



T H I R R I L I

Media Release

Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service tender awarded to Thirrili Ltd for next 3 years

27 August 2021: Thirrili Limited has been awarded the Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service tender, ensuring the continuation and expansion of the culturally responsive and supportive services it has been delivering nationally since 2017.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP has announced the 3-year funding commitment from the Morrison Government via the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). Thirrili Ltd will continue to deliver critical practical and social supports to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples impacted by suicide and other fatal traumatic incidents.

Thirrili Ltd CEO, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones says: “Suicide in our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is a crisis – it is the fifth leading cause of death for our people. This funding will enable to continue to reach out to our families and communities. The vision of the Board, and their support to the Thirrili team, has enabled us to focus on continuous improvement of our service and to enter into partnerships with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations across Australia to deliver our services at the local, regional and national level.”

Thirrili Ltd Board Chair, Mr Tim Goodwin comments: “This is a testament to the amazing work undertaken by the team in Thirrili and the leadership shown by our CEO, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones. We are very thankful that the National Indigenous Australians Agency and Minister Wyatt committed to an extension of funding and we look forward to collaborating with them to finalise the new funding agreement.”

Thirrili Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation and remains the only Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) funded to deliver a National Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service. Thirrili Ltd will remain led and controlled by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with their perspectives included in all of its work, delivering critical supports to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities across Australia.

To find out more about Thirrili, visit <https://thirrili.com.au>.

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Media Enquiries

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Notes to Editors

About Thirrili

Thirrili was born from discussions in the Kimberley on how an Indigenous organisation could be established to lead the way in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention and postvention. Thirrili seeks to operate from a strengths-based approach by providing support to empower the individuals, families, and communities we work with. Aboriginal and Torres Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar, AO, suggested the use of the term Thirrili as it symbolised the nature of the work to be done.

Our vision is for all our families and communities to have healed from trauma and to choose to live their lives in acknowledgement of our deep ancestral connections, drawing on cultural ways of knowing, being and doing and supporting our people to thrive and flourish in this and future generations.

Indigenous Suicide is the fifth leading cause of death for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Due to legislative constraints across all jurisdictions, not all suicides are reported to Thirrili. However, Thirrili has seen a continued increase in notifications to our service over the past 12 months and we know that we are not informed of all suicides. We were notified of 113 suicides in 2020-21 and have already had 28 notifications since 1 July. Our 1800 number receives approximately 200 calls each quarter.

Families needing support across Australia can contact us anytime on 1800 805 801. <https://thirrili.com.au>.