



Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 580, LISMORE NSW 2480 70 Carrington Street, LISMORE NSW 2480

Ph: 02 6626 3700 After hours: 1800 822 863

ICN 2418 ABN 84 653 612 066

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 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 Restrictions -

Due the pandemic, Ngunya Jarjum staff are still working remotely. We are still providing services, while following protocol set out by the NSW Government Health Department.

We highly encourage everyone to minimise contact and practice social distancing. Sanitise whilst out and about and washing hands regularly. Indigenous people 50 and over are considered amongst the most vulnerable, so we need to do our part to ensure the safety of all our mob.

Have you
washed
your hands?



Clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub to protect yourself from viruses.



Find the facts
health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

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.

Ngunya Jarjum have reduced the frequency of our COVID-19 updates to carers to fortnightly. Please follow closely the media updates in relation to education and health and maintain a Community of Care as you have already done very successfully. Do not hesitate to contact your caseworker if there is anything we can help with.

COOKBOOK COMPETITION!

We are excited to have received the beginning of contributions to the cookbook competition! Some beautiful recipes with children's drawings.

NJ Household support -

On 1 May 2020, we delivered a voucher to support our families and households, aimed at helping with the increased cost of living associated with the pandemic. Every carer household received some financial assistance by way of a voucher.

Our NJ carers are now receiving a small additional monthly allowance to assist with financial support for food, internet access, personal protective equipment (sanitiser / masks/ gloves etc) and health and wellbeing purchases. The first payment for April was made during May and the May payment is scheduled for next week, first week in June. June's payment will be made late June/early in July. At the end of June, we will be reviewing our financial position in relation to the additional payment.

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

TRAINING – Virtual Home Visiting

Our teams have undertaken some training in virtual home visiting. This training supports the use of technology to conduct home visits for families who are subject to risk of harm reports as well as carer households for children living out of their family home (kinship or foster care). Over the next month you may see an increase in NJ staff reaching to you by use of technology to conduct virtual home visits.

In addition, the Balaa team are actively adapting the information for creative delivery of mentoring sessions online to support our youth.



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 30 June 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@ngunyajarjum.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

COVIDSAFE APP

As mentioned previously, our NJ team will continue to work from home to provide services to our children and young people in care, this also includes our carers and family we work with.

All our staff have implemented the **COVID-19 Safe App** as recommended by NSW Health.



We recommend that you consider doing the same:

https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app?gclid=Cj0KCQjwwr32BRD4ARIsAAJNf_1eezHWq-aDFg2fsQF9szfA_uoYZI3-OwfJvqdKVSqcpkafiAqUgyAaAtVEEALw_wcB

The COVIDSafe app is part of our work to slow the spread of [COVID-19](#). Having confidence that we can find and contain outbreaks quickly will mean governments can ease restrictions while still keeping Australians safe.

The new COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary. Downloading the app is something you can do to protect you, your family and friends and save the lives of other Australians. The more Australians connect to the COVIDSafe app, the quicker we can find the virus.

Let's continue to protect each other!

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.

The Boredom Buster packs

Thank you to our carers for working alongside our Balaa team to develop the boredom buster packs that were developed for every carer household. With your help, every child in your home was identified to receive a boredom buster pack suited to their age and gender.

The project took a couple of months in the making while we waited for deliveries and had some issues with bulk orders, but throughout the month of May we delivered!

In all the team built and distributed 176+ packs assigned to individual children in households.

A big thanks to our Balaa team for getting out there to deliver to you in the current climate, and a special thanks to our previous Balaa team member Emma Keenan for the planning and organisation behind both the vouchers (household support) and the boredom buster packs!



We appreciate all your positive feedback and gratitude and are pleased the children are enjoying the packs.

Education support for Jarjums in Care

Some Children have needed urgent access to technology to support learning from home. Ngunya Jarjum Board and Exec did not wait for the NSW Govt. (Dept. of Education) to respond to the need for laptops for our Jarjums living out of their family home – instead, we ordered them and delivered them to our carer households on 1 May 2020 so that our Jarjums do not get left behind.

Keeping on top of education is a difficult task in the current climate, with some carers working from home, educating Jarjums and balancing other family priorities we know that supporting you to support our Jarjums is critical.

Below in the ‘Resources’ section of the Newsletter are some ideas for ways the Jarjums can use the laptops to support their education.

Staffing update

We are pleased to advise that recruitment for the Caseworker positions has been completed.

Pleased to announce the arrival and new additions to Ngunya Jarjum. Joining casework will be:

Shelton Johnson – Balaa Support Worker

Joined 19th May 2020.



I am a Proud Yirrganydji (Far North Queensland) and Waanyi (North West Queensland) Man.

I am 25 years old and was born in Cairns, North Queensland. I was 5 years of age when I moved to Lismore and I am the youngest of 2 children of a single Mother.

Lismore New South Wales is where we moved in 2000 and I completed my education and built my relationships with friends and family throughout my life.

My hobbies and interests include playing touch football in Ballina, keeping fit and healthy through gym and fitness training at my local gym, occasionally a Trainer at F45 in Lismore and I also enjoy going camping and four wheel driving with my closest mates out bush in country.

I joined Ngunya Jarjum because of my passion and love for our community and our People. I hope to create the change I want to see for our mob and to be a leader and role model for the Jarjums of today and the coming future so we can change the course and nature of our lives in all aspects for the better. I also look forward to the opportunity to build more positive relationships within the Bundjalung Nation and other communities.

Michaela Bruggy – Caseworker

(photo not available)

Joined 19th May 2020

I have recently joined the NJ Casework Team. I am originally from Wiradjuri Country but have spent most of my life in the Northern Rivers. Family and culture are both very important to me which is also part of why I decided to step outside of my comfort zone and accept this position.

After five years I had decided to depart the Child Care sector to challenge myself and explore new opportunities. I wanted to become more proactive with in my local community and to be a support person/advocate for our children and families.

I am hoping to bring a fresh perspective to the team and learn of the established Team Members.

Positions Vacant – Hot off the Press...

- **IT Support Technician**
- **Receptionist/Administration Officer**

Ngunya Jarjum's vision is that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are looked after in safe Aboriginal and Torres Strait families and communities and are raised strong in spirit and identity, with every opportunity for lifelong wellbeing.

The Office of the Children's Guardian has recently awarded Ngunya Jarjum five years accreditation giving great stability and further growth opportunities. To support this growth Ngunya Jarjum is looking to further expand our team with the following positions:

IT SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

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Based in Lismore and reporting to the Finance Manager, you will support all aspects of the IT systems and services including responsibility for ensuring the security and integrity of computer operations and systems development across the organisation. The key objectives of the role include:

- Proactively manage all IT systems and processes across the organisation.
- Provide IT User Support to a high professional standard.
- Provide IT training support where appropriate.

You will need a minimum Certificate IV Information Technology or related field and experience in the IT sector with excellent understanding of systems and processes, IT security, network configurations and hardware.

If you also have:

- Demonstrated ability to engage & work effectively with Aboriginal people and communities.
- Demonstrated ability to provide a high level of customer service.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Effective time management and personal organisational skills
- High level of computer literacy; sound working knowledge of Microsoft Office software.

The application form will include these questions:

- Which of the following statements best describes your right to work in Australia?
- Do you have experience working in a technical support role?

RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Based in Lismore and reporting to the Finance Manager, your focus will be providing high quality reception and administration services to all internal and external clients. The key objectives of the role include:

- Provide outstanding customer service to all internal and external clients in the areas of reception, record management, filing and general administration.
- Provide administrative support services to all staff; and
- Assist and support the maintenance of files, spreadsheets, and databases to ensure data integrity and accuracy.

You will need a qualification in administration or related area or be willing to obtain this within 12 months of commencement.

If you also have:

- Aboriginality
- Experience and skills in a business support, administration or reception environment
- Experience building relationships with service agencies, non-government organisations and community groups at all levels
- Strong interpersonal skills, including the ability to demonstrated empathy when required
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and to exercise tact, initiative and sound judgement
- Sound level of numeracy and demonstrated attention to detail
- Ability to build relationships with all levels of the organisation and the community

Appointments are be subject to a National Criminal History Record Check and Working with Children Check clearance. Two reference checks will be required including one recent supervisor.

A generous remuneration package will be negotiated plus superannuation, leave loading and salary sacrifice. This is a 12-month contract. We offer an excellent range of benefits including:

- Full non-profit status with salary sacrifice available to reduce tax and increase your take home pay
- An opportunity to really make a difference to kids and young people in our community
- A beautiful country location on the flourishing NSW North coast.

To find out more please contact Sharni Kenny on [\(02\) 6626 3700](tel:0266263700) or Kelli Dragos from Abundance Human Resources on [0419 419 554](tel:0419419554). All applications will be received via seek online ad or email recruitment@ngunyaiarjum.com.

The closing date for these positions is 9.00am on Friday, 12 June 2020.

Positions are identified for Aboriginal people and exemption is claimed under 14d of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

The application form will include these questions:

- Which of the following statements best describes your right to work in Australia?

- Do you have experience in an administration role?
- Which of the following Microsoft Office products are you experienced with?
- Do you have customer service experience?

Readers Corner

In the theme of Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week, the excerpt chosen for the Reader's corner is the "Bringing them Home Report" as this was a significant piece of work for our culture nationwide. We highly recommend reading this as it details the trauma placed on decisions like the assimilation policy. This can be accessed at: <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/bringing-them-home-report-1997>

This report is a tribute to the strength and struggles of many thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by forcible removal. We acknowledge the hardships they endured and the sacrifices they made. We remember and lament all the children who will never come home.

We dedicate this report with thanks and admiration to those who found the strength to tell their stories to the Inquiry and to the generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people separated from their families and communities.

