



Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Corporation

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ICN 2418 ABN 84 653 612 066

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

Dear members, traditional custodians and
Other interested people.

JINGI WALA

Ngunya Jarjum says hello and welcome!

We would like to pay our respects to elders past and present and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and the Bundjalung nation.

OUR VALUES

BELONGING

Every child has a right to be immersed in their family and culture to grow up strong in their identity and know who and where they belong to.

COMPASSION

Compassion, kindness, and empathy will underpin the approach of support and services to children and families to acknowledge the untreated trauma and grief suffered by Aboriginal people over generations.

INTEGRITY

We act professionally, with honesty and truth.

RESPECT

We value building meaningful relationships and work to build trust with families, communities and our partners.

MEMBERSHIP

It is important for people interested in the future of the corporation to be members and to attend the general meetings.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Ngunya Jarjum phone 02 6626 3700 or email info@ngunyajarjum.com if you have had a change of postal address.

NOTICE

If you are an existing member, please notify the office on 02 6626 3700 or email: info@ngunyajarjum.com

COVID-19 Update -

NSW Health have updated COVID safe practices on their Website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others>

The up to date information includes:

- Physical distancing
- Washing hands
- Taking care of your mental health
- Cleaning your home
- Caring for a sick person
- Pregnancy and newborns
- How and When to self-isolate
- Vulnerable People
- Contacts
- Other related information

Take a moment – look at the site. You may see something you did not know yet.

A quick way to find out what we can and cannot do:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>

As the restrictions change, it is best to watch this space – we are all concerned about the 'second wave', if they tighten restrictions again this site has up to date changes on it – as they happen.

If you have not already done it, please consider downloading the COVID-safe app – our staff have

in an effort to keep you, your family and our community safe.



<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app>

We are all hearing the warnings about relaxing around the virus too soon and watching for the second wave of outbreaks, NJ Board, Executive and Staff all take the warnings very seriously. With flu season on the horizon it will be difficult to know the difference, please do not run the risk for you and your family.

If anyone in your home is experiencing symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat and/or shortness of breath. Please contact your GP or health-direct immediately on 1800 022 222.

These payments are made in recognition of household stress and we hope to ease some of the burden associated with the increased cost of living.

OUR PROTOCOL to Ensure Safety

NJ staff have a COVID-19 Checklist we use when doing work in our communities' face to face, ensuring that we are following COVID-safe protocol. This checklist includes sprays, masks, wipes, and hand sanitiser.

At Ngunya Jarjum we are invested in caring for and ensuring safety of our Jarjums as our number one priority while actively maintaining safety for our Elderly and community members.

Staffing update

We are pleased to announce the arrival and latest addition to Ngunya Jarjum, joining the casework team:

Caitlin Kenny – Caseworker

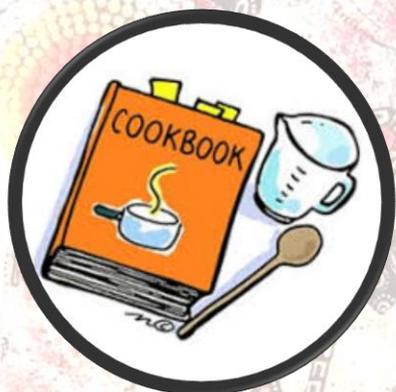


"I am a proud Widjabul-Wyabul (Bundjalung) woman. Born in Lismore and raised in Casino. I am 25 years old and everywhere I seem to go locally I am faced with the most common phrase in my world; "are you a Kenny?". I have a huge, amazing family who I love and am very lucky to have. At family events I would take on the role of the self-proclaimed babysitter of all my baby cousins. I believe that this led me to my passion of caring for Jarjums which paved the way to my first career in Early Childhood Education. Across my 7 year career in the childcare industry I have worked with all kinds of Jarjums, studied to achieve my Diploma of children's services, worked hard to get promoted and proudly won the 2019 Bundjalung NAIDOC Award for Apprentice Of The Year.

In May 2020 I departed my position in the childcare sector and am now excitedly embracing my new position and embarking on my journey as a Caseworker at Ngunya Jarjum. This position will allow me to become more proactive in my local community, advocate for mob and support Jarjums and their families/carers to the best of my ability, be a role model and a leader for the Jarjums and share my passion and love for our community and our People. I look forward to meeting everyone and sharing our knowledge and experiences with each other."

COOKBOOK COMPETITION!

We are excited to have received the beginning of contributions to the cookbook competition! Some beautiful recipes with children's drawings. Make sure you claim a page for your little ones now.



The competition has not closed yet!

A solid first prize for the drawing that makes the cover and participation certificates for all entries.

Simply send to us your favourite family recipe with a drawing done by one of the children in your home before **31st July 2020** and we will work on publishing our very own cookbook.

Post your entry to:

Cookbook competition

Ngunya Jarjum

PO Box 580

Lismore NSW 2480

OR email to

info@ngunyarjarjum.com

The competition is open to all our children across the Bundjalung Nation – so spread the word!

Any questions call Nikita on (02) 6626 3700

ABSEC Helps us out!

We are pleased to announce that our expression of interest with ABSEC for support through COVID-19 pandemic for our families in the Gumaguy program was successful!

ABSEC have provided \$7500 to Ngunya Jarjum so we can support families in our Gumaguy program to have access to technology, supporting their wellbeing and connectedness.

With the grant we have been able to purchase one laptop per family, which enables families to connect with their primary worker in the program, loved ones and also access medical appointments as well as other critical services through skype, messenger, zoom or other programs.

Some of our families in the program are particularly susceptible to the virus due to age (small babies and over 50 years), so using the laptops as an alternative to being out in community keeps our children safer through the pandemic and in turn demonstrates respect for the safety of others. pleased to have access to families in the program through the newly acquired technology, a service that would have been unlikely without this timely support.

We are grateful to ABSEC for the opportunity to apply for the funding and know that our families in the program greatly appreciate the support.

What's New at ACWA!

Development Update:

Establishing the NSW Child and Family Research Advisory Committee:

Late last year, ACWA, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), NCOSS and academics came together to explore the potential benefits of establishing a Research Council (with the current working title of the NSW Child and Family Research Advisory Council) to provide a platform for the Government, NGO sector and academic institutions to regularly come together with the aims of:

- Finding those areas that should be targeted for research (along with determining the types of research approach which should be used).
- Considering opportunities for research collaboration.
- Draw Attention To important research which has been completed, is underway, or is planned to commence.
- Identifying related 'research to practice' and 'communities of practice' opportunities to build the overall skills and knowledge of service providers.

Responding to the educational needs of vulnerable children

During the period of COVID-19, concerns about vulnerable children and meeting their educational needs have been raised in several discussions. There is a consistent view across both the government and non-government sectors that work in this area should be treated as a priority, both now and after the pandemic. This issue has also been set aside for attention by the Vulnerable Children and Young People Collaborative Sector Group, which has been established to address critical issues impacting vulnerable children and families.

Meeting the training & development needs of the sector

ACWA has also made submissions to DCJ and the Minister's Office about the merits of implementing a Joint Workforce Development Strategy for meeting the training needs of government and non-government staff working in the child and family sector.

Our advocacy in this area has been inspired by concerns raised during recent sector discussions around the need for an efficient and open system that can respond to the core training needs of the workforce. This issue has also been singled out for attention as one of the priority areas for our ongoing PSP reform work.

Raising the bar on leaving care practice

The COVID-19 situation has highlighted the many challenges faced by young people leaving the care system. In response, ACWA has instigated discussions with DCJ and the Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG) regarding strengthening leaving care support for young people in out-of-home care. Since these preliminary discussions, the OCG has announced that it will be undertaking a review of the leaving care landscape, as part of its core oversight function. The scope of this review will include the monitoring of current aftercare assistance for individual young people, with the initial focus on the cohorts of young people leaving care (as outlined in this recent OCG advice sent to service providers).

Against this backdrop, ACWA has already flagged with the OCG and DCJ the benefit of forming a working party/steering committee focused on developing proactive solutions to core practice and systems issues identified in the OCG review. Ideally, this body would be made up of representatives from the OCG, DCJ, service providers and related NGO peaks. Furthermore, in collaboration with the OCG and the proposed working group/steering committee, ACWA would be eager to work with AbSec and DCJ on developing appropriate related training to achieve a greater level of quality and consistency of practice in this critical area.

LEAVING AFTER CARE

What is Leaving After Care Planning?

Here is something which may assist our carers to have a conversation with young people as they begin to enter their late teens. You may want to use this to inform a young person about leaving after care planning.

What does Leaving Care mean?

Leaving care is a technical term used in the NSW legislation. All it means is that your care order ends, and you are no longer formally in the care. This usually happens when you turn 18.

CREATE Foundation

[CREATE Foundation](#) is the national consumer body representing the voices of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience, including kinship care, foster care and residential care. CREATE develops policy and research to report on and advocate for a better care system.

The Australian child protection system has been facing an unprecedented challenge during the global COVID-19 pandemic. When young people turn 18 and are scheduled to exit the care system and transition to independence, accessing housing is very challenging, even under normal circumstances. The social distancing regulations, however, presented an opportunity for CREATE to innovate during the pandemic to ensure young people could stay connected. CREATE produced an animated series featuring CREATE's purple mascot, Gus the gorilla. The series [Gus talks COVID-19 with kids, for kids!](#) covers the most important things that children and young people need to know about COVID-19.

CREATE also interviewed young people via Zoom so they could [share their view on what they were experiencing during the global pandemic](#), like how it affected their wellbeing, housing and jobs. In particular, CREATE interviews [young Aboriginal people about the impact COVID-19 has had on their lives](#) and what they think children and young people in care need at this time. The CREATE website has a COVID-19 Update Resource for young people, and a lot of ideas for creative and fun activities to do at home.

Despite the global pandemic, CREATE Foundation is answering the call and sustaining the work in key advocacy areas more than ever. They are providing young people at risk with up-to-date, reliable information and support to ensure they are empowered, safe and well.

Leaving care does not mean you have to leave where you are currently living - that is up to you and your carer to decide. Another way of thinking about this is that you have reached the time in your life when planning for your future is a good idea.

Planning for your future starts at the age of 15. This is to give you 3 years to work with your Ngunya Jarjum caseworker, carer and family to put together a plan – this is called 'leaving care or future planning'. This plan stays in place until you are 25, but it can change and be updated depending on your needs.

What is in your leaving care plan?

Your leaving care plan covers how you will achieve your aims, who will help you, and will address things like:

Culture and connection – the network of people around you, belonging to country and your relationship to your family and mob.

Health and wellbeing – how you will look after your health

Education – if you plan on attending higher education including Uni or TAFE

Training and employment – whether you want to work or study

Living skills – getting a driver licence, budgeting your money and so on

Legal matters – consider any legal issues which you may need support in.

Finance support and entitlements – what financial support is available to you and the establishment of a financial plan for you

Accommodation - where you are planning on living

If you are 15 years old, you should start talking with your Ngunya Jarjum Caseworker Carer and family on getting your plan started.

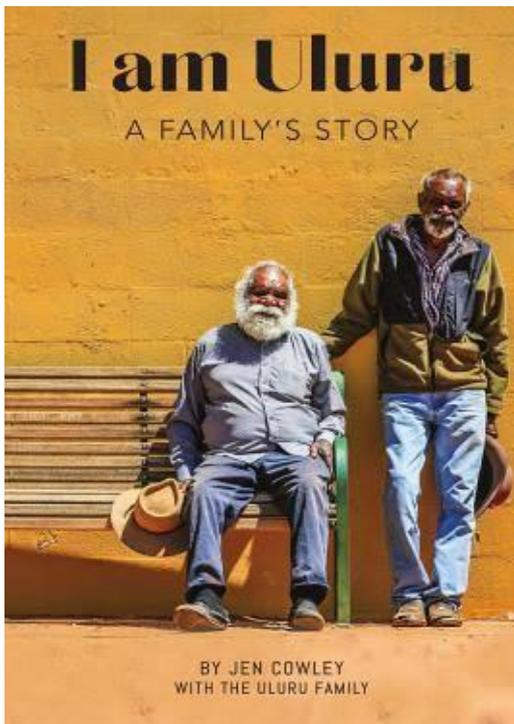
Remember it's a plan and at any time you can change things.

Also start with small steps forward and by the time you are 18 you should have a good idea on what is the next exciting step into life.

Readers Corner

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

NSW 6th July to 17th July 2020



10 things to do that keeps your family COVID-safe and still have some fun:

1. Cook your favourite family meal or dessert – sit and draw a picture of it – send it in to NJs Cookbook Competition (details on page 3)
2. Picnic in the Park – keep it simple / stress free and fun. Check places are open before leaving – it will save time doing some good planning up front
3. Did you know the whales are passing by Ballina now? - Walk out to the Wall – watch for the breaches and most of the time the local dolphins also play about in those waves, eyes open and enjoy!
4. Plant a new garden with the kids, some potted plants, vegies or cactus.
5. Build and fly kites – not hard to make and lots of smiles and laughs
6. Build a cardboard cubby house – a few old boxes can be a lot of fun!
7. Slumber party in the loungeroom – a whole of family late night telling stories and sharing feelings.
8. Catching moths / butterflies and insects (do not forget to let them go again after having a close look at them)
9. Consider visiting a 'virtual museum' – look online for a family experience walking through a museum together
10. Dream a dream – start a dream journal, what do you want to be when you grow up? What do you hope to do?

It is important for people to understand; to understand Anangu (people of the Central Desert region of Australia), to understand Tjukurpa (our faith). To understand history. This book will be history. If it's read, maybe people will understand. We need to write it all down. We can work together. Otherwise there's a big wall in between us - I can't come across and you can't come across.

(ref: <https://www.amazon.com.au/I-am-Uluru-Jen-Cowley/dp/0648412008>)

POSITIONS VACANT

No current vacancies

Art Acknowledgement:

Watermarked artwork used with permission, thank you Artist: Mundejah.