



ANNUAL REPORT

2018 — 2019

**Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
people to address social disadvantage**



THIRRILI



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A word from the Chair

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge that as an organisation we operate on the lands of peoples who have a special and intrinsic relationship to the land. I pay my respects to the traditional owners of the land where our main office is located — the peoples of the Kulin Nation— and to the Elders past, present and emerging from all the lands where we operate and where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders continue the struggle for equality of opportunity and outcomes.



Welcome to the 2018-19 Thirrili Annual Report! It has been an important year in the history of Thirrili. As a relatively new organisation there is still much to do to ensure that the governance processes implemented by the board are supportive of, and complementary to the operations of the organisation. And as a board, we continue to refine a systems approach which safeguards the organisation and its people from critical risks, while enabling the direct service team to get on with their vital work. I thank my fellow board members – Dr Mark Wenitong, Deputy Chair, Belinda Duarte, Indi Clarke, Jacqueline Flynn, and Wayne Kinrade – for their hard work and support throughout the year. Each of them are busy people with major responsibilities who generously contribute their time and expertise to the organisation.

Of course, the work of Thirrili cannot happen without the staff team. Ably led by Adele Cox as Chief Executive and NICRS Project Director and Catherine Elvins as Project Manager, the team has performed admirably in what is often a heartbreaking vocation that exists among tragedy. On behalf of the board, my heartfelt thanks to all for their work this year.

While our contract officially ended mid- year, prudent financial management, combined with several unfilled vacancies has meant that we have the funds, as well as the approval from our funders, to extend service delivery of the NICRS to the end of June 2020. I do believe that we are now at the next step in our maturity that should guarantee that 2019-20 is a year of consolidation as well as progress; and we look forward to the challenges ahead while doing our best to ensure that at our core, we continue to support to build the resilience of Aboriginal communities across the country.

Tim Goodwin
Chair

From the CEO's desk

Welcome to Thirrili's 2018-19 Annual Report. As I reflect on our work of the past year, I'm reminded that even though we have only been operating a few short years, we have achieved much. The initial years were of course spent building the organisation while at the same time launching and beginning operations of our flagship program, the National Indigenous Critical Response Service (NICRS). Fast forward to June 2019 and we are truly a national organisation with program reach into each state and territory.



As we have expanded, we have continued to develop our practice wisdom to ensure that our service delivery continues to be responsive to the needs of our clients and represents the expectations of funders and our communities. We continue to develop our strong Indigenous workforce; a workforce comprising representatives with links to communities that span the country. My thanks to the staff team for their willingness to 'go the extra mile' when required.

In many ways, an organisation is only as strong as the partnerships it has. In 2019 and beyond, building and maintaining strong partnerships with funders, communities, service delivery agencies, educational institutes and research centres will remain a priority. We thank our partners for the support they have given us to date and we look forward to continuing in this manner. Genuine cooperation can only serve to amplify and improve the outcomes of each agency within that partnership.

As we continue to mature as an organisation, we are seizing every opportunity to both advocate and educate in relation to the tragedy that is Indigenous suicide and our understanding of prevention and postvention. These opportunities include submissions to national and state enquiries and commissions; as well as conference papers, presentations and workshops.

From a governance perspective, we have a talented and committed Board ably led by Chairman Tim Goodwin. Tim is a member of the Yuin people of the South East Coast of New South Wales and barrister practicing primarily in the areas of commercial and public law. On behalf of the people we work for, I'd like to extend my thanks to Tim and the Board for its work in not only ensuring strong governance practices, but working hard to ensure that we see continuous improvement in everything we do. This approach will both ensure a strong organisation to face our current challenges, while readying us to face new challenges as they will inevitably emerge.

Thank you

Adele Cox

CEO Thirrili

Project Director NICRS

About Thirrili

In seeking to fulfil the organisation's Thirrili's Mission of 'Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to address social disadvantage', Thirrili has three key focus areas for activity:

- ⇒ **Postvention Services:** we work with local Elders, community and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisations to ensure a community response is put in place to support bereaved individuals and families. We aim to complement the work being done by local services to ensure the best possible outcomes for families and their communities. We can advocate on behalf of families to assist them to access the supports they need in their time of grief, with a focus to ensuring services are providing coordinated care. This work is delivered through the National Indigenous Critical Response Service and our partnership with StandBy in the Northern Territory.
- ⇒ **Community Capacity Building:** we work with communities to develop plans to strengthen their capacity to coordinate and respond to the needs of individuals, families and their communities when a suicide or other traumatic incident occurs. This work has been focused on those communities with historical or emerging high suicide rates during the 2018-2019 year. As Thirrili continues to develop our people and our service, we expect to expand our work in Community Capacity Building to include all communities where we are working with families affected by suicide and to communities who identified it as a priority to strengthen postvention support or work to reduce levels of suicide.
- ⇒ **Systems Change:** Thirrili works at the local, regional, State/Territory and national levels to strengthen provision of culturally appropriate and responsive postvention support services, with a view to creating systems change. In 2018-19, Thirrili developed a submission to the Mental Health Royal Commission and also collaborated with Health Management Associates to undertake the *National Coronial Information Service Suicide Data Analysis for the Northern Territory*. This project and analysis aimed to:
 - Inform the continued rollout of our postvention services
 - Determine appropriate staffing needs based on revealed demand

Thirrili provides both consultancy services and evidence informed policy advice to effect systems change.

ABOUT NICRS

National Indigenous Critical Response Service supports families and communities affected by suicide-related trauma or other traumatic incidents.

We work on an holistic model that is deeply connected to the components of cultural, social and emotional wellbeing.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Conference and World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference – November 2018

Building a Strong Tomorrow: Connecting our communities through Culture

Suicide rates are especially high amongst Indigenous peoples worldwide. In response Indigenous leaders and Elders have come together to address the issue and focus on solutions. The 2nd National and International conferences were held in Perth from 20-23 November 2018 and brought together experts, leaders and members of the national and international Indigenous community to identify culturally appropriate approaches to suicide prevention. The theme of the conferences provided an opportunity for Indigenous peoples, researchers and policy advisors to come together to identify solutions that work in Indigenous Suicide Prevention.

Thirrili CEO, Adele Cox was a keynote speaker at the conference and was also a member of the Conference Organising Committee. This collaboration enabled Thirrili to hear of the experiences of a vast array of First Nations peoples and participate in discussions that were focused on solutions. In addition, Adele was able to provide valuable information about the role of Thirrili in delivering the National Indigenous Critical Response Service and the role culture plays in supporting individuals, families and communities to commence the healing process post a traumatic incident, and particularly in working through grief, loss and trauma.

Evaluation of National Suicide Prevention Trial

We are currently working with the University of Melbourne to evaluate the Commonwealth Government's National Suicide Prevention Trial, with a focus in leading the evaluation at sites focused on supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The key objective is to assess the extent the strategies are appropriate, effective and efficient in preventing suicide at a local level and with at-risk population groups, and the implications for future suicide prevention activities.

Key activities will involve:

- ⇒ Visiting trial sites with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focus and conducting interviews and workshops with local stakeholders regarding the trial; and
- ⇒ Assessing the information, developing findings and recommendations to inform future policy directions.

The evaluation will be vitally important to building our understanding of what works in preventing, suicide and capturing knowledge from our affected communities and families about their needs into the future.

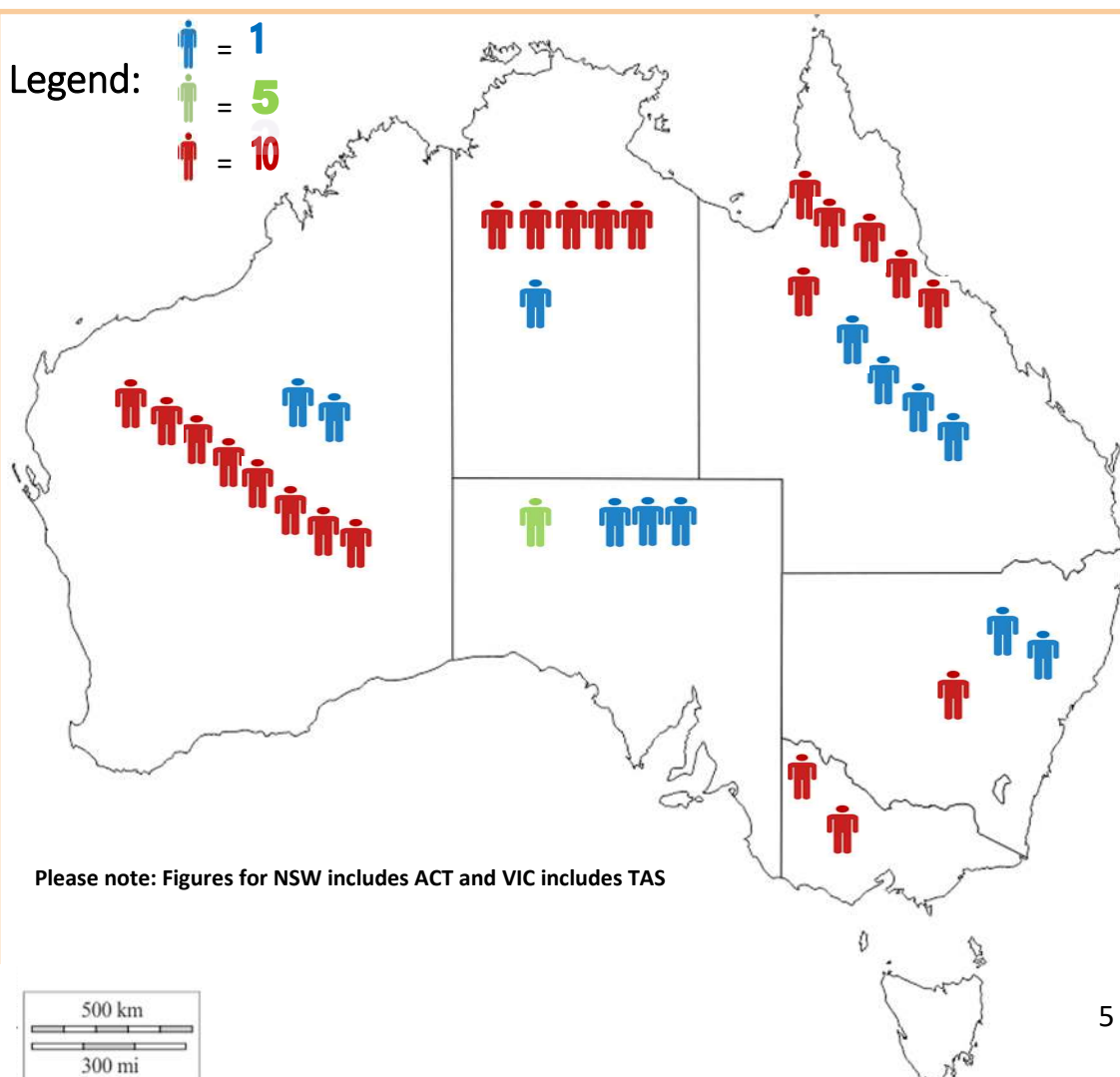
The numbers at a glance

Total number of incidents reported to NICRS

Of those:

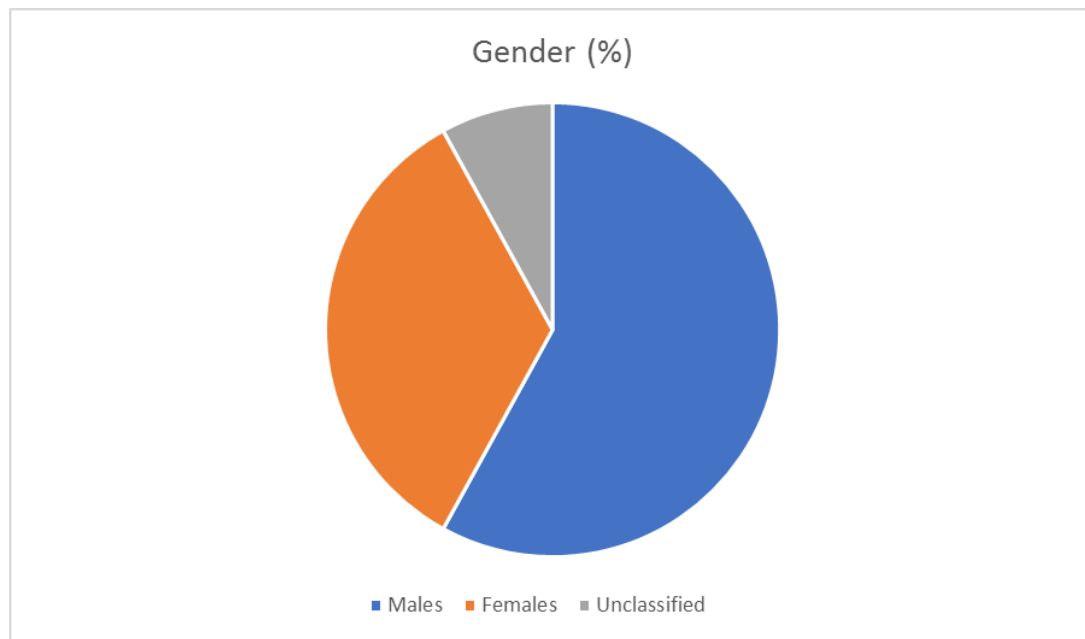
- suicide attempts = 29
- completed suicides - 134
- other trauma involving a death = 47
- other trauma not involving a death = 27

geographical location of incidents

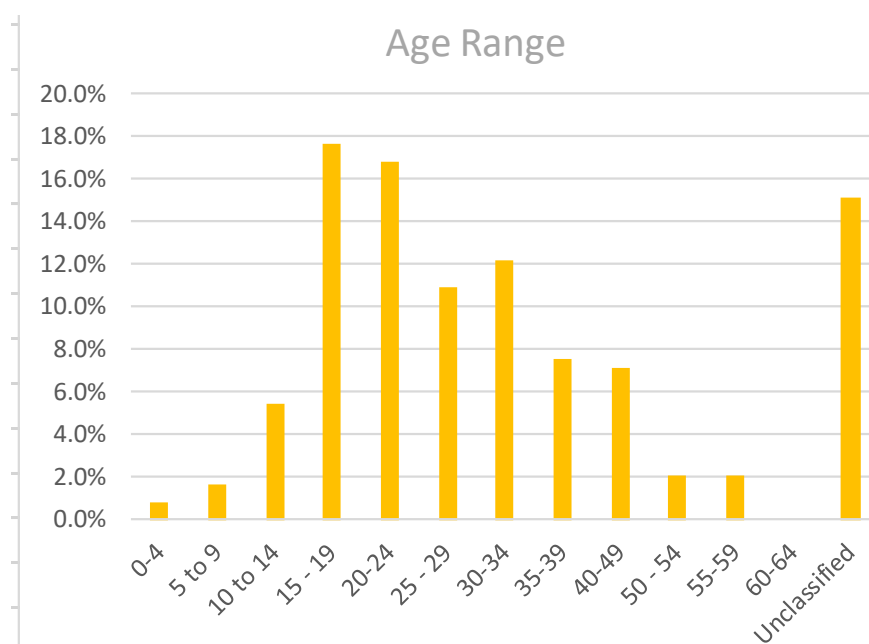


The numbers at a glance

Gender of individuals involved in incidents (%)*



Age distribution of individuals involved in incidents (%)*



*not including those supported {eg family members} for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Thirrili Ltd

ABN 14 617 635 828

Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	3,871,231	1,997,995
Trade and other receivables	4	195,849	101,275
Other current assets	5	<u>43,802</u>	<u>50,916</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>4,110,882</u>	<u>2,150,186</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and equipment	6	19,480	7,581
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>19,480</u>	<u>7,581</u>
Total Assets		<u>4,130,362</u>	<u>2,157,767</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	424,140	296,186
Income received in advance		3,123,330	1,797,719
Provisions	8	<u>135,172</u>	<u>63,743</u>
Total Current Liabilities		3,682,642	2,157,648
Total Liabilities		3,682,642	2,157,648
Net Assets		<u>447,720</u>	<u>119</u>
Equity			
Retained surplus		<u>447,720</u>	<u>119</u>
Total Equity		<u>447,720</u>	<u>119</u>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

Thirrili Ltd**ABN 14 617 635 828****Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2019**

		2019	2018
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	2	3,837,803	2,055,656
Employee benefits expense		(1,935,613)	(1,123,481)
Project costs		(402,121)	(208,563)
Consultancy fees		(214,101)	(406,766)
Emergency relief funds		(199,872)	(50,215)
Rent expense		(139,600)	(72,960)
Summative evaluation		(99,297)	-
Conference expense		(67,785)	(1,418)
Accounting, audit and legal expenses		(44,197)	(33,010)
Other expenses		<u>(287,616)</u>	<u>(159,592)</u>
Surplus (deficit) for the year		<u>447,601</u>	<u>(349)</u>
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year		<u>447,601</u>	<u>(349)</u>

Thirrili Ltd

ABN 14 617 635 828

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 30 June 2017	468	468
Deficit for the year	(349)	(349)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2018	119	119
Balance at 30 June 2018	119	119
Surplus for the year	447,601	447,601
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2019	447,720	447,720

Thirrili Ltd

ABN 14 617 635 828

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2019 For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers		5,296,963	3,132,983
Interest received		14,819	370
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,423,983)	(2,071,826)
Net cash provided by operating activities	9	1,887,799	1,061,527
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payment for plant and equipment		(14,563)	(7,591)
Net cash used by investing activities		(14,563)	(7,591)
Net increase in cash held		1,873,236	1,053,936
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		1,997,995	944,059
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	3	3,871,231	1,997,995 1,997,995

Thirrili Ltd

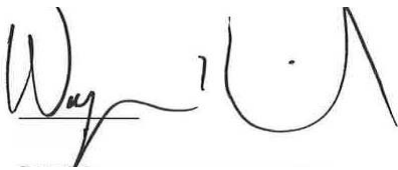
ABN 14 617 635 828

Directors' Declaration

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of Thirrili Ltd, the directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 9, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
 - a. give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
 - b. comply with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.



Director

Dated this 21st day of October 2019

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THIRRILI LTD

Opinion

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Thirrili Ltd (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Thirrili Ltd is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with the accounting policies described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (the ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the company to meet the financial reporting requirements under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Asparq Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd
ABN 95 196 483 868



TC Kilham
Director

Camberwell
21 October 2019

ASPARQ

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS
COMMISSION ACT 2012
TO THE DIRECTORS OF THIRRILI LTD**

I declare, that to the best of our knowledge and belief, during the financial year ended 30 June 2019 there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Asparq Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd

Asparq Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd
ABN 95 196 483 868



TC Kilham
Director

Camberwell
21 October 2019





Thirili Ltd

ABN 14 617 635 828

Web: Thirili.com.au

For after suicide support call:

1800 805 801

Email: info@thirili.com.au