



BLACKMAIL

NOVEMBER 2018

Manager's Message

Hello once again, it is time for our annual AGM, but before I write about our AGM I would like to thank all the staff here at ACRC for all their hard work and effort in helping ACRC become a great organisation. Through hard work and dedication from all staff, ACRC is now able to provide much needed services to a broader range of age groups in the Aboriginal Community. Since my employment back in 2015, ACRC has grown from strength to strength. We have gone from one full time employee to now employing 5 full time staff. We have gone from two transport vehicles and now we have three transport vehicles with the oldest being two years old. ACRC has undergone extensive renovations to ensure a safe and more welcoming place for all community to stay and visit. We have now negotiated access to Gateway Family Service next door and this access has allowed us to utilise private rooms to discuss private matters and concerns with community members. We have secured extra funding to ensure that our young families can go on camp this year. **Our funding has increased by 38.46% in the last financial year alone with promising signs for further growth.** This is an extraordinary effort as generally this type of funding and programs would be awarded to a larger organisation.

For those who are unaware, ACRC were provided funds through the (BMPHN) Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network (Wentworth Health care limited) to deliver Alcohol and Other Drugs, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention programs for Aboriginal young people (Young, Strong and Deadly) from the ages of 13 through to 28 years old.

The Young, Strong and Deadly program consists of two parts, with the first part being a cultural connection to country, delivered by cultural knowledge holders. The second part of the program is an Australian wide recognised program called **Deadly Thinking** which was developed by Aboriginal people, for Aboriginal people, through Rural and Remote Mental Health, (www.rrmh.com.au). **Deadly Thinking is a social, emotional well-being and suicide prevention program specifically designed for Indigenous communities, confronting core social and mental well-being issues in a culturally appropriate, accessible and compelling way.**

Through the young Strong and Deadly program, we have also been allowed to partner with Cobham juvenile justice centre to work with the youth. I see this partnership with Cobham as highly important as we all know that Aboriginal incarceration is far greater than non-Aboriginal people with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people making up 27% of all people incarcerated. Our ATSI people are over-represented. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander incarceration rates increased 41 per cent between 2006 and 2016."

In the past financial year, we have seen great results through the Young, Strong and Deadly program, which has been recognised by the BMPHN. BMPHN nominated the young Strong and deadly program to be their flag ship, through a small film, for their Aboriginal funding grants. The short film produced for the Young, Strong and Deadly program will be "showcased across all other PHNs and other Government and funding bodies across Australia". This will hopefully lead to more funding so that we can further help our community. I would also like to thank all ACRC staff who were involved in the filming of the Young Strong and Deadly program which took place on the 18th of October here at ACRC in the new cultural space. This includes a huge thankyou to all the Aboriginal youth who attended and took part in the filming, as well as thanking the community elders and members who attended and helped out on the day.

It is also a possibility that the Young Strong and Deadly program can be duplicated across other regions of Australia to help in the fight against alcohol, drugs dependence, mental health issues and suicide. The Young, Strong and Deadly program was initially designed so that it could be transported to anywhere in Australia, to help fight the fight against our youth going into incarceration and to try and stop our youth from going from juvenile justice centres and then into the big smoke. I know this is the fight that many of our community and other communities speak about all the time. We must stop suicide, we must stop all the alcohol and drug abuse and we must stop our mob being put into juvenile justice and the prison system.

"There has to be a change because we just cannot continue to lock up the First Nations people at the rates at which we do," Labor senator Pat Dodson said. (By Indigenous affairs reporters [Bridget Brennan](#) and [Isabella Higgins](#) Updated 28 Mar 2018, 4:38pm)

This is why we see the importance of working with our youth, after all many people say that the young people are our future. Not one of us could honestly say that we have not been affected or know someone who has not been affected by alcohol, drugs mental health, suicide or by deaths in custody. These young fellas and young girls are in need of our help. When the young ones suffer their whole family suffers as well. We will continue the fight to help our community and our family and friends from being persecuted and locked away. We will continue the fight against all that brings our community down. ACRC would appreciate your help and support in this fight against injustice; against all that has been put before our people. All that has led our people down the path to failure and will continue to lead us down the path of failure if we fail to act.

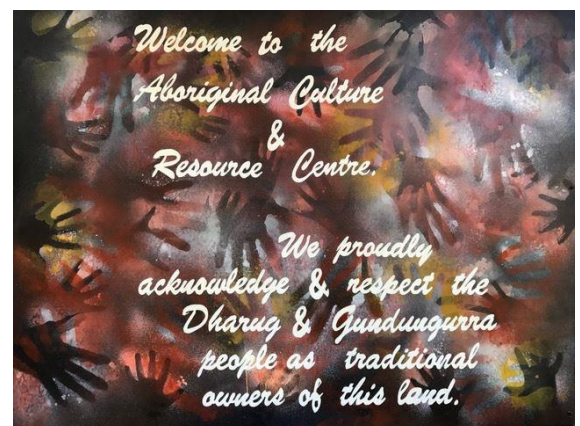
If you believe in this too, ACRC needs your support and we welcome you to come to AGM on the 24th of November 10am at the Lawson community centre.

Wayne's contacts phone 0247 826 569, email manager@acrc.org.au

Yours sincerely,

Wayne Cornish

Manager ACRC



BLUE MOUNTAINS ABORIGINAL CULTURE & RESOURCE CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT MID MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY
CENTRE

SATURDAY 24TH OF NOEMBER 2018

Elders Support Service

Good news, Commonwealth Home Support has been funded till July 2020 and new conditions they have brought down the age of cover to 45, so if you are Aboriginal & 45 or over & you want some support going to the doctors or some help around the home or if there is anything else, we can help you with let us know. We have lots of outings coming up in 2018. Look out for the November Elders Calendar of Events.

Happy Birthday to all those who celebrate their birthdays this month.

Jade Pyle Elders Support Coordinator

0439595181 or 47826569

elders@acrc.org.au

FAMILY SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Raylee is available Mondays to Thursdays between 9am – 5pm & Friday 9-12:30. Raylee support families with children between the ages of 0 -5yrs and Raylee is able to liaise with government departments and works with families to ensure they have a strong connection to community and support services. Please call Raylee if you would like to join the playgroup, need information about family support or just want to have a yarn.

Raylee

47826569 or 0439028652

ACRC GROUNDS AND OFFICE MAINTENANCE

Structural improvements at ACRC

In recent times ACRC has undergone a few changes to improve its amenities and service delivery.

The first one you'll notice is a vastly improved kitchen.

The old kitchen was becoming increasingly unserviceable for the work needed for the ACRC cultural activities and it's been



replaced with a new layout with improved worker flow and vastly improved storage and some new appliances. The staff has given this a big thumbs-up as it is proving its worth - several ACRC functions have now been serviced by it.



Next was the old shed on the Oak St side of the ACRC office. Manager Wayne thought that this space could be of excellent amenity for ACRC activities and so the old shed has been dismantled and re-installed in an empty space between the buildings at ACRC. Uncle Ed and Alfie proved great assets in this important project.

In later issues of *Blackmail*, we'll talk about the other important improvements that we are making to this great premises.

Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre



KOORI PLAYGROUP



NEW LOCATION

Greenwood Early Education Centre
2 Dora Street, Katoomba, NSW 2780

Mondays 11am to 1pm except
school holidays



The Young, Strong & Deadly (YSD) Program

Public Health Network (PHN) commissions Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services though out the Western Sydney areas and believe that these services are not well known or understood. The AOD videos are an opportunity to showcase some of the work happening in Nepean Blue Mountains PHN (NBMPHN) AOD program and to highlight the fantastic outcomes they are achieving. The videos have been considered to be a means to educate GP's, government and consumers about the programs available in the region.

The Young, Strong & Deadly (YSD) Program is an early intervention service focussing on connection to culture for Young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people aged 13-28 years who are at-risk of mental illness and alcohol and other drugs addiction. The Young, Strong & Deadly Film is envisaged to highlight the program's strong connection to culture, and the importance of this connection is to young Aboriginal people's mental health and self-worth.



On the day of filming the video, Wayne and Uncle Lex were interviewed about the program, its origins, elements, values, benefits etc. and its link to the AOD Program. The feature video runs for approximately two-minutes long. On the filming day, there were cut-away shots of 9 young Aboriginal people from the Blue Mountains & surrounding areas, who had previously participated in the YSD program. For the video we had the participants engage in parts of the various activities that occur in the Young Strong & Deadly program, capturing and providing background, while reflecting cultural connection bringing the film to life (young people will not be identified).

As discussed above the film is to be distributed to GPs, government, schools, young people and general public. It was a fantastic afternoon with great weather conditions and the Aboriginal community coming together in support of our young strong & deadly peoples.



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www.acrc.org.au
facebook.com/BlueMountainsAboriginalCultureResourceCentre/
Mon - Thurs 9am-5pm, Friday 9am - 12pm