes," she giggles. "I remember my grandad Billy, he used to cut those banana leaves. We kids, we were sticky beaks and we watched what he'd do. He used to trim it - trimming it, trimming it - and you know, he'd make a skirt for himself for that privacy there. He got that skirt and walk about in it banana leaves. Grandma too. "I remember we were swimming down the river. I was the only pale one there, you know so when the police come they picked me up straight away. "They forgot to rub me with charcoal," she adds cheekily. Then like a chant, she repeats: "I'm a Stolen Generation, they stole me from my parents and I don't know nothing."

On July 19, 2011, it will be Daisy's birthday and her family, with assistance from a government agency, wants to try to find someone from that Indigenous past to attend her centenary celebrations. Daisy

was born in 1911 in Cloncurry, the daughter of Polly and granddaughter of Billy and Kitty. "That's how much we know," says her daughter, Gloria. "Polly was a full-blood and she worked, so Mum was more or less brought up by Billy and Kitty, her grandparents. They are the only three names we have.

But someone, somewhere, must know what happened to her family after that day on the river. "It breaks my heart," says caseworker Nick Thompson, of Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation. "We usually have a great success rate with reuniting families, but this one - we've hit a lot of brick walls. I just really want to help her."

Nick says he learned of Daisy's story through her son, George, who had been giving a speech about his mother to a forum held at Mareeba on the first anniversary of the apology in 2009. "I asked him about her and suggested I try to help," Nick says. "I'm glad I have met her. She's a wonderful woman. I had to ask her about her life story and she's a character all right. She would say my father was white, how else do you think I got this funny colour! She is precious."

Daisy will celebrate 100 years of life in mid-July. The family is hoping to organise a huge party with community support and will invite local dignitaries, friends and relatives, including her great and great great-grandchildren at a community hall at Dimbulah. The celebrations will include music and traditional foods.

If you have any information about Daisy Melba Archer, please contact Nick Thompson at Link-Up (Qld), 18 Scott St, Parramatta Park, Cairns. All communication will be strictly confidential. Mobile: 0420 306 502, Fax: (07) 4027 9665.

The complete editorial can be viewed at www.link-upqld.org.au/notice.html

Queensland

Promoting Link-Up

Link-Up (Qld) values their role in informing the general public about the Stolen Generations, the intergenerational impact that the policies and practices of past governments inflicted upon Indigenous Australians, and the healing approaches being provided.

Information is shared through presentations to schools, colleges, universities, community, and government and non-government organisations. These information and discussion sessions are well attended and incite thought in an area where the audience usually has little or no knowledge, especially in the treatment and restrictions placed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Photo: Mick with Police Cadets

Recently, Communications Manager Mick Angeles gave presentations to Justice Entry Program Police Cadets at the Oxley Police Academy; Community Service and Sociology classes at TAFE campuses Bracken Ridge and Caboolture; Grade 10 students at Brisbane State High School and Year 12 students at All Hallows Catholic Girls School in Brisbane. His informative, friendly, confident and comical presentation manner always results in requests for additional appearances.



Multimedia Unit Provides Lasting Memories

The Link-Up (Qld) Multimedia Unit, managed by Mick Angeles and Bernard Kelly Edwards, produces DVDs about reunions, community events, induction, Link-Up functions, training and any other area of interest.

Reunion DVDs endeavor to capture the sentimentality and emotional ambience of the event through the combination of imagery and music. A copy of the Reunion DVD is sent to each client as a memento of their Healing Journey and a further copy is stored in the Link-Up (Qld) library.

Connecting Art Initiative

Recently, Link-Up (Qld) and Swinburne University provided training for Aboriginal arts facilitators from a range of urban, regional and remote communities across Queensland to work with their local community in a 'connecting art' initiative.

Locations with high proportions of Stolen Generation people were prioritised and facilitators conducted workshops where Aboriginal people sat together talking, sharing stories and painting images that connected together to produce a whole group image.

This visual sharing and the overall pattern that emerged provided a rare and powerful experience for many participants. The artworks speak for themselves and demonstrate the cultural innovation possible when groups come together in respect.

The connective art program provides a safe cultural space where many things can be shared and wellbeing can be facilitated and sustained through deeper human connections. Further investigation

from videoed interviews with community artists will support understanding the impact of the connecting art initiative with remote and regional communities.



PHOTOS 1. Artist from Yarrabah - Elverina Johnson 2. Artist from Cairns - Zane Saunders 3. Artist from Mount Isa - Heather Andrews

International Women's Day BBB Luncheon

Link-Up (Qld) supported International Women's Day by sponsoring a couple of tables at the 'Bold Black & Beautiful Luncheon' hosted by former Indigenous model Sandra Georgiou at the West End Greek Club.

The luncheon and fashion parade is now in its third year and was attended by over 350 people. It was also the only opportunity to see Link-Up (Qld) Acting CEO, Brian Marshall, make his debut and finale in his modelling career as he gracefully gaited his way down the



runway to roars and cheers from the slightly tipsy throng. Australia's next top model ... I don't think so. (sic ed)

Bumehla Festival/NRL Indigenous All Stars

On 11 and 12 February, Link-Up (Qld) shared an information stall with the National Sorry Day Committee at the Bumehla Festival on the Gold Coast Southport Broadwater Parklands.

'Bumehla' is the Aboriginal word for 'painting up in readiness for a corroboree' and that corroboree was the NRL's second annual Indigenous All Stars match at Skilled Park.

Unfortunately, our boys lost this year, but look out for next year! Aboriginal Elder Joyce Summers said, "I've never seen so many Indigenous people in one place in all my life. It just reflected back to the old days when our people would have big gatherings. People used to come from miles around and gather for ceremony. That night felt a little bit like that."

In the lead-up to last year's All Stars match, some people held genuine fears about how the night would unfold. They put together the words 'Aborigine' and 'alcohol' and came up with 'trouble'. Some will rage at such negative stereotyping but the Aboriginal community seized this event as an opportunity to prove the doubters wrong.

"We had our own security people there," Ms Summers said. "They were all Indigenous. We had our own booze bus. We had Murri Watch picking up the people who had too much to drink. We were involved in all of that."

The annual event has proven to not only the Rugby League fraternity but also locally and nationally what Aboriginal identity is and what can be accomplished by working in unison and harmony as simple human beings. (Source: Gold Coast.com.au)



International Community Meet on Trauma and Spirituality in Ireland

CEO Melisah Feeny recently returned to the land of her own ancestors in Ireland, to present a paper on the work of Link-Up (Qld) titled 'The healing power of reclaiming identity and returning home' at an international conference on trauma and spirituality.

The Europa Hotel in Belfast – once notorious as the most bombed hotel in Europe – was host to the groundbreaking conference 'Trauma and Spirituality: An International Dialogue'. It provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships, networks and infrastructure between the 'trauma' world and the 'spirituality' world, both in Northern Ireland and internationally.

Many participants shared their own experience of trauma including one of the keynote speakers, Father Michael Lapsley. He suffered personal injury in South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle, losing both hands and an eye in a parcel bomb because of his support for the cause.

Speaking ahead of his keynote address, he said "No-one has a monopoly on the right way to heal. Each context is unique. But at the deepest level, we are one human family. I hope that as a result of the conference, people will have a more multidisciplinary, more holistic approach to understanding suffering. Pain is transcendent - that is what connects people," he said.

The other keynote speaker was Kaethe Weingarten, Associate Clinical Professor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School, who drew from her personal experience working with groups who have witnessed chronic community violence in Kosovo and South Africa. Weingarten is interested in the idea of 'witnessing' violence, rather than looking at it from the perspective of victims or perpetrators.

When it comes to recovery from trauma, Weingarten likes to distinguish between what she calls 'reasonable hope' and 'unreasonable hope', otherwise known as 'rainbow hope'. Unreasonable hope is the ambitious, unrealistic conviction that there will be a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow: an impossible dream that pain and trauma can be entirely erased.

In contrast, she advocates a model of reasonable hope, where communities saturated with chronic violence take moderate and, thereby more effective, steps to begin the process of healing.

Melisah gave a one hour presentation starting with footage from the Reconciliation DVD which begins with children being taken away and the Aboriginal Protector's words 'it is in their best interests'. The DVD shocked everyone into an emotionally vulnerable place and the realisation of how ignorant white people historically have been. It also got people thinking about what policies we have today that are equally destructive 'in the name of doing good'. Melisah ended the presentation with the National Apology speech and that brought tears into the room whilst participants pondered the power of saying sorry and how it could be used in other people's situations.

PHOTOS 1. Bumehla Procession 2. All-Stars arrive 3. NRL Kids 4. NRL Inglis - Greg Inglis meets a young fan

SPECIAL REPORT

Lawson Gives Pocket Money and Sells Toys for Queenslanders

As the flood and cyclone disasters unfolded in Queensland, Lawson Dodd, a Ngarrindjeri/Narungga/Kaurna young man from South Australia, was deeply moved.

Lawson donated all his pocket money to flood victims and also sold many of his toys and books at school to raise money. He wanted to catch a bus to Queensland and volunteer to help make sandbags for the many families facing the crisis. What an amazing generous spirit for a 12 year old!

As Lawson and his family watched the second natural disaster unfold with Cyclone Yasi, his thoughts were with all the families. He said to his Mum, what a wonderful job Premier Anna Bligh was doing in providing regular updates to everyone throughout the world. He said, Premier Bligh must be very tired!

Lawson thought the interpreting service was very sensible and thoughtful so everyone could get information.

In a letter from his Mum, Kay Goodman-Dodd (Nunkuwarrin Yunti of SA Inc.) to Premier Bligh, Lawson said he wanted to say a special thank you for all you have done for the people of Queensland. All of Australia should thank you; you should be the Prime Minister!

The disasters made Lawson think in a logical way about planning and he made plans for his own family if a flood came to their back door saying he would put his twin sister Carly up the ladder onto the roof first as she was the youngest (by only 1 minute being twins), and then he would get up the ladder and pull his Mum up as she has a bad back, and Dad would push him up and then climb up so all would be safe.

Lawson's cyclone plan was for the family to gather in the bathroom, fill the bath with water as directed by Premier Bligh to ensure drinking supplies were available, tape the windows, bring the mattresses for protection, and get the cat 'Mojo' and his food whilst his sister Carly would bring pillows and the games console. He said they would have to share a powerpoint but Mum was quick to point out that they wouldn't have any power. Lawson also gave tasks to Mum and Dad including what food and drinks they would need to gather and place in the esky. What a plan!

Premier Anna Bligh responded personally to both Lawson and Kay with separate letters thanking them for their support and Lawson's generosity. Whilst Lawson also wanted a signed copy

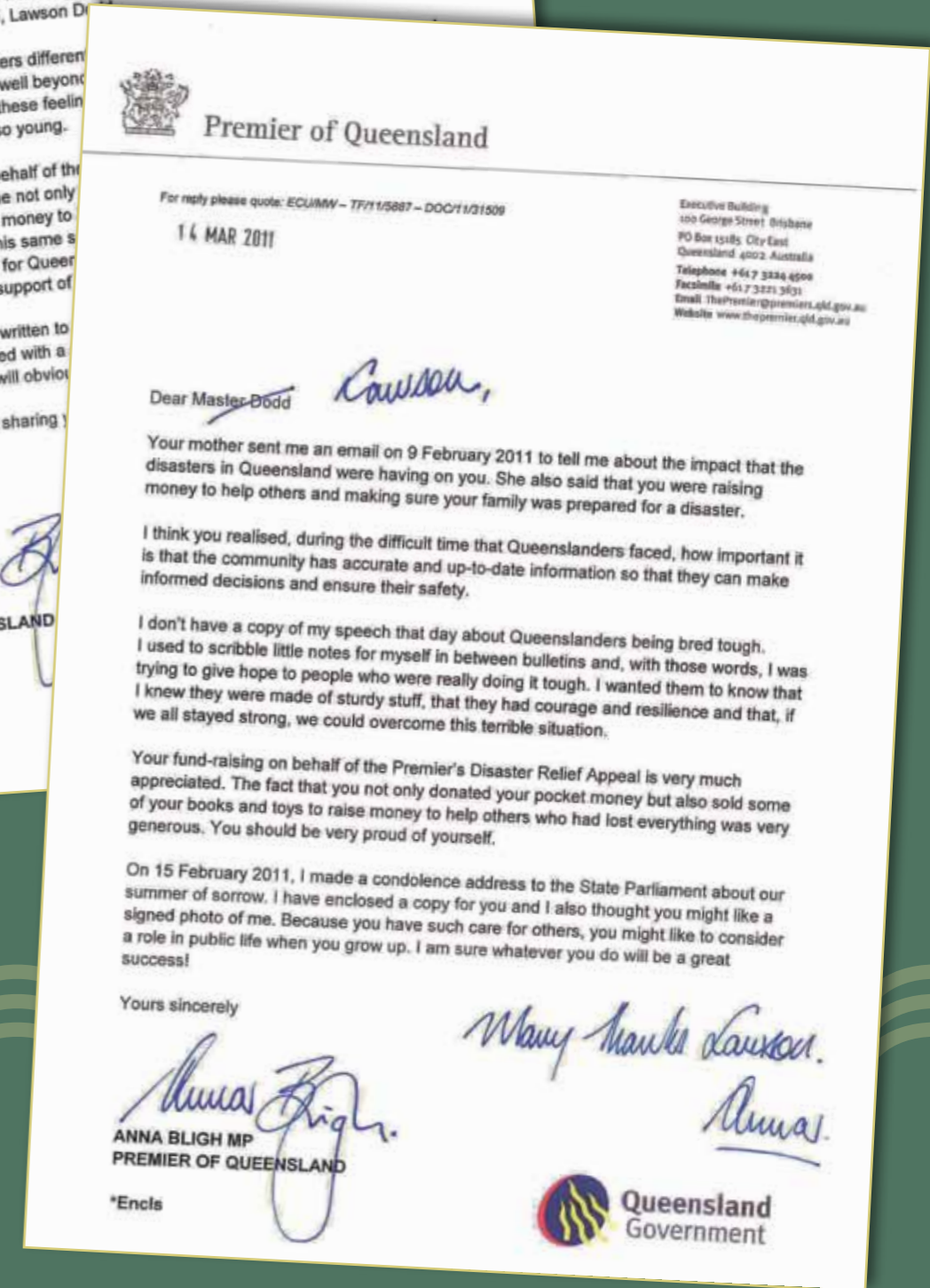
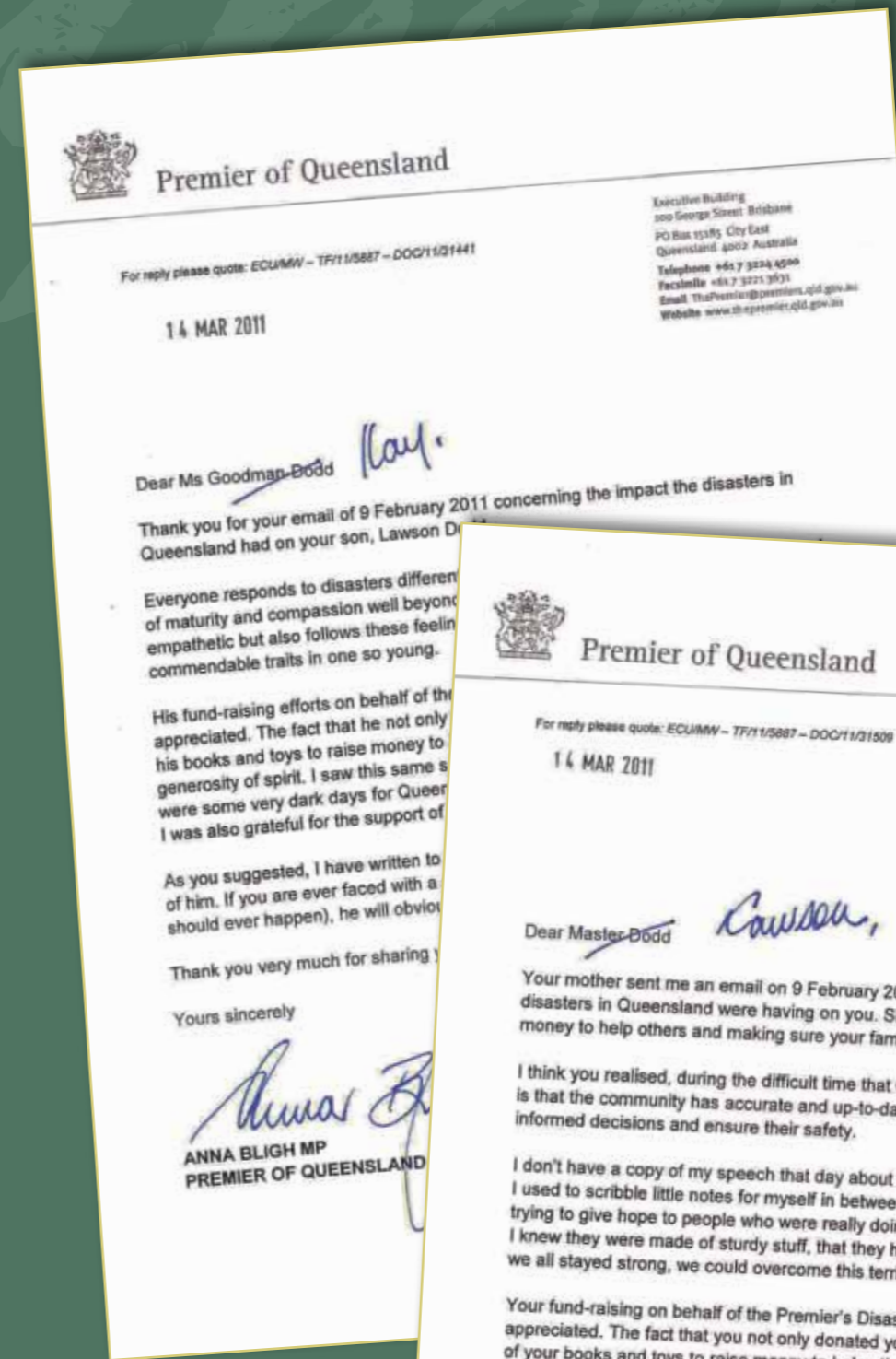
of her speech notes that became infamous in acknowledging the strength of Queenslanders, Premier Bligh could only send a copy of her condolence address to State Parliament and a signed photo as her famous speech was never written down in its entirety. As the disasters unfolded, Premier Bligh scribbled notes for herself inbetween bulletins and from these she gave a speech that touched the hearts of people worldwide.

Premier Bligh said in Lawson's letter that "because you have such care for others, you might like to consider a role in public life when you grow up. I am sure whatever you do will be a great success!"

In Kay's letter, Premier Bligh said, "Everyone responds to disasters differently but I think your son's reaction shows a level of maturity and compassion well beyond his young years. He is obviously highly empathetic but also follows these feelings through with direct action and these are commendable traits in one so young."



► Lawson works out his emergency flood plan, helped out by his Dad



Victoria

Commemorating the Apology to the Stolen Generations 13 February 2011

Link-Up Victoria designed and produced a commemorative badge to commemorate Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's Apology to the Stolen Generations. The heart-shaped badges were sent to all clients and Bringing Them Home Workers in Victoria, and will also be distributed at upcoming Sorry Day events in Victoria.



◀ Caseworker/Counsellor Tim Church modelling the commemorative badge

Reunion on Cummeragunja Country

Link-Up Victoria client Alice Solomon was recently reunited with her siblings and Elders in a reunion that included going back to Cummeragunja, her mother's country, and visiting her mother's gravesite at the Mooroopna Cemetery.

Caseworker/Counsellor Kooramyee Cooper coordinated the reunion and supported Alice and her family along with local Bringing Them Home Worker Lance James. The reunion took place over four days where family met for the first time and shared stories of their parents.

It was the first time that Alice had been back to Mooroopna Cemetery to see her mother's resting place and she shared this journey with siblings Michael, James, and Suzanne. She was also joined by other family representatives including her mother's sister Aunty Violet Arden, her mother's cousin Aunty Thelma Smith and Kutcha Edwards. Aunty Thelma shared her stories with Alice, Michael, James and Suzanne throughout the journey.

At Cummeragunja Mission, Yorta Yorta Elders welcomed the family and also shared country knowledge with Alice and her siblings.

Link-Up Victoria would like to thank Lance James, Bringing Them Home Worker from Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative, for the great support leading up to and during the reunion. Thanks are also extended to Parks Victoria and Yorta Yorta Nations for helping to make Alice's reunion a journey that she will never forget.

Linking In Program

In 2010, Link-Up Victoria delivered the successful Linking In Program, developed and facilitated by Megan Cadd. The program is designed to assist Stolen Generations reconnect with culture by engaging in fun and informative cultural activities.

Owing to its success, Link-Up Victoria will run the program again in 2011, however, with a stronger focus on engaging with traditional land owners by working closely with the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Incorporated. The program will provide access to the Wurundjeri Council's healing garden and wellbeing room, and there will be various cultural activities for participants to join in and learn from traditional owners.

Yarnin Room

A beautiful space has been created in Link-Up Victoria's new office specifically for client meetings, counselling, or just 'Yarnin Up'.

The Yarnin Room can also be booked by other Koori services to use for private discussions with their clients.

Exceptional feedback has been received from those who have used the room, many commenting that it is a warm, culturally safe and calming space.

Link-Up Victoria look forward to the Yarnin Room being further used with clients and by the community.

Stolen Generations Alliance Stolen Generations Alliance Secures Historic National Voice for Stolen Generations and their Families

Stolen Generations and their families will finally get recognition and a voice through the Stolen Generations Alliance (SGA) in Chamber One on the new National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

The new national body offers Stolen Generations a chance to speak on a national platform regarding issues that have never been formally acknowledged at this level before. All Stolen Generations and their descendants are encouraged to join SGA affiliates in each state and territory to ensure you have a strong and well represented voice.

The National Congress is due to hold its first meeting in Sydney this June and it is expected that members from all three Chambers will attend. Chamber 1 is for national peak body organisations such as the Stolen Generations Alliance; Chamber 2 is for state, territory and local organisations such as Link-Up Services; and Chamber 3 is for individual members.

Membership is free to all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and organisations, although applications for participation at the first national meeting are now closed. More information on the Congress can be found at nationalcongress.com.au or freecall 1800 266 477.

Aboriginal Co-Chair Jim Morrison is the SGA representative to National Congress and intends to use this opportunity to ensure Stolen Generations' needs and issues are firmly on the national agenda. As well as continuing to call for the full implementation of the *Bringing Them Home* Report including compensation, Jim will be asking for action on the Stolen Generations Working Partnership negotiated last year with several federal government departments. The Partnership will address many Stolen Generations' needs as well as recognise their strengths and abilities to find and manage their own solutions when properly supported.



Past Forced Adoption Policies and Practices Inquiry

Few, if any, Stolen Generations members knew about the Senate of Australia Parliamentary Inquiry into the 'Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and practices'. Partner organisation, Origins, alerted SGA and, as a result, members Heather Shearer, Leonie Pope and Lily Arthur formed a sub-committee to work on the Inquiry. A flyer and information kit were produced to assist people put their own submission together.

Leonie Pope put in a submission about her own illegal adoption through the hospital after she was born and later removal to Wales by her adoptive family where she lived until recently. She wrote, "When I was 14 years old I began to ask questions and I was interested in searching for my family. It was at this point I was told my Mother was dead and this delayed my search for 15 years".

Leonie did eventually find her way back home to Australia with her three children but as she says, "I will feel the sorrow, regret and pain for the rest of my life from what a government policy in place at the time of my birth has done to my Mother, my siblings and my Uncle who waited for my return and then died."

The SGA wanted to ensure that stories like Leonie's were told at this Inquiry because even though there have been previous National Inquiries, such as the *Bringing Them Home* Report, none of these

Stolen Generations Alliance

focused on past adoption policies and practices. Also, many Stolen Generations did not make submissions to previous Inquiries for various reasons including lack of knowledge about the Inquiries, fear of telling the stories in public, as well as the grief and trauma of bringing it all up again.

The SGA believe it is important to share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories and experiences of adoption to help highlight and compare the differences and similarities with those of non-Indigenous Australians. Most importantly, it gave Stolen Generations another chance to have a say about the pain and trauma suffered by Stolen Generations, their families and communities. The findings of the Inquiry will be important to any recommendations made including those on funding and client focus for programs and services.

Stolen Generations Alliance 2010 Annual Forum

Over 50 participants from all states and territories, except Tasmania, attended the SGA Annual Forum on the Gold Coast in November 2010.

It was the first time a national Stolen Generations organisation had held a meeting in Queensland and the SGA was pleased to welcome new regional representatives from Kuranda and Yarrabah in North Queensland, Port Augusta in South Australia, and from the Western Australian Goldfields.

Participants attended one or more sessions of the Forum including special guest Stolen Generations Elders from South East Queensland, Aunty Joan Bowman, Aunty Laurie Burgess, Aunty

Margaret Stanley and Aunty Zita Wallace. A special presentation was made to Elders, Aunty Zita Wallace and Uncle Brian Butler, for their ongoing lifetime contribution to Stolen Generations advocacy and their significant contribution to the SGA. Aunty Val Linow was also chosen to receive one of these awards but unfortunately couldn't come due to ill health.

Link-Up Services represented included the Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation, Central Australian Stolen Generations and Families Aboriginal Corporation, Kimberley Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation, Link-Up NSW, and Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation.

Some of the issues raised at the Forum included compensation and reparations; aged care; funeral assistance both in terms of returning to country to be buried and attending family funerals; health and housing; social and emotional wellbeing support and trauma counselling; exclusion from Native Title claims and refusal of acknowledgement by community of origin; resettlement assistance for international Stolen Generations returning to Australia; continuing high levels of removals of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children; and unacceptably high rates of incarceration, poverty and lack of family support.

Also at the Forum, the SGA endorsed its Strategic Plan which will assist the organisation to become a strong and effective national advocacy body for Stolen Generations.

Truth and Healing in Arts, Education and Research

Dr Anna Haebich has agreed to become an ongoing consultant with the SGA on the Truth and Healing Portfolios. Dr Haebich was one of the editors of 'Many Voices', the publication which followed the *Bringing Them Home* Report, and also spoke at the SGA Annual Forum about her research into the increase of arts based therapies for Stolen Generations.

The SGA is also working in partnership with Associate Professor Norm Sheehan from the Indigenous Knowledge Research Group at Swinburne University and others on cultural healing initiatives with and for Stolen Generations.

The new national school curriculum has also been a focus of the SGA, with a paper being submitted on Stolen Generations Education Principles last December recommending the inclusion of Stolen Generations history and current experiences in the curriculum.

Justice is Healing

The SGA knows that the issue of compensation is part of much needed justice for Stolen Generations and there cannot be true healing unless justice is part of the process. There has now been support from government for truth and healing but there is still a strong resistance to justice through compensation. The SGA continues to work with others to change this.

Last year, Convener of the SGA's Justice Portfolio Jackie Baxter held meetings in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin about compensation and presented different models that have been granted in other countries. The SGA aims to increase awareness and understanding that without justice other Stolen Generations initiatives can only fulfil part of what is needed. Justice is a necessary part of the whole picture.

How You Can Help

Tackling all of the above is a big call! If you have ideas and the time to help make them happen, please let the SGA know. Email SGA Aboriginal Co-Chair Jim Morrison stolen.generations.alliance@gmail.com; contact National Coordinator Gillian Brannigan on mobile: 0407 465 218 or email: gillian.brannigan@gmail.com; or see www.sgalliance.org.au for a local representative.



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PHOTOS

1. A very young Leonie Pope
2. SGA Elders - Aunty Zita Wallace and Uncle Brian Butler
3. SGA Co-Chairs - Tina Louise and Jim Morrison
4. SGA Annual Forum 2010

Contacts & Resources



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National Archives of Australia

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