

# SISTER KATES HOME KIDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER



SPECIAL EDITION

ISSUE #01 JUNE 2017



*Healing Homees – together again, all one family © 2015*

The artwork was a central piece to both a SNAICC (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care) conference SKHKAC with Professor Pat Dudgeon participated in as Key Note Speakers and facilitators of a creative focus component as well, the same for several further great workshops where Sister Kate Home Kids and their families completed the piece.

The artwork's main theme is around the SK families reconnecting, coming to together to heal and support each other in their healing journeys – with the centre area of the painting representing the healing centre. The artwork will take pride of place on the wall of the centre once it is built.

## SISTERS SITTING ON THE GROUND TOGETHER

re-connecting to country, culture and traditional ways of healing

...“I feel really blessed to have been part of the healing programs the Sister Kate’s Home Kids have put on for us in Armadale over the last five years – it’s been a real healing journey for us all and I am also happy that we are starting to do more women’s business so we can teach our young yorga’s about their culture”...

**Madge Hill**

*Senior Noongar Elder - Armadale, WA*



# SKHKAC

**Progressed Priorities**  
*historical and present status*  
2008-2017

## Governance

- Incorporated in 2008
- Secured Director's Board
- Board Governance Training
- Board Gap Analysis/Capability Assessment
- Beneficial Changes Assessment to Rule Book – (endorsed by members at SGMs)
- Strategic Plan (administration/healing centre)
- ACNC Registration/Tax Exempt/Land Divestment

## Healing Centre

- Maintain Bush Block with ILC (yearly basis)
- Board Workshops: ideas around the healing centre design
- Development of local, regional, national, and international networks
- Secured pro-bono assistance with Engineers without Borders (EWB) land development

## Operations

- Auspice with Communicare Inc. (completed)
- Independent Administration and Staff (now)
- New premises (whilst waiting to be relocated to offices on the Bush Block)
- Secured GST Status
- Secured pro-bono Law Firm (Legal advice to the Corporation)

## Funding

- National Healing Foundation
- Department of Social Services (Communities for Children)
- Regional Home Care Services
- National Stolen Generations Alliance
- Aboriginal Unit/WA Department of Health

## Programs

- CfC – Armadale and metro area
- Regional WA – Northam, Moora and Kondinin
- NAIDOC WEEK Programs – South Bentley Community Centre, Communicare, Cannington and on-going collaborations with the City of Armadale Champion Centre
- SKHKAC /HIPPIY collaboration – Cannington and Armadale/Gosnells sites
- SKHKAC/COA Collaborations – family and reconciliation activities
- SKHKAC Members Affirmation Booklet Project
- SKHKAC Elders and Young Fella's Yarning Circles
- SKHKAC Community Art Programs
- Aboriginal Voices of Armadale publication
- SKHKAC – Back to Country Cultural Healing Bush Camps (completed 5)
- National Empowerment Project - CSEWB Program (Northam/Toodyay sites)
- Boodjari Family Care Services, Armadale Hospital collaborations
- SKHKAC/People Who Care Elders program collaborations
- SKHKAC/Marr Koordjil Noongar Cultural Healing Pit Ceremonies

## Fee for Service

- WA Disabilities Commission Team Building Workshop
- National Empowerment Project – Queensland Sites Program Evaluation Research Consultancy
- National Empowerment Project Community Cultural Re-Engagement Tool Event Consultancy (DVD production)

# CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

My name is Glenn Pearson (son of Mary Miller the Ballerina) and I have the privilege of being the Chair for the Sister Kates Home Kids Corporation. On behalf of the Board, I'd like to extend to you our welcome and invitation to be part of the Board's work to establish a Healing Centre on the vacant land behind the Queens Park Primary School.

We have had our heads down and working furiously over the last decade to meet all the challenges to firstly, get the land divested back to us and secondly, to raise funds to build and operate the Healing Centre. But to do this, we need a really strong Corporation to take on these responsibilities and make them happen. We have spent a lot of time getting our house in order and putting in place the right governance structure and operation systems. We've had to do all this while still delivering our programs and activities that we do, a bit like fine tuning an engine while it's still running.

Our dream is still focussed on establishing the Healing Centre but the world that this dream started in 10 years ago, is different to the world that it lives in now. For example, as a registered organisation we are now required to meet the conditions set out by the Office of Indigenous Registered Corporations which have become more stringent on how we operate and how we

make decisions and in particular, how we expend our funds. Alongside this, we have also had to meet the guidelines set by the Indigenous Land Corporation to get our land divested back to us and similarly, funding organisations such as Lotterywest have also set higher tests to access their funding.

The great news is, that we, like any Homee, are totally up for the challenge and because we have invested heavily in getting this right, we are setting a bedrock that future generations can follow and build on, for our grandchildren, their children and the ones that haven't even been thought of yet. And the best news is, that we are on track to get the land divested to us early in 2018, so look out for the invitation to celebrate when we do.

While things may have seemed quiet, it's been flat out but trust me, that we are working everyday towards getting our dream in place.

In finishing, I'd like to acknowledge the amazing Board that make sure that we stay on task and in the right direction and to TJ as our fearless CEO and her Team who also make sure we get there in style and on time. But most of all, I'd like to thank you all for your support and faith over the many years to get us to where we are today.

**Glenn Pearson**  
**SKHKAC Chairperson**

# CEO UPDATE

## Kaya SK Homee families and descendants

I would like to start by saying a very sincere thank you for your patience in waiting for our Special Edition Inaugural Newsletter; it has been a long time coming but I am happy that we are now able to start sharing with you the good news of the progress we have made on behalf of our members over the last decade.

We, as a Corporation are now independent, have autonomy from our auspice agency and are working hard to establish ourselves as an independent entity; positively progressing our status at the local, regional, national and international level as the first 'stand-alone' Stolen Generations group and enterprise in Western Australia.

We have made headway to this end and we all should feel a sense of achievement and pride – so, Well Done everyone!

Though it has been a bumpy road travelled with setting up the Corporation to the level of its administration, operations and securing funding for our programs and community events, as well as progressing the development of the bush block and building the healing centre, we have persevered and have triumphed in achieving various stages of our vision with some great outcomes over the last several years.

I would now like to acknowledge and give a Big Shout Out of sincere thanks to all the SK Homee families and their descendants and our new established Friends of the Sister Kates Home Kids, who have stood strong

in both their support and participation in our service delivery of the healing, empowerment and leadership programs for our members and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, with a further thankyou to everyone who has helped make our Back to Country Cultural Healing Bush Camps the success they have become.

As we move forward into the next stage of our development and collective healing journey, further establishing ourselves as Key Players around healing and empowerment advocacy, this will be both celebrated and highlighted through our SKHKAC website, which will go 'LIVE' in this coming NAIDOC Week.

The website will showcase a bigger picture of the success factor achievements as well, enable our Corporation to promote itself across a wider audience around funding and collaborative alliances on behalf of our members (the link to be sent out July 2017).

SKHKAC Newsletters will be sent to you twice per year, with the next instalment in December.

As relayed earlier, it is fabulous that we are now able to share your Corporation's good news - keep safe and we hope to see you at our up-and-coming events in this next part of the year.

Kaya for now  
**Tjalaminu Mia**  
**SKHKAC CEO**



# SKHKAC

## Celebrating our Service Delivery

### National Healing Foundation

SKHKAC were successful in securing funding from NHF in 2010 which enabled the Corporation to develop and rollout its cultural healing programs to SK Home Kids and their families, which was the foundation of SKHKAC successes with future programs 2011 – 2017. SKHKAC is also engaging in reconciliation programs with the wider community in Armadale and throughout the metro area.

### Communities for Children Program

In 2012 and due to the success of SKHKAC cultural healing programs, the Corporation lodged a funding application to the Department of Social Services to deliver programs to Aboriginal families in the Armadale area and surrounding region, which have been very successful in securing further funding up to 2019.

### Back to Country Cultural Healing Bush Camps

The Corporation has been holding bush camps for several years now, where there has been great interest and attendance by SK families; from the 4 held in different areas through WA including the metro area, there has been 3 DVDs produced from the camps held in Kondinin 2012, Joondalup 2012 and Moora 2013.



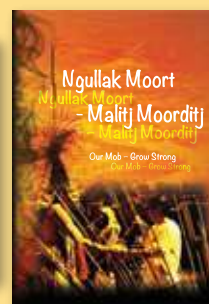
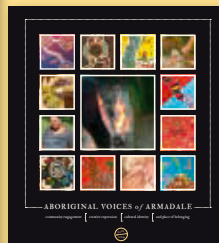
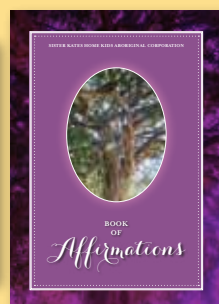
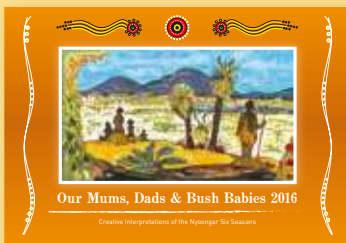
## SKHKAC

### HIPPY Collaboration

In 2014, SKHKAC was successful in securing its Auspice Agency Communicare Inc. to establish an Aboriginal focused Home Interaction Parent Participation Program for Youngsters for children turning 4 years of age. The program's main aim is to enable children access to pre-school education and to be school ready, as well as to support parents to be their children's first primary teachers.

This has proven a successful initiative, with a continuous collaboration between SKHKAC and HIPPY sites in Armadale, Gosnells, and Cannington. SKHKAC are the cultural advisors to the program, and have staged a number of cultural inclusion and reconciliation focused programs since 2014.

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES AND PROMOTION



# NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Sister Kate's Home Kids were approached in 2013 by the Director of NEP/UWA Professor Pat Dudgeon, to consider to be one of the 11 sites around Australia, set up to address issues impacting on Aboriginal and Torres Islander families including suicide prevention. Due to a high number of SK Homees and their younger generations living in the towns of Northam/Toodyay, as well as the high rate of suicide in the region, the Corporation confirmed its participation in the NEP Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing program in 2014. This became

a bedrock in our further support of the program by working with NEP to produce all consultancy site reports, development of their website, and the community program and facilitators handbook.

Recently, SKHKAC also secured a research consultancy from NEP/UWA to evaluate the pilot programs which were rolled out in 2014-2016 in Kuranda and Cherbourg communities in Queensland, and has recently handed the findings outcome Report to the NEP Director.

SKHKAC has also developed, managed, and produced a NEP Community Re-Engagement Resource Tool DVD, and holds co-copyright with NEP/UWA.

The DVD will be launched in July this year in Northam/Toodyay during their NAIDOC Week celebrations.

The Corporation is currently in negotiations to source funding to roll-out the program in Northam/Toodyay in the latter part of 2017.

## SKHKAC

### Regional, National and International Engagement

SKHKAC has attended a series of forums and conferences throughout Australia and overseas: Northern Territory, Queensland, ACT – Canberra, New Zealand and Hawaii/ USA as panel members, presenters, and Key Note Speakers, which have been funded by the agencies or organisations staging the proceedings, and which has enabled the Corporation to promote the healing centre and our programs. These have also provided SKHKAC to develop strong alliances with other Indigenous healing centres around the world, securing collaborations that further progress the Corporation's Vision around future international engagement alliance programs and research.



Healing Our Spirit World Wide Conference, New Zealand 2015.

### Sister Kates Homee Family Picnic 2017



## UP-AND-COMING EVENTS

SKHKAC hold a wide range of events throughout the year delivering our programs across the metro area and throughout regional WA, as well as special events just for our Sister Kates families.

These programs and social gatherings have been very successful with many of our families and their younger generations in attendance – celebrating reconnecting with other SK Home Kids, sharing aspects of their lives through family-friendly yarning circles, art workshops and sporting activities – with the events proving to be both rich in personal stories and inspirational in hearing some of the adversity Homees have faced whilst securing their achievements in life.

The next two events we are planning to hold that will again hopefully get a big response in attendance are:

#### The SKHKAC Membership Drive and Barbeque in the Park

**Time:** 10.30am to 1.30pm

**Date:** Wednesday 4th October 2017

**Venue:** Tomato Lake, Belmont

#### The SKHKAC Father Christmas and Picnic in the Park

**Time:** 10.30am to 2.30pm

**Date:** Wednesday 22nd December 2017

**Venue:** Tomato Lake, Belmont

As the dates get closer, we will send you an Invite Flyer which will have all necessary details - hope to see you at the events.