



ATSIDNQ

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Disability Network of Queensland

Edition 24 - Sept 2019



Welcome to our latest edition

We have welcomed many new members to the Network, especially during the month of July, NAIDOC. ATSIDNQ now has 1024 members around the State!!

Over the past two months, ATSIDNQ was involved in NAIDOC and we travelled to Cairns, Toowoomba, Stradbroke Island and the Big Family Fun Day, Musgrave Park, Brisbane. The response from the community was amazing with 190 New Members signing up to the Network. ATSIDNQ also attended NAIDOC celebrations in Zillmere and Inala. Enjoy the photos within this edition that capture the Deadly Celebrations of NAIDOC, Voice, Treaty, Truth!

ATSIDNQ was also invited to the Mackay Disability Expo. The Disability Expo allowed the Disability Sector to display their information and services to the community of Mackay. ATSIDNQ recruited 25 New Members from Mackay, which is fantastic!! ATSIDNQ also visited ATSICHS Mackay and Elders. ATSIDNQ is excited to form further formal relationships within this region to begin some Disability yarning groups and raise Disability on the community agendas.

A big THANK YOU for your continued support of the Network. Remember, ATSIDNQ can only work when you mob get involved. Don't forget to check out our ATSIDNQ Website and Facebook pages.

In this edition

- NAIDOC Celebrations
- In the Community
- In the Regions
- Good News Story
- Member Stories
- Become an ATSIDNQ Champion

ATSIDNQ cannot be what it is without the amazing 'life stories' shared by our mob. These stories we share within the Network are to build the connections between regions and membership that grows knowledge of our culture, language and stories.

Member Stories

Aunty Elizabeth (Beth Close)



Aunty Beth is now 76 years old and is still very active by regularly attending the Burringilly Respite Centre. Aunty Beth loves attending Burringilly as she enjoys the company and listening to each other's stories.

Aunty Beth was born on Stradbroke Island (Straddie) and has 7 children, 18 grandchildren and 7 great grand children. Her grand-dad and grandmother owned the first horse cart and would show it off with pride. Her grand-dad was a veterinarian and would take care of the horses on Peel Island.

Aunty Beth remembers the very cold days of

when she could hear the chopping of wood for the old combustion stove. In winter, this would be a constant chore. She remembers it was that cold, that her brothers and cousins would place their feet in fresh manure for the warmth sensation to keep walking to school. This was a common ritual that her brothers and cousin would do to keep warm. Each day Aunty Beth, her siblings, cousins and friends walked almost two miles each way for school.

Aunty Beth remembers the change in money and still has her first Aboriginal \$10 note in which she absolutely hangs on to and treasures.

Aunty Beth's mum resides at Georgina Hostel in Morningside and is at the astonishing age of 97 years old. What a milestone!!

Aunty Beth said that her life was a struggle, however has no regrets and is so proud of her grandchildren who brings her joy each day.

Thank you Aunty Beth, for sharing a small part of your story.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 9.30AM-3.00PM | Mackay Disability Expo McDonald's Mackay Multisports Stadium 107 Juliet Street, South Mackay |
| 15 - 22 SEPTEMBER 9AM-3PM | Disability Action Week |
| THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 10AM-2PM | Deception Bay Disability Expo |

Angela Ruzai Francia



I'm from Saibai Island. My Dad was a policeman who proudly wore the Queensland Police Uniforms. He received an Honorary Superintendent position. Dad is also a 'Custodian of Culture' in which his passion was to teach culture to community through the schools. Dad also received the Order of Australian Medal, OAM. Dad is 83 years old.

We moved from Thursday Island when I was ten or eleven years old. I went to Thursday Island High School, Tamwoy Town. After leaving school in year 10, I went to work as an assistant in Nursing. I believe I was around 20 years old at the time. At 26 years old, I began the Nursing Aid Training, Cairns Base Hospital. Following this training I enrolled in a Bridging Course, South Bank TAFE. This TAFE course gave me the opportunity to receive credit points to enroll

into University. The year 1996, I then enrolled into University to begin my formal training as a Registered Nurse, in which I proudly graduated in the year 2000.

After working in mainstream to gain experience as a Registered Nurse I eventually went to practice in the communities to see different cultures, and get community perspectives. I knew my training was a benefit to myself and our people. Along the way, I've gained confidence and it wasn't an easy road.

I'm very family orientated. I have six children. When they all attended school, that's when I went back to study at TAFE to begin my career aspirations.

My eldest daughter currently works in the BHP as an Iron ore train driver. My second eldest son works in Government for Health. My third daughter is a Registered Nurse and Pharmacist. Then followed by my forth son who became a Physiotherapist and received the Valedictorian Award granted by the University of Queensland. My daughter who is the fifth child also studied at UQ and became a Physiotherapist and practices in Tasmania. Last, but not least, my son completed his studies to become an Electrical Engineer.

I'm so proud of my children's achievements.

I currently work for Burringilly as a Registered Nurse in which I complete health assessments and holistic care.

Getting ready to access the myplace portal

Once your NDIS plan has been approved, you will be able to view it online at the NDIS **myplace** portal. You need to have a myGov account to do this.

To create your myGov account, go to the website www.my.gov.au

If you have trouble, need help to create your myGov account or want to know more about the NDIS myplace portal, contact your ECEI Coordinator, LAC or the NDIA.

You can also call the myGov helpdesk on **13 23 07**.

NDIS KEY WORDS:

myplace

myplace is a secure website for participants or their nominee to view their NDIS plan, request payments and manage services with providers.



Recruiting ATSIDNQ Champions



ATSIDNQ's strategy is also to recruit Champions in the regions which is vital in supporting the Network to grow and achieve its aims for the future so that the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability can be heard.

Currently ATSIDNQ has two committed Champions and is excited at the possibility of appointing YOU as a Champion for your community and region.

We are aware that when ATSIDNQ visits your region and then leaves, you are that valuable asset in helping the Network to grow.

Please call the ATSIDNQ Project Officer for further details on 1800 718 969.

We are on social media!



<https://www.facebook.com/Aboriginal-Torres-Strait-Islander-Disability-Network-QLD-418621321682340/>

Follow us to keep up to date on upcoming events, news and more!



The Network can only get stronger when we hear and see the deadly stories that are happening out in the regions and communities.

When you share your story, you will be featured in our bi-monthly ATSIDNQ Newsletter and website along with your consent to include a beautiful photo of yourself.

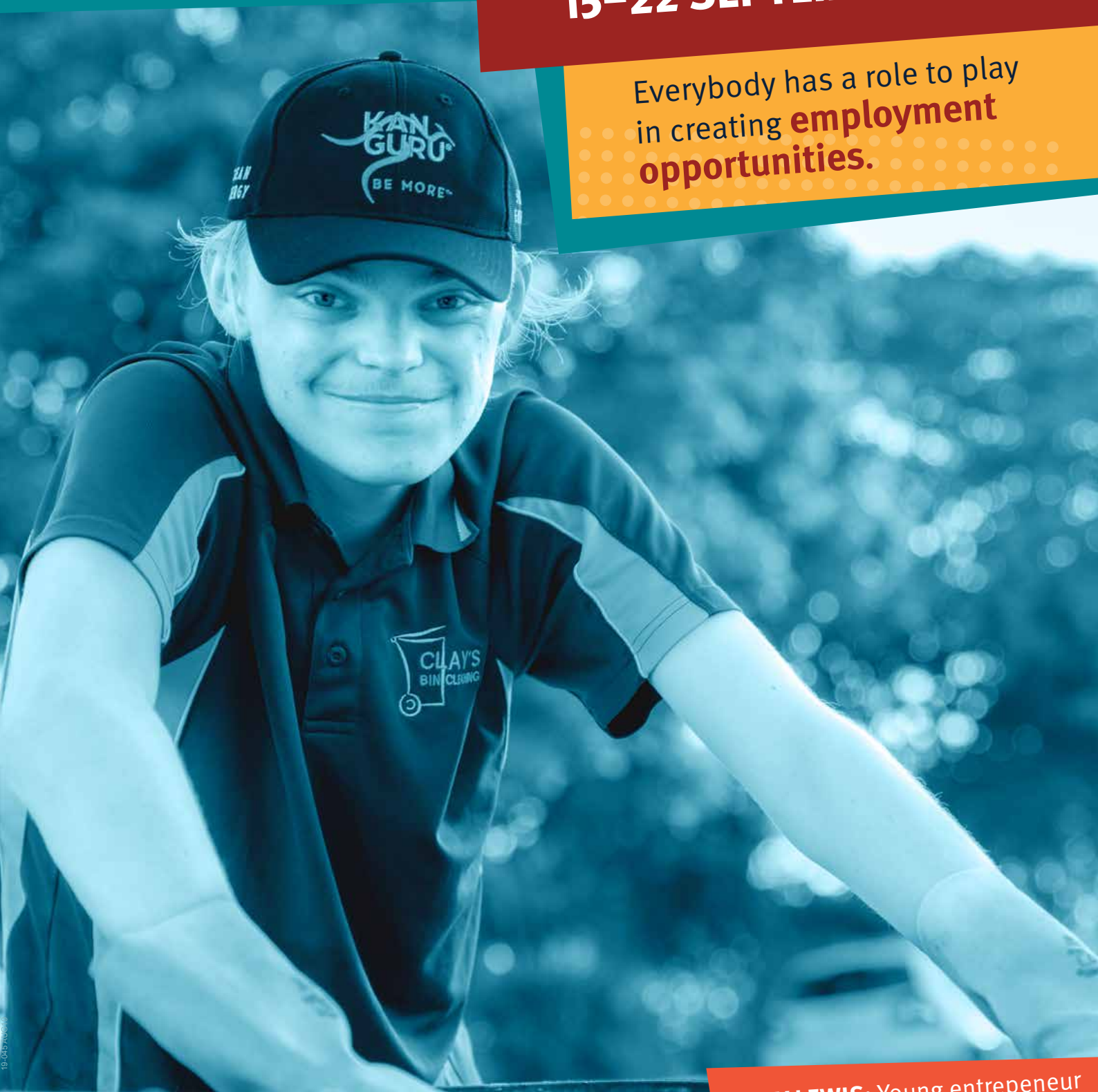
You will also receive an ATSIDNQ Bag and Towel in addition to the Cap that you already receive when you become a member.

If you would like to share your story, please call the ATSIDNQ Project Officer for further details on 1800 718 969.

DISABILITY ACTION WEEK

15–22 SEPTEMBER 2019

Everybody has a role to play
in creating **employment
opportunities.**



An all abilities Queensland:

EVERYBODY

has a role to play

CLAY LEWIS: Young entrepreneur

Visit www.allabilities.qld.gov.au
to find out more.



**Queensland
Government**

NAIDOC Toowoomba

Toowoomba NAIDOC was held at Toowoomba Base Hospital, hosted by Queensland Health. Being such a cold and windy day, there was still a great crowd that turned out for this day. The provision of some very yummy burgers made you forget about the weather conditions. Again, great networking and hearing the disability need is still a work in progress for our people at grassroots. There was a keen interest in inviting ATSIDNQ back to promote the network within the schools and local yarning groups already established.



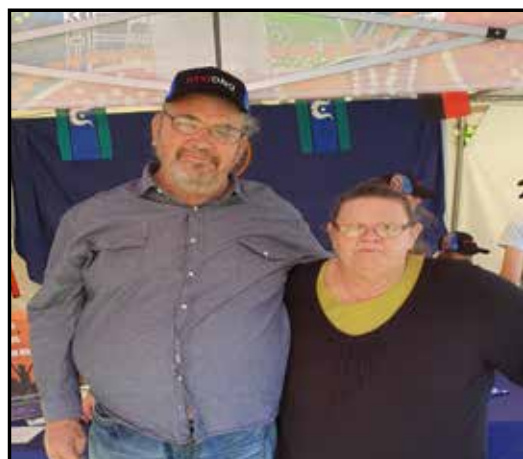
NAIDOC Musgrave Park

In The Community

Musgrave Park NAIDOC Brisbane was a very exciting day with catching up with family and friends and also networking with other agencies that assist our mob with disability, their carers and families.

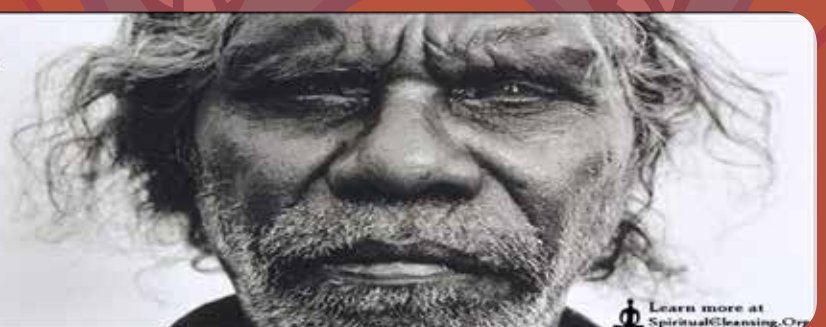
In total, 101 new memberships were received to be a part of the Network. Which is fantastic!!

If you're one of those Brisbane sign-up's, let ATSIDNQ know of how we can provide some disability 'yarning groups' within your region as the network is also about being active and included to ensure your voice being heard.



We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love... and then we return home.

-Australian Aboriginal Proverb



Learn more at SpiritualCleansing.Org

NAIDOC Stradbroke Island

In The Community

What can I say, the ferry ride across the Bay is so beautiful and breathtaking. The weather for this day was awesome!! There was such a great turn out from many of the local people and also a few from the mainland attended and joined in on the NAIDOC celebrations.

In total, 48 new memberships were received. The local community are excited about ATSIDNQ and is already having conversations of how support for people with disability for Staddie will progress over the next few months. The networking on the day was widely represented from the Redland Shire Council, Health, Respite Centres, NDIS and Community Groups.

All had the same goal of looking at ways to enhance the support that is required for our mob within the disability sector. ATSIDNQ enjoyed the day and is looking forward to more collaborative work with Straddie and the great work that the services are already doing.



NAIDOC Cairns

ATSIDNQ participated in this years' Cairns NAIDOC Celebrations. It was great to see the Cairns community come together by starting the day's proceedings of a community march around the central district of Cairns. All agencies, both government and non-government organisations; schools; Elders and the large Aboriginal and Islander Communities participated.

Communities from and around Cairns attended to celebrate this years NAIDOC.

ATSIDNQ is looking forward to attending next year's NAIDOC in Cairns.



Normanton

ATSIDNQ was invited by QDN (Qld Disability Network) to participate in the Changing Lives, Changing Communities Forum held in Normanton 17th-18th July 2019.

Changing Lives, Changing Communities (CLCC) is designed to support local conversations, local storytelling, local visioning and local action to help build more inclusive communities across Queensland where everyone contributes, matters and belongs.

CLCC is about bringing together all parts of the community, people of all ages and backgrounds, businesses and government to share information, discuss what is working, creating a vision for an inclusive community and co-create solutions to make that vision a reality.

The forum was attended by (40) participants both from the community organisations, non-Aboriginal service providers and community members.

Over the two day forum, ATSIDNQ was privileged to hear some great stories from the local Normanton people. Listening to their challenges of NDIS access and referral pathways, also sharing and talking about local solutions.

The Question asked was: "What will it take to create communities where EVERYONE contributes, matters and belongs?".

It was fantastic to see Normanton come together to begin to have robust conversations of collaborative work that is needed to meet the needs of the community and begin to work together to solve local problems.



Cherbourg

ATSIDNQ visited Cherbourg, to meet and greet the Community and the services.

Cherbourg was successful for an ILC (information, Linkages and Capacity) Grant to develop and coordinate access clinics for children and youth to be assessed and/or diagnosed for an NDIS package.

Supporting Financial Decisions

Improve your money know how...



Hear
other people's
stories



Know
your right to
be included in
decisions



Grow
your own
money skills



Learn
how to best
support
someone

Watch on youtube...



Supporting Financial Decisions - **Jessie's story**



Supporting Financial Decisions - **Claire's story**



Supporting Financial Decisions - **Michael's story**



Supporting Financial Decisions - **Li's story**

For more answers visit these websites:



Your local contact

Systemic Advocacy in Action in the Cape and Torres region

Good News Story

The Far North Qld NDIA Action Group (FNQNAG) was formed by stakeholder groups visiting the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) and Torres region following outreach visit to the region in March this year.

The FNQNAG includes staff and community members from the Far North Qld Primary Health network (FNQPHN), Commonwealth Rehabilitation and Respite CRRC, Blue Care, Carers Qld, Choice Passion Life (CPL), People With a Disability Australia (PWDA) and (ADAA) Aged & Disability Advocacy Australia and a community representative.

The group met with NDIA statewide and Cape & Torres NDIS staff to raise concerns emerging from combined community visits to Bamaga, Thursday Island, Badu Island and Moa Island earlier this year. We met with staff and community members who provided feedback on the NDIS rollout in the remote communities.

The issues raised in remote Cape & Torres communities include:

- Little knowledge and understanding of NDIS/NDIA in the regions
- Lack of information about NDIS in communities
- Poor Access Request support
- Culturally appropriate staffing issues
- Lack of culturally safe workplace
- Under Planning in existing plans demonstrates need for support coordination in all plans
- Clients being advised to relocate to obtain services

FNQNAG held a number of meetings to define the issues and possible options to address the concerns raised and approached the Asst Director for Service Delivery and Performance, FNQ, NDIA and Asst Director for LAC Cape and Torres, who were also aware of similar ongoing issues which came to their attention, though contact with families raising their concerns.

The positive response from NDIS staff involves the establishment of Community Connectors which will be established in 7 North Qld communities from Innisfail

to Thursday Island with another 6 communities in Cape & Torres Region are in the process of employing Community Connectors with 1 position commencing in NPA during September.

Nationally there will be 320 Indigenous Community Connectors around Australia, whose role of is to work with people with disabilities in in Rural & Remote Regions to connect them to resources, support and information in their communities, to help build their knowledge, skills and confidence and guide them through the access and planning processes for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Remote Indigenous Community Connectors have been confirmed in:

1. Hopevale (Hopevale Aboriginal Shire Council)
2. Yarrabah (Mutkin Aged Care)
3. Pormpuraaw (Pormpa Pantha Aboriginal Corporation)
4. Kowanyama (Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council)
5. Napranum (Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council)
6. Innisfail (Mamu Health Service)
7. Thursday Island (PKA)

Further Community Connectors have been committed in:

1. Northern Peninsula Area - in process
2. Aurukun – in process
3. Wujal Wujal – in process
4. Torres Strait and outer Islands – in process
5. Mapoon – in process
6. Lockhart River – in process

While group is pleased to be able to voice community members concerns and receive this commitment from NDIA, to implement Community Connectors in remote areas and ensure there is Support Coordination included in all plans, the Action Group will be maintained until the roll out of the Community Connector roles has been implemented.

It's your
LIFE
MAKE IT HAPPEN

LIVE

Experience independent living in a safe and supported environment

LEARN

Real life skills for the real world. Gain the knowledge and know how to take hold of the future

LIFE

Graduate to a new life of independence. It's your life - make it happen

ENROL NOW

Secure a place in our boarding or day program at STEPS Pathways College.

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pathways@stepsgroup.com.au
9 George Street, Caloundra

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STEPS

PATHWAYS
COLLEGE

Skills for
living
skills
for life



Discover the DIFFERENCE

With extensive knowledge and expertise in all areas of disability services, we provide:

- Highly skilled and experienced staff
- Individually-tailored learning
- Comprehensive and quality services
- A learning environment focused on respect and understanding



PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE

STEPS Pathways College is an intensive training course designed to provide young adults with a disability with the opportunity to further develop the skills needed to experience a life of independence.

We provide a flexible learning environment for our students and offer the opportunity to study as a boarding student living on campus, or as a part of our day program.

STUDY + EXPERIENCE = BRIGHTER FUTURE

Our innovative, holistic learning model features 9 core areas that combine practical learning with hands-on experience. Students gain a range of skills that help them to make informed choices and decisions in day-to-day life, as well as navigate some of life's bigger challenges.

Our specialised program focuses on building skills and knowledge in 9 core areas of learning:

- Communication for everyday life
- Social (interacting and relating to others)
- Home living
- Healthy living
- Pathways to employment
- Technology, literacy, and numeracy for life
- Finding and maintaining a tenancy
- Community connections (road safety and accessing transport)
- Recreation (planning and experience)



LIVE & LEARN ON CAMPUS AS A BOARDING STUDENT

Boarding students can enjoy our campus facilities while having the privacy of their own bedroom, bathroom and patio, and share a living room, kitchen, and outdoor entertainment area.

JOIN OUR DAY PROGRAM

STEPS Pathways College day program focuses on the 9 core areas of learning. Students gain independent living skills, engage in recreational activities, and have the opportunity to build life-long friendships.

Our day program provides flexible learning 5 days a week.



Let's talk, we're stronger together

The 'Stronger Together' campaign shares personal stories from mob across the country that show how being asked "Are you OK?" helped them through a tough time.

Regardless of where we live, or who our mob is, we can all go through tough times, times when we don't feel great about our lives or ourselves. That's why it's important to always be looking out for each other.

By asking and listening, we can help those we care about feel more supported and connected, which can help stop them from feeling worse over time.

That's why this campaign has a simple message: Let's talk, we're stronger together.

The campaign resources include videos, written stories, social media tiles, posters and a conversation guide.

Three simple ways to get behind the campaign are to:

- 1 Visit the website and download the resources today
- 2 Share the resources with your community
- 3 Share how you've used the resources on social media with the hashtag

#RUOKstrongertogether
ruok.org.au/strongertogether

RU OK? are grateful to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and influencers who led this campaign as part of the RU OK? Advisory Group alongside creative agency, 33 Creative.



RU OK?TM
 A conversation could change a life.



ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART



A FIRST NATIONS VOICE: PUT IT TO THE PEOPLE

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart: Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

The Referendum Council delivered its Final Report on 30 June 2017 you can [download the Final Report Here](#) or go to <https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/final-report.html>

