



THIRRILI

MEDIA RELEASE

Thirrili Announces New Leadership for Board of Directors

Date: 13 February 2025

Thirrili Postvention Support Service is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Summer May Finlay as the new Chair of the Thirrili Board of Directors, following the Board meeting held on 12 February 2025. Summer May Finlay is a highly respected Yorta Yorta woman with extensive experience in public health, research, and policy, and a strong commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Joining Summer in leadership, Jacqui (Jaki) Adams has been appointed as Deputy Chair. A proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman, Jaki brings over 30 years of experience across government, non-government, and international development sectors. Her expertise in health equity, social justice, and self-determination will strengthen Thirrili's governance and strategic direction.

Thirrili would like to extend our deepest gratitude to outgoing Chair Donna Murray, who has led the organisation with dedication and vision. Donna has played a pivotal role in Thirrili's growth and impact, and we are pleased that she will continue contributing to the organisation as a Director. Reflecting on the leadership transition, Summer May Finlay said:

"I am honoured to take on the role of Chair at Thirrili, an organisation that provides critical support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, and communities during their most difficult times. I look forward to working alongside the Board and Interim CEO Dr Tanja Hirvonen to continue strengthening Thirrili's impact and reach."

As Thirrili continues to evolve, we remain committed to our mission of providing culturally safe, trauma-informed postvention support. Under the leadership of the Board and Interim CEO Tanja Hirvonen, we look forward to furthering our work in partnership with communities, stakeholders, and service providers across the country.

About Thirrili: Thirrili is a proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that is led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being, and doing. As an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation, Thirrili recognises the strengths of our communities and our strong responsibility to support communities in the aftermath of suicide or unexpected fatal incidents. We uphold protective boundaries for individuals, families, and communities that allow self-determination in their ways of bereavement and healing.

Thirrili provides essential support to First Nations individuals, families, and communities affected by a traumatic incident or the loss of a loved one by suicide. This support is vital for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and individuals, preventing feelings of isolation, despair, and trauma leading to prolonged and more intense grief.

For media inquiries: For further details feel free to reach out to Ben Speare – Director Communications & Strategy communications@thirrili.com.au or 0407 126 985