



THIRRILI

Announcement of New Board Director

Media Release

29 August 2025

Thirrili is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Board Director. Ms Vicki McKenna takes up the role of Board Director with the Thirrili Board. Vicki is both a Yawuru and Bunuba Jarndu (woman) with significant experience in social and emotional wellbeing, and suicide prevention and postvention support and care.



Image: Vicki McKenna

“It is my great privilege to be on the Thirrili Board and an honour to be working with the members, who are all committed towards wanting to make a difference for families and communities impacted by suicide,” said Ms McKenna.



Image: Tanja Hirvonen, Thirrili Interim CEO; Dr. Summer May Finlay, Thirrili Chair; Vicki McKenna, Thirrili Director



THIRRILI

Dr Summer May Finlay, Yorta Yorta woman and Thirrili Chair, congratulated Vicki's new appointment, noting Vicki's proven experience in strategy and executive leadership in dynamic government environments, leading suicide prevention and lived experience efforts and aligning it with the needs of families and communities.

"Vicki has provided excellent leadership nationally and internationally in the suicide prevention and postvention sector. Sadly, suicide continues to impact families and communities; therefore, the need for Thirrili increases. Thirrili has a strong role to play in supporting the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy (2025) and building community capacity to deal with such devastation."

Thirrili's Interim CEO, Tanja Hirvonen, welcomed Vicki's appointment, highlighting the importance of her leadership and lived experience in strengthening the organisation's role in supporting families and communities impacted by suicide.

"Vicki's appointment comes at a critical time as Thirrili continues to strengthen its governance to support the expansion of postvention services nationally and align with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy (2025)."

Fellow Board Directors Donna Murray, Greg Pratt, Karl Briscoe, and Laverne Belleair warmly welcome the new appointment and expressed gratitude for Vicki's invaluable contributions to suicide prevention and postvention efforts.

Collectively, this Board brings together extensive expertise in social and emotional wellbeing, community-led sector development, lived experience, and suicide prevention and postvention initiatives. The Board's experience will support Thirrili as it fulfils its role and responsibilities.

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



THIRRILI

communities that allow self-determination in their ways of bereavement and healing.

For further details feel free to reach out us.

Media inquiries:

Ben Speare – Communications and External Relations Lead
communications@thirrili.com.au or 0407 126 985