

# Let's Yarn Together!

Edition 1 – October 2022

## A Message from Our Reconciliation Committee Chair

Welcome to the first edition of the 'Let's Yarn Together' newsletter!

As Chair of Anglicare NT's Reconciliation Committee, I am proud to launch our first newsletter! The idea grew out of wanting to share our stories, educate and grow understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, culture and peoples.

As an organisation, we encourage all staff to actively seek to drive reconciliation outcomes and celebrate our achievements. This newsletter is a way in which we seek to do this, share ideas on how we can all participate and be a good ally to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples we work with.

I am proud to work in an organisation that places people at the centre of all we do, particularly Australia's First Peoples!

*Leonie Patterson*

**Reconciliation Chair and Executive Manager, Cultural Safety and Partnerships**



## Events and Dates of Significance

**2022 National Reconciliation Week – 'Be Brave. Make Change.'**



This year's National Reconciliation Week (NRW) theme, **Be Brave. Make Change.**, meant accepting the challenge to **Be Brave** and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so together we can **Make Change** for the benefit of all Australians, every day of the year, not just during NRW.

Our NRW efforts including hosting 14 internal events, participated in many local community events, as well as displaying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dates of Significance in each of our offices and encouraged our staff to recognise, respect and celebrate these internally and within the wider community.

### 'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!' NAIDOC Week

National NAIDOC Week takes place in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Across our organisation staff took part in NAIDOC marches and celebrations.

In Darwin, our Child, Youth and Family team hosted our yearly Darwin event at Ludmilla. Larrakia woman

Mary Williams led with a Welcome to Country, followed by a flag raising ceremony.

Our CEO, Dave Pugh spoke about the importance of using Aboriginal names for places and of listening and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Dale Austin from 'Dingo Cockatoo' prepared a bush tucker feast, consisting of fresh, locally caught barramundi and shellfish cooked directly over hot coals. Also on the menu was raw mangrove worms.



*Ludmilla celebrations*

In Katherine, our regional office and headspace staff joined up with CatholicCare NT to prepare a free breakfast, headspace Katherine participated in a yarnning session and stick weaving activity, supported by cultural consultants.

Our agency wide quiz saw staff work both individually and in teams to compete for some amazing prizes.

### National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day 'My Dreaming, My Future'

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day celebrations are held each year on 4 August. Historically this date is used, to celebrate the birthdays of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children known as the Stolen Generations, who were taken from their families and often did not know their birthday.

HIPPY Darwin held a celebration with children and families at Garaworra, that included painting bags, shirts, hands and faces. Families and staff feasted on including magpie goose, crocodile, fish and buffalo, and all children were gifted a 'Let's Read' Book Bag and HIPPY Lunchbox.



We thank Lee and wish her well on her next journey and look forward to collaborating with Lee in her new role, as RAP partner agencies.

## Some Recent Developments

### Acknowledgement of Country Plaques

To date Acknowledgment of Country plaques have been installed at all Anglicare NT offices, with celebrations held with Traditional Custodians unveiling plaques at Alice Springs, Nhulunbuy and Darwin.

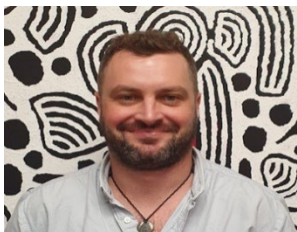
The Head Office plaque unveiling coincided with National Reconciliation Week. Larrakia man James Parfitt (pictured here) welcomed us to country and was joined by Larrakia and other Aboriginal staff based at Winnellie.



*Pictured at the Head Office plaque unveiling is Dave Pugh, James Parfitt, Jodie Brown, Sandy Alley, Leonie Patterson, Lee Turner, Phyllis Mitchell & Gabrielle Hale*

## Our People

Meet **Joel Jones**, Alice Springs Reconciliation Committee member and Regional Operations Manager.



*'Originally from Wales I moved to Alice Springs with my wife in 2016. I came for 6 months and 6 years later I am still here! My family and I fell in love with the country the town and its people.'*

*I believe that reconciliation is everyone's business, speaking regularly to my Aboriginal colleagues and friends about reconciliation and its importance. I believe we can't right the wrongs of the past but through Reconciliation we can ensure the present and future are a different story. As an immigrant from the UK it has been a very steep learning curve for me personally and I look forward to being a member of the committee into the future.'*

If you're interested in being part of the Reconciliation Committee, send an email to the Reconciliation mailbox.

### Celebrating and Farewelling Lee Turner

We recently farewelled Leona (Lee) Turner, a proud local Larrakia Elder to take up a new role with Darwin City Council as their Reconciliation Action Lead. Lee joined Anglicare NT on 28 March 2022.



*'It has been a privilege to work at Anglicare NT and be part of the Reconciliation Committee.'*

*We must work together on this journey as Indigenous and non-Indigenous people towards reconciliation.'*

### Workplace Cultural Audit Tool

In our efforts to ensure our workspaces are culturally safe and welcoming places for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples we work with, we developed a Workplace Cultural Audit Tool, now located in the Policy Library.

This tool is to be used to regularly audit our premises from a cultural perspective, with findings to be used for continuous improvement.

Our Reconciliation Chair

### Our Commitment to the Uluru Statement from the Heart

Recently, I attended the Anglicare Australia Conference held in Hobart. It saw me taking part in a pivotal moment where the Anglicare Australia Network together with the First Nations Staff Network (which I Chair) to accept the invitation from the Uluru Statement from the Heart to walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to create a better future for all Australians.

*Do you have an idea, a story, and event, or a staff member that you would like us to showcase? If so, send an email to [Reconciliation@anglicare-nt.org.au](mailto:Reconciliation@anglicare-nt.org.au)*

Anglicare NT acknowledges and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of this country. We pay our respect to Elders, past, present and emerging. We accept the invitation from the Uluru Statement from the Heart to walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to create a better future for all Australians.