



**2016 - 2017
Annual Report**



Our Mission

To provide a holistic and cultural approach to Noongar people of the Upper and Lower Great Southern region and Lower South West region of Western Australia.



Our Vision

To be the leading Aboriginal body providing social and cultural services and economic leadership in order to achieve the needs and aspirations of our people.



Our Values

- Honesty and integrity
- Respect for our culture
- Respect for others
- Equality for all people
- Commitment to our people
- Transparency of our business

Southern Aboriginal Corporation

www.sacorp.com.au

Find us on:



Head Office

P O Box 5277, Albany PO, WA 6332
45 – 47 Serpentine Road
Tel: 08 9842 7777
Fax: 08 9842 7781

Katanning Branch Office

P O Box 298, Katanning WA 6317
Unit 9, 100 Clive Street
Tel: 08 9842 7777
Fax: 08 9821 2868

Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

P O Box 470, Centennial Park WA 6331
45 – 47 Serpentine Road, Albany
Tel: 08 9842 7751 / Freecall: 1800 557 187
Fax: 08 9842 7780

Contents

Chairperson’s Message	2
CEO’s Message	4
Board of Directors	6
Our Organisation	7
The Organisation Chart.....	9
Our Community Services	10
Family Violence Prevention Legal Service	10
Indigenous Family Support Service	21
Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre.....	23
Health Promotion – Gnumaries Hurt	24
Men’s Shed.....	26
Housing & Business Enterprises.....	28
Finance	29

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Southern Aboriginal Corporation would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we work. We pay respect to elders, both past and present, and acknowledge the many people who act as custodians of the cultural heritage of these lands. We would also like to acknowledge all the victims/survivors of family violence.

Indigenous Disclaimer: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this report may contain images of deceased people.

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



Glen Colbung
Chairperson
Southern Aboriginal Corporation

An Annual General Meeting signals the fact that another year is fast coming to an end and simultaneously presents me with the opportunity to speak to you again. It has been a pleasure to serve you as Chairperson for the past year.

Housing and Property Management are the core business activities for this organisation. Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC), being a Community Housing Provider offers various housing and accommodation options to Aboriginal people. SAC manages approximately 83 rental properties. We have established good working relationships with tenants and we take timely action on maintenance and repair issues where necessary, offering assistance with payment plan options if tenants are experiencing financial difficulties and referring them to other agencies when they need help.

The main business achievements during the past year, based closely on specific goals, planning and implementation include:

- researching and planning towards the prospective establishment of a Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre as identified at a major Community Drug Forum conducted during 2016 to identify the main health and wellbeing concerns of local Noongars. A substantial report was produced from the findings. We are working with Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) towards an economic development model and establishing a local indigenous drug and rehabilitation centre;
- hosting the first ever Aboriginal Youth Career Expo in Albany in July 2017. The focus of the Expo was to provide employment, training and further study information and opportunities to Aboriginal youths (aged 15 – 20 years). Twenty-one stallholders from a range of industries, recruiters and vocational education and training institutes/industries participated in the Expo;
- obtaining funding of \$30,000 from Equity Trust (not government) and fund raising from local businesses for the Community Drug Forum;
- successfully acquiring \$56,000 from the Noongar Charitable Trust for the establishment of a Men's Shed and employment of a part-time Supervisor - the Men's Shed is held at the SAC owned building at Kelly Street, Albany;
- establishing a relationship with Colgate University, Hamilton, New York, that brings students to Marribank mission every year to learn about stolen generations;

- maintaining our accreditation status as a legal centre and community housing provider;
- winning the 2016 Albany Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI) Great Southern Community Business Award.

SAC's Facebook page has continued running without incident since 2016. We now have 249 friends who we keep up to date with events and developments. It is a fantastic medium for communication and is working to help members feel included and informed with SAC's events.

SAC also launched its new and improved website (www.sacorp.com.au) informing users of our programs and services, news and events, current vacancies within SAC, as well as access to membership application forms and banking information should an individual or organisation want to make a financial donation.

This well-structured organisation, which has a clearly defined mission and vision, competent staff, clear protocols and guidelines for operational execution is in a better position to respond to future challenges. I thank my fellow Board Members, both past and present, for an enriching governance experience, but most of all my deepest thanks go to our dedicated co-operative staff. I look forward to this next period of co-operative growth and endeavour



SAC receiving the 2016 Albany Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI) Great Southern Community Business Award

Left to right: Asha Bhat (SAC Chief Executive Officer), Oscar Colbung (Program Manager FVPLS), Cr Len Handasyde (Ministerially nominated Board Member of Great Southern Development Commission & Deputy President of the Shire of Plantagenet), Eliza Woods (SAC Board Member)



Community Drug Forum

Left to right: Oscar Colbung (Program Manager FVPLS), Rick Wilson MP (Federal Member for O'Connor), Glen Colbung (Chairperson SAC Board), Hon Ken Wyatt MP (Minister for Indigenous Health), Asha Bhat (SAC Chief Executive Officer)

CEO'S MESSAGE



Asha Bhat

Chief Executive Officer
Southern Aboriginal Corporation

Over the past years, I have had the pleasure of watching Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC) truly raise the bar for ourselves and for our members. While the external environment for Aboriginal organisations remains a very challenging one, I have seen our community come together and show resilience, determination and a shared sense of purpose, working effectively as a unified voice. Our staff have also worked tirelessly to raise the voice and profile of SAC.

The past year has seen the delivery of all important milestones that are pivotal to SAC's growth into a stable organisation committed to quality service for Noongar clients. Apart from our ongoing funded programs and services, SAC has generated new income for delivering important services.

We have improved our financial management strategy through investments in the Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) Growth Fund.

We have generated new income revenue to support a supervisory position for the community Men's Shed thereby supporting more engagement of men in our community.

Young Noongars are being encouraged to gain more experience and qualifications within the organisation, and to aspire to higher level jobs. SAC is a participant in the Aboriginal School Based Training Scheme (ASBTS) which enables students to gain work experience and training in the workplace one day a week.

Cultural Awareness Training for local Government and non-for-profit organisations has been implemented, e.g. the City of Albany staff of 223 people recently received this training from SAC on a fee for delivery basis. This training is designed to support the retention of Aboriginal jobs within the Shire, as more cultural understanding is shared and appreciated, which leads to less Aboriginal unemployment and disengagement in the region.

In recognition of my expertise and achievements, I was selected to participate in the Global Ambassadors Program (GAP) in Chicago, Illinois USA in September 2017 to work with a cohort of Global Ambassadors, established women executives from a range of sectors and organisations, on the challenges faced by leaders and their organisations. I was the only representative selected from Australia.

We believe that diversity and inclusion are essential components for any organisation or individual to embrace given the range of different backgrounds, experiences and beliefs existing in our multi-cultural society. As we move forward in 2018 and beyond, I am proud

of what SAC accomplished in 2017 and excited about the future. Our community is strong and vibrant, and together we will continue our efforts to advocate for Noongar people.

Thanks to the SAC team for their hard work and commitment to not only the Corporation, but to their community.

SAC provided support to staff by providing them access to an Employee Assistant Program.

Finally, congratulations to Leonie Dean (Paralegal), Noleen Drummond (Property Management Officer), Mark Colbung (Health Promotion Officer), Melita Hayward (Community Officer, Katanning) for obtaining Certificate IV in Community Services.



NAIDOC gift bags for the boys and girls at the Coolangarras Barmah Aboriginal Pre-school in Spencer Park, Albany



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALBANY WARD



**Glen Colbung
(Chairperson)**



Samantha Williams



Eliza Woods

BUNBURY WARD



**Lera Bennell
(Vice Chairperson)**



Trevor Eades



Dean Wynne

NARROGIN WARD



Leah Dann



Fay Slater



Vacant seat

The Board of Directors acknowledges and thanks all government and non-government agencies for providing us with the resources that allow us to continue working in our communities

OUR ORGANISATION

The Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC) is an Aboriginal-owned, community-based organisation based in Albany, Western Australia. SAC was incorporated on 23 November 1983 to represent the interests of Noongar people of the Great Southern and South West regions. The forming of SAC was first tabled at a Southern Area Aboriginal Consultative Committee meeting and then supported by the National Aboriginal Conference.

In the early establishment phase from 1983 to 1986, the then Department of Aboriginal Affairs seconded an officer to assist with the set-up of SAC. In 1986 that officer became a full-time employee of SAC along with an Aboriginal Information Officer and receptionist based in Bunbury, with two additional Information Officers based in Albany and Katanning. An Arts Officer was later added to the organisation.

A focus of SAC throughout 1985 and 1986 was the future of the former St Francis Xavier Mission at Wandering. Following a major submission, the property was formally handed over to the Noongar people of the South West, for their use and benefit. The new centre was called 'Ngullah Mia', which means 'our home' in Noongar language.

Other projects that SAC was involved with, and still is, was the management of both the Wandering Farm (Ngullah Mia) and Carrolup mission site and Marribank farm; and provision of social housing.

Over time, SAC has also delivered other major and positive projects for our people, such as the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP), Family Futures Program, Bringing It Home Program, Structured Training and Employment Program (STEPer), Aboriginal Tenant Support Service and others.

Today, SAC is delivering the following programs and services:

- Gnumaries Hurt (tobacco cessation) Health Promotion
- Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre
- Indigenous Family Support Service
- Community Housing and property management
- Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

SAC is today the largest Aboriginal representative and resource agency in the Noongar Country region, which comprises the south western corner of Australia. Its field of operations covers sixteen towns from Bunbury in the west, Brookton and Pingelly in the north, Albany in the south and eastward across to Kondinin. This is an area of more than 120,000 square kilo-metres. About 2,100 Aboriginal people live in this area, many of them in the smaller country towns.

From the beginning SAC has acted vigorously in pursuit of its objectives. Nowadays, it is involved in a wide range of programs and enterprises and carries out an important coordinating role for other Noongar organisations. SAC continues to delivery culturally appropriate services to improve the social wellbeing for our people, respond to change, identify new opportunities and provide a sound governance and administrative framework for moving forward.

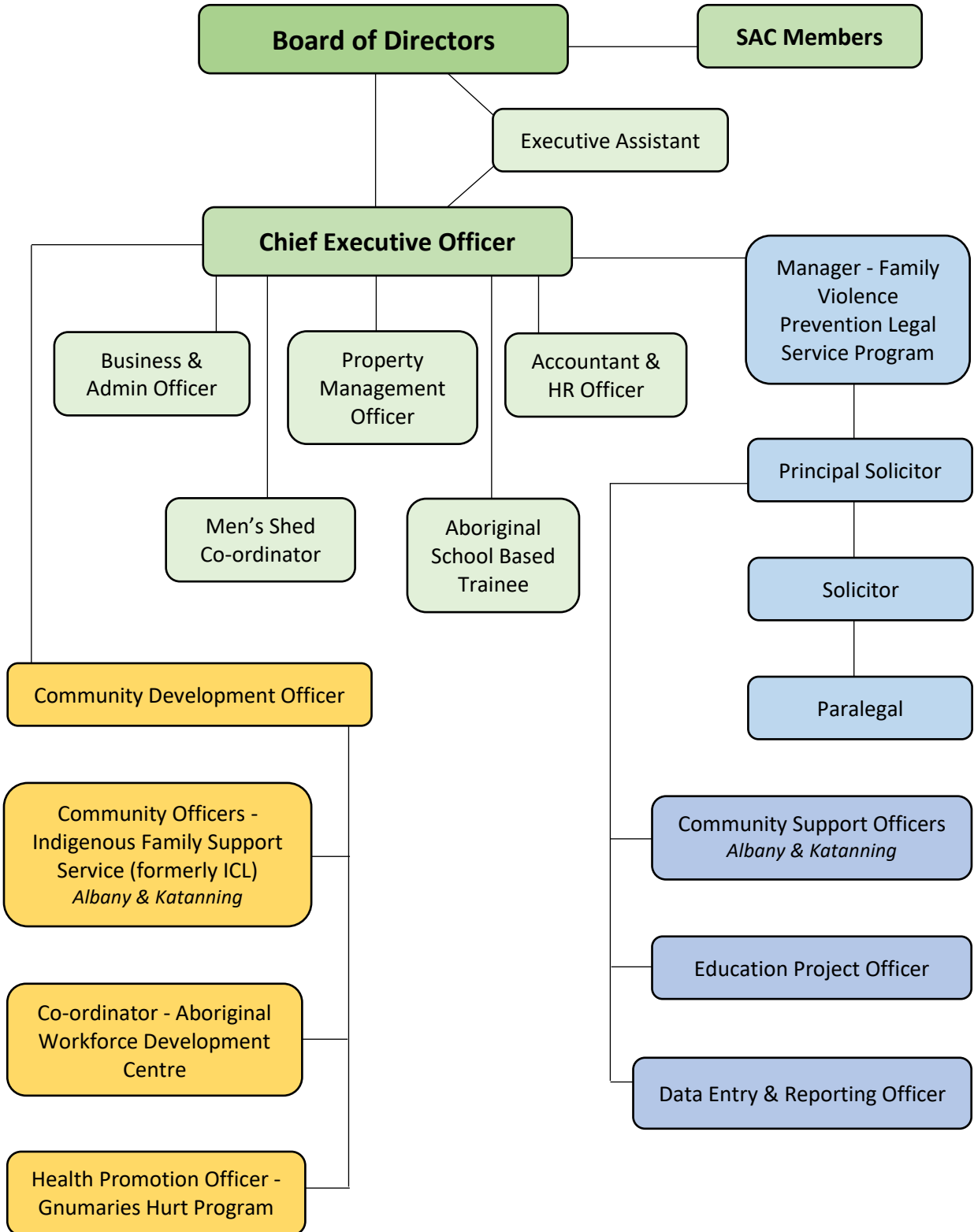


Certificate of Incorporation dated 23 November 1983



Les and Aden Eades - 1986 handover of Wandering Farm to Southern Aboriginal Corporation

THE ORGANISATION CHART



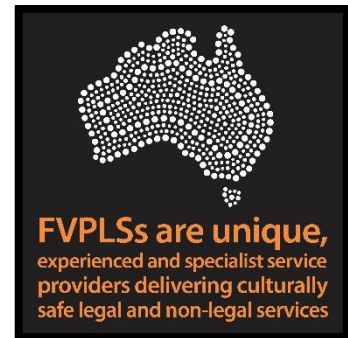
OUR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

Albany based Family Violence Prevention Legal Service (FVPLS), auspiced by the Southern Aboriginal Corporation, provides vital frontline specialist and culturally appropriate free legal services and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence and/or sexual assault.

The range of services include:

- Legal advice and information
- Community legal education
- Court representation on family violence and sexual assault matters
- Advocacy and assistance with completion and lodgement of legal documents
- Information on some general law matters
- Sexual abuse counselling
- Community awareness groups/development
- Outreach to towns in our area which include Cranbrook, Katanning and Kojonup

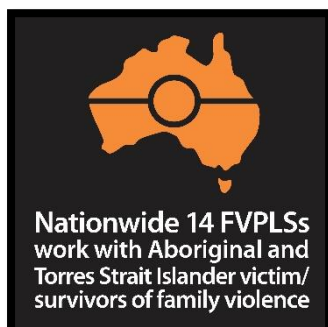


Most clients who access this service present at a point of crisis. They have a history of long term and historic family violence which results in, amongst other things, compromised mental health because of this trauma.

Networking / Promotion of FVPLS Services

We have actively promoted relationships and collaborative partnerships between the various organisations and agencies within the Great Southern region. We are well known and respected for our work within the Indigenous community.

Since the networking and promotion has intensified, the profile of this service has increased and there has been a definite increase in referrals and connection with other service providers, and in particular the WA Police and Department of Child Protection and Family Support. A need for increased sharing of information between the WA Police and our service has been identified. In view of this we are currently investigating the logistics of developing a Memorandum of Understanding to enable information sharing and importantly, attend triage meetings with the Police when necessary.



A schedule of planned outreach and community legal education sessions within the region is in place which will link in with other service providers. We trust that this will further develop over time and facilitate more interaction with community members in more isolated areas within the region.

Regular contact is maintained with, but not limited to, the following:

- Community Mental Health
- Anglicare
- Department of Child Protection and Family Support
- Corrective Services
- Department of Housing
- Great Southern Aboriginal Health
- Disability Services Commission
- Indigenous Community Links
- Community Housing
- Palmerston Drug and Alcohol Service
- Personal Helpers and Mentors
- Juvenile Justice
- WA Police, Great Southern Family Protection Unit

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
are 35 times more likely to be hospitalised
from family violence.**

National Accreditation Scheme

The National Accreditation Scheme (NAS) is an industry based certification process for Community Legal Centres (CLCs) and Family Violence Prevent Legal Services (FVPLS) that supports and recognises good practice in the delivery of community legal services.

The NAS provides a quality assurance process that gives CLCs, FVPLS, funding bodies and clients' confidence that we are operating according to good practice and industry standards. The NAS promotes a culture of ongoing continuous quality improvement.



Phase 2 of the NAS, which has a greater emphasis on moving from compliance with the NAS Standards to continuous quality improvement, has been completed. This phase commenced with an online self-assessment system through which services can assess their organisation against the NAS Standards. In addition to the NAS Standards, the Standards and Performance Pathways (SPP) includes the quality management requirements of several other Government funding agencies which apply to the community sector and other common quality standards.

**1 in 2 Aboriginal children are exposed to
family and domestic violence during childhood**

Following the online self-assessment, we had a site visit from a specialist accreditation reviewer during March 2017. The purpose was to review other relevant documentation, assess how policies and procedures are applied in practice and meeting board members, staff and volunteers.

Whilst we are still awaiting a report on the reviewer's finding, we believe the service has once again met the required standards. We look forward to the opportunity to resolve any areas identified as needing to be developed and/or improved. The immediate feedback about our service was very positive and overall feedback for all second-round legal services was that the levels of service provision are at a very high standard.

Community Legal Assistance Services System

The Community Legal Assistance Services System (CLASS) is the replacement application for the Community Legal Services Information System (CLSIS).

CLSIS was used by Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) and Community Legal Centres (CLCs) since 2003 to manage and record legal cases and advices, to record community legal education work and law reform activities, and as a reporting tool to government. In 2015 the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department provided significant funding to the National Association of Community Legal Centres to project manage the development and rollout of a database to replace CLSIS. As of March 2017, CLASS is the primary database for many FVPLS and CLCs.

The transition period and new reporting requirements caused some difficulties but these issues have since been resolved.

Ochre Ribbon Campaign

SAC and this service are proud participants in this campaign to raise the broader community's awareness of violence in Aboriginal families. The Ochre Ribbon Campaign was launched in Perth by the Aboriginal Family Law Services on 18 March 2015.



The ochre colour of the earth reminds us of our connection as Aboriginal people to this land, the colour brown that symbolises our people and the powerful words that reiterate our message to stop violence.

Ochre Ribbon Day - SAC staff at its Kelly Street shed in Albany

I'm not crazy
or unstable.
I was abused.
I'm a survivor

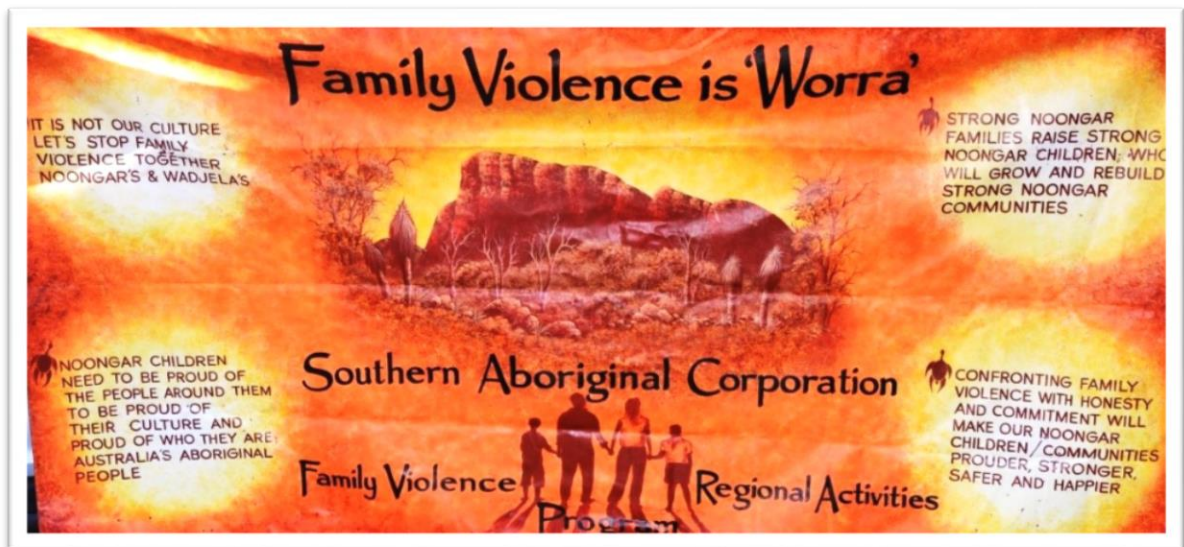
~ Quote from a Survivor



Local community agencies promoting their services



Senior Constable Brett Jeffrey, Family Protection Officer, Great Southern Family Protection Unit



Break the SILENCE

Against Family Violence



Caterina di Franco and Michelle Forrest preparing lunch



Left to right: Shandell Cummings, Pamela Watts and Miranda Archer enjoying the day with our community



Community Education

The Community Education Project within the FVPLS unit has once again been a very broad program. It has included the delivery of Cultural Awareness to schools and organisations along with Community Legal Education and Early Intervention and Prevention activities. Several big activities have been coordinated and delivered for the FVPLS Education program this year. The first being the delivery of the 2016 NAIDOC Family Fun Day, the second being in a supporting role to the very successful Community Drug Forum and the Women's Wellness Retreats.

The Community Drug Forum included the delivery of regional community consultations around the issue of drug use and abuse within each community followed by the two-day Forum. The issue of substance use and abuse has become critical over the last 12 months and contributes to 90% of family and domestic violence incidences, family breakdowns and the removal of children. This has been very evident within our program delivery this year and it can affect the way we roll out our services to the Aboriginal community if the issue is not addressed and discussed. The community consultations and the development and delivery of a community survey captured some very critical information and this may be utilised by the program to encourage other funding sources to deliver more programs and activities to address substance abuse within our communities.

The past 12 months has been very successful within the education component of our unit with several community projects occurring including the following:



PROJECT SUMMARIES

Ochre Ribbon 4 White Ribbon Day

This project was delivered in partnership with several other organisations delivering White Ribbon events throughout the month of November. SAC FVPLS delivered an event for the Aboriginal community at Kelly Street focusing on the Ochre Ribbon.

Great Southern Community Consultations

This was developed and delivered in partnership with SAC with the Community Drug Forum as the focus. We utilised these community consultations to look at each community and identify what they would like to participate in as community activities. Most communities wanted to focus on their youth to ensure that they were being encouraged to participate in things other than using substances. Three community activities were developed from this process.

How to Work with DCP? & What the Law says about Sex!

Both were sessions that provided some broad information and focused more on resources available around both topics.

Great Southern Community Drug Forum

The two-day Forum was very successful and was implemented after the community consultations. It gave communities an opportunity to identify what their issues were and what would work for them part way to solving these issues.



NAIDOC Week Celebrations

The delivery of NAIDOC Celebrations in 2016 was very successful and had over 300 people access information about FVPLS. This was done in a CENTRAL LOCATION THAT HAD Indigenous and non-Indigenous people come together and celebrate Aboriginal culture and share knowledge and information.



Women's Wellness Retreats

Two retreats were organised over the past year. The first being a targeted two-day camp for young mums with a focus on healthy lifestyles and making better choices. Also looking after themselves through stressful times and the best way to manage stress and anxiety etc. The second retreat was held over a week for more participants and the Elders in the communities. It provided an opportunity for respite from their daily lives and one designated day was about providing them with an experience they wouldn't otherwise have. It was very successful and again reinforced partnerships with other stakeholders that provide specialist services to our communities.



Royal Commission Community Activities Program

Mount Barker Youth Program (Homework Classes) – this project arose from the community consultations. We worked with the Mount Barker Community College in developing an after-school youth program for local kids to obtain support with literacy and numeracy. This in turn also kept them out of trouble and had parents involved on a weekly basis.

Mount Barker Healthy Lifestyles Program – this was another project that came out of the community consultations. It was supporting the Roughest Yorgas Program with Great Southern Aboriginal Health which looked at Healthy Lifestyles and the choices people make. We funded the exercise component of the program.

Schools Cultural Awareness Session – this is done on as requested basis. We utilise these opportunities to share Aboriginal culture with school children and we touch on Family Domestic Violence and what is a healthy relationship and what our service is about.

Albany Agricultural Show Information Stall – this provided an opportunity to share a stall with other SAC programs and circulating information about our service to the community.

The Letter Writing Project – this project looked at old letters found and given to the WA Museum in Perth. It was about linking community members with the project to return letters to family members.

Scrapbooking Series – this series of art and craft workshops provided opportunity to community members to develop a scrapbook. We also used these workshops to talk about our service and what support we can provide to the community.

Healthy Lifestyles Fitness Program – this project went hand in hand with the scrapbooking series. It looked at our lifestyles and healthier choices people should make. It is about looking after themselves as people's lives get so busy and hectic especially dealing with children that are substance abusers and especially if they are grandparents looking after their grandchildren.

Cultural Awareness – this has provided Cultural Awareness/Fitness to over 200 staff within a local organisation. This has also seen other organisations interested in having similar programs delivered with two more sessions planned for the coming year.

Ochre Ribbon Family Fun Day – this program was delivered this year early in the year to coincide with a closer date to Ochre Ribbon Day. This year we had a very successful Family Fun Day with over 70 people in attendance.

Stand up for me
Protect me
Educate others
Advocate for me
Know the signs
Understand it
Prevent it...

Mooditj Yorqas Yarning Project – this program is a series of art and craft activities occurring every Tuesday at the Kelly Street location. This project also provides opportunity to share what our service is about and targeted CLE when and if required.



Mother's Day Event – this year we again ran the Mother's Day event and this year we had lots of participants come and get gift bags.

Challenges and Barriers

The main challenge for this year has been widening the target audience. Generally, we seem to attract the same people to the activities and this can reflect within the community. However, the programs delivered over the last 6 months has had a good range of family groups being involved and participating. This has seen the Facebook pages being influential in younger people attending.

Postage costs have also risen so doing Australia Post mail outs to households has been an expensive cost. This also means that these mail outs are listed to the householder to minimise knowledge of existing or potential clients that the FVPLS may have. We also tried a mail drop but with regular address changes of people this is sometimes not helpful or successful.

This has meant that the Facebook pages are more utilised and people are invited to attend and like the pages. Time is also a factor for the Education Project Officer but if it increases attendance and knowledge of the activities we are delivering then it is time well spent.

Coming up

This coming year will once again see community activities occurring with the addition of:

- Focused outreach program to Kojonup, Katanning, Tambellup and Gnowangerup
- More Women's Wellness Retreats
- Community activities and other fun activities to be involved in

FVPLS Counselling / Client Support

This programs Community Support Officers (CSOs), located in Albany and Katanning, attend to clients who present with multiple complex issues such as drug and alcohol misuse, homelessness or threat thereof, parenting issues, historic trauma due to grief and loss / suicide, historic and family violence and abuse, financial difficulties and compromised mental health.

The CSOs provide:

- intensive case management
- counselling support regarding self-esteem building, stress management and safety planning and education regarding basic human rights and rights of children
- referrals to and involvement of other support agencies

During this period CSOs have attended to 794 client appointments, 274 supportive counselling in crisis situations, attended court on 13 occasions to provide support with VRO application, and attended Family Court to provided support in 7 matters.

Challenges and Barriers

The CSOs are functioning beyond capacity both physically and psychologically and the addition of a suitably qualified in-house female psychologist and/or social worker would greatly benefit them and the clients.

Referrals, with the clients' consent, are made to appropriate agencies but unfortunately many clients disengage from these outside services as they feel overwhelmed, confused and anxious about having to meet with strangers.

The first and most likely only time a client of trauma will access any form of therapy is when psychologist reports need to be compiled so that a solicitor can make a Criminal Injuries Compensation claim on their behalf. Clients are exposed to the risk of being re-traumatized at various points of the process.

A further challenge is the increase of crystal meth use in our community. This is having a devastating effect on our communities and impacts our clients' ability to engage with our service. There are insufficient rehabilitation centres to meet demand.

There is also a lack of crisis accommodation within regional areas to accommodate women and their children fleeing family and domestic violence.

Case Study

A client was referred through the Albany Police/Department of Child Protection and Family Support (DCPFS) as there had been reports of historic domestic violence and concerns for the safety of the children and an unborn child. The officer/caseworker was concerned for the client's wellbeing as she refused to place a Violence Restraining Order

(VRO) on her former partner and was not engaging with DCPFS parenting support program.

The client was known to FVPLS as she had previously received assistance with another matter. During a follow-up appointment, the client disclosed she was not with the father of her children, but he was continually harassing her, staying uninvited at her house and making threats to harm her. FVPLS provided information regarding the process of applying for a VRO and worked together on a Safety Plan. During further appointments client disclosed many of her problems which ranged from her fear of being alone to the complexities of her family and drug and alcohol abuse.

FVPLS provided counselling support with regards to self-esteem building, stress management and safety planning. The client was provided with education outlining human rights and the rights of children through the eyes of the law and a phone for use in the event of an emergency. Over time, the client's confidence grew to the point where she felt comfortable attending FVPLS office after an incident and asked for assistance to place a VRO on the perpetrator. FVPLS's counsellor referred to this service's Principal Solicitor for assistance with the application for VRO. FVPLS's counsellor provided supportive counselling ('hand holding') through the process which resulted with a VRO being put in place and the client and her children had their safety secured.

The client continued to access counselling to address issues with self-esteem/confidence/family safety. The client has kept her children in her care, maintained her home and her file closed at DCPFS. FVPLS continues to provide support when needed.



Indigenous Family Support Service

Indigenous Family Support Service (IFSS) - formerly Indigenous Community Links (ICL) - is designed to support Indigenous community members and their families, by providing links and referrals to a range of mainstream and Indigenous services and other community support programmes, such as health, family violence, legal, funeral, counselling, employment and drug and alcohol.

The level of support provided is at our discretion and according to what is manageable within our available resources. Transportation is not provided to clients as this may leave SAC liable to insurance or legal issues.

There are two full time Community Officers in our employ, one located in Albany and the other in Katanning. Both employees are themselves Indigenous and have a strong awareness across customs, knowledge of family/kin groups and understand Indigenous history within our region.

The Community Officers and Coordinator promote the program whenever and wherever possible by attending community meetings, networking with other service providers, meeting with other local Indigenous groups and participating in community events such as

NAIDOC celebrations, Harmony Day in Katanning and the Albany Agricultural Show. The program is further promoted on SAC's website and social media pages.

Free internet access is available to clients and we assist when required.

Outreach services were provided to communities in Mount Barker, Cranbrook, Tambellup, Kojonup and Gnowangerup until January 2017. The ICL program then to IFSS during February 2017, focusing on Albany and Katanning.

The IFSS databased has been upgraded to better capture relevant client information.

Our department has all been restructured and all client files have been revisited, staff contacting each person to ascertain whether they still require support. It has been a time-consuming process, but a necessary one.

Good news story

Our Albany based IFSS Community Officer attended Albany District Magistrate's Court to support a young Aboriginal man (the client).

The client was addicted to methamphetamine and had a history of violence, paranoia and erratic and unpredictable behaviour and was at times suicidal.

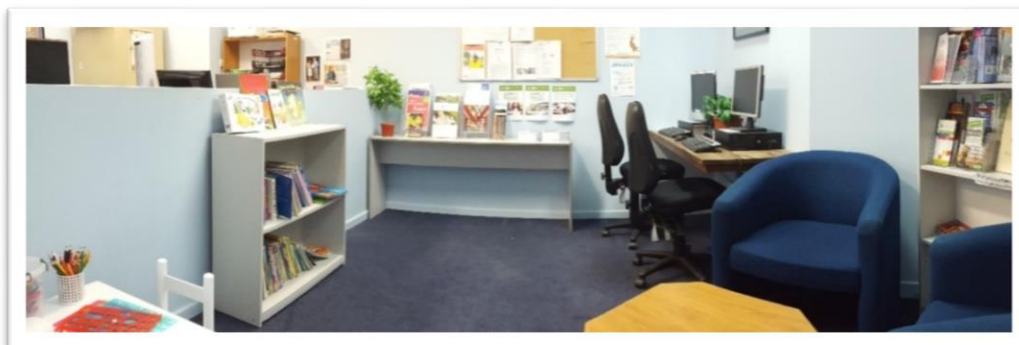
We first contacted the client when he had been hospitalised for a period of one month under an Inpatient Treatment Order. During this time, the client abused staff and patients and managed to escape from the secure unit.

Client's treatment included anti-psychotic medication which eventually stabilised his behaviour. During client's stay in hospital, our IFSS Community Officer visited him and provided client with art equipment to engage him in his passion for sketching.

Our IFSS Community Officer also facilitated regular contact between client and his mother and grandmother, thereby providing holistic support to the extended family.

The client is in recovering and doing well, however he has a long hard road ahead of him.

You can't
expect to see
CHANGE if
you never do
anything
DIFFERENTLY



Reception waiting room with children's activities and books and free internet access for clients

Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre



Left to right: Michelle Forrest and Asha Bhat CEO at our Albany office

This program, which was established by the Department of Training and Workforce Development in 2010, assists Aboriginal people in Western Australia to get into training, find employment or further their careers.

SAC undertakes similar Aboriginal Workforce Development Centres (AWDC) functions in the Great Southern as the other five Centres in WA, and work with Aboriginal jobseekers, local communities and industries and employers. We provide a safe and culturally secure environment, we have extensive networks of employers and service providers and have online access to resources, information and data relating to Aboriginal employment and career guidance and information. Clients also have access to free computer and internet access for job search and career information.

Our program co-ordinator has extensive experience in this field and is passionate about achieving successful employment outcomes for Aboriginal people in our region. She has met

with many school representatives on multiple occasions to explain this program, her role and the benefit of this program to Aboriginal students. SAC has established a good rapport with the Department of Education and we are receiving good feedback as far as the return of completed registration forms is concerned.

The schools and service providers who have been engaged thus far are:

- Albany Senior High School
- North Albany Senior High School
- Denmark Senior High School
- WA Denmark Agriculture School
- St Joseph's College
- Mount Barker Community College
- Alta 1 College
- Youth Network
- Anglicare
- Department of Child Protection
- City of Albany
- ATC Worksmart
- Great Southern Grammar
- Katanning Senior High School
- Gnowangerup Senior High School
- Palmerston
- Chamber of Commerce
- South Regional TAFE
- Worklink
- Headspace
- Juvenile Justice
- Careers WA
- Skill Hire
- Wanslea

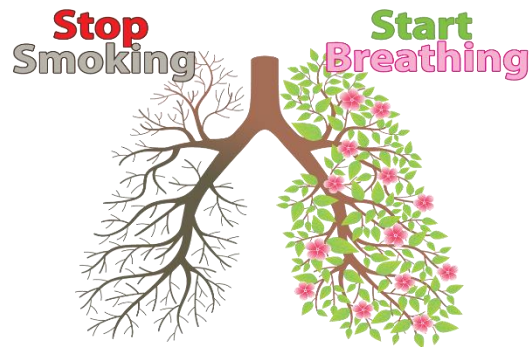
This program has also been promoted at the following community events - Expo at Pardelup Prison Farm, Mount Barker; Cultural Awareness and Fitness Workshop, City of Albany; Aboriginal Women's Camp, Denmark; Ochre Ribbon Day, Albany and NAIDOC celebrations.

Health Promotion – Gnumaries Hurt

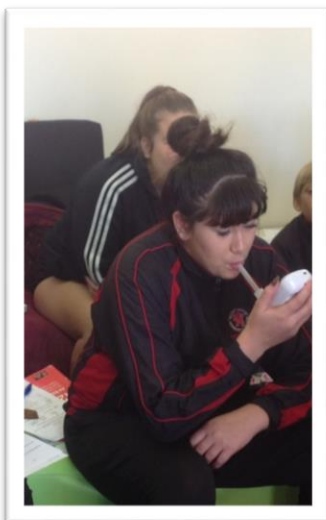
The Gnumaries Hurt program was developed to reduce the prevalence of tobacco consumption among Noongar people of the Great Southern region of Western Australia (WA).

The project aims to decrease the uptake of smoking, particularly among younger Noongar people in the region, whilst simultaneously increasing the number of smokers who quit smoking successfully, with an added focus on reducing the number of habitual smokers in closed environments.

This program was developed specifically for Noongar people living in the Great Southern region of WA.



Our Health Promotion Officer, who is well known in the community, has provided numerous education workshops informing the participants of the dangers of smoking tobacco and the number of harmful chemicals found in cigarettes. Participants are also encouraged to blow into a smokerlyzer which measures the amount of carbon monoxide residue still retained in their lungs. Students who participated were from Katanning High School, the Clontarf Academy Program, Albany Senior High School – Follow the Dream Program, Wirrupanda Foundation Kojonup, Mount Barker Community College, North Albany Senior High School.



Numerous smoking-cessation educational workshops and home visits have also been presented to adults in Albany, Mount Barker, Katanning, Tambellup, Gnowangerup and Kojonup. Here participants are also informed of the dangers of smoking to their health and advised of the various options available to them when they make the decision to stop or reduce smoking. Many of these workshops were delivered in partnership with the Cancer Council, Amcal Pharmacy, Relationships Australia, Wanslea, Palmerston and South Regional TAFE in Albany.

SAC hosts a weekly Men's Shed and during April 2017 Jenny Keen and Jody Hansen of Quit Line visited the group of men to share information and address the many questions.

Several non-smoking events have been held – NAIDOC celebrations, Cultural Awareness Camp in partnership with South Coast Natural Resource Management, Ochre Ribbon Day and the SAC Drug Forum.

All participants are required to complete survey forms before and after the workshops to gauge their knowledge and understanding.



Men's Shed

On 25 January 2017, a group of 8 Aboriginal men from our community attended a BBQ hosted by SAC at its Kelly Street premises. A discussion was held around the development of the Men's Shed, which officially commenced on 1 February 2017 with 15 men in attendance.

SAC wants the group to be responsible and motivated. The short-term benefits of a socio-cultural meeting place are just as important as the long-term outcomes of improved well-being, increased community participation and refined SAC service provision. Our aim is to provide a space for Aboriginal men to talk, work, learn and play, whilst also giving SAC insight into the needs and expectations of Aboriginal life in the 21st century. Food, access to computers, good references, solid praise and outings were used to motivate the Men's Shed crew – along with the prospect of work, better socio-economic circumstances and cultural confidence.

The Men's Shed is held every Tuesday with between 7 to 15 men in attendance. Lunch is provided, Kangaroo and damper when possible, and informal workshops presented to the attendees on various topics.



Group being informed on various services and programs available to them through SAC and yarning about current issues.



Health promotion session – the dangers of smoking tobacco and giving information about Nicotine chewing gum, Nicotine patches and other aides.



Great Southern Aboriginal Health, Palmerston, Quit Line and ABC Great Southern, to name but a few, have visited the Men's Shed. Andrew Collins of ABC informed the men of traineeships for Indigenous people within the organisation and conducted interviews with some of the participants, which was later aired.



Bruce and Grant from Albany Men's Resource Centre with the men.



Prostate Cancer education workshop

Challenges/Opportunities

Alcohol and drug abuse is a big issue when trying to engage with Noongar men. The lack of opportunities for employment compound the social situation in Albany.

Access to information about Noongar men's health, alcohol/substance abuse counselling, mental health and other services have been investigated and discussed with those services.

Having a place to meet and discuss issues and an area where they can yarn to other Noongar men is having a positive effect on the men.



HOUSING & BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Provision of housing is a significant part of SAC's enterprises. As a housing body, SAC aims to provide affordable housing for Indigenous people on low to moderate incomes with a housing need.

Of the 83 properties SAC manages, 65 are SAC owned, 6 deed of trustee properties, 2 head leased and 10 rental management, with an estimated value of approximately \$17,715,500.

This housing program extends from Mount Barker to Bunbury, across to Kondinin, Gnowangerup, Katanning down to Albany and some towns in between. As the region covers a large area and includes many small towns, SAC and its Board of Directors is divided into three Wards to ensure all areas of the region have representation.

SAC Housing is registered as a Preferred Provider with the Department of Housing WA (DoH) and is committed to growing the residential property portfolio by requesting titles to residential properties at no cost from DoH and managing additional residential property head leases from DoH.

In continuing to provide quality and affordable housing to Indigenous people within the South West region of Western Australia, SAC facilitates complete overhauls and refurbishments. Internal funds are maintained to cover long term repairs and maintenance as detailed in Housing Assistance Management Scheme (HAMS).

Tenants are offered good quality accommodation with affordable rental prices and have created consistently high demand for accommodation, particularly in communities with access to employment, education, and training and health services.

The majority of SAC's residential properties are three or four bedroom dwellings, to accommodate families with children. Of the 83 properties, there are 3 one-bedroom units, 2 two-bedroom units all of which are in the regional centres of Albany and Bunbury. The balance of SAC's portfolio is made up of three and four bedroom houses, catering to the high demand for accommodation for one and two parent families, with multiple children.

Paddy Coyne Complex Tenants engagement meeting at SAC's Kelly Street property.



FINANCE

Throughout the 2016-17 financial year, the Finance team was stable with no staff changes. At the close of the financial year, the team consisted of two full-time staff members, namely the Chief Executive Officer and Finance Officer. All SAC accounts are managed internally. Finance continued to review and update financial controls throughout the year to ensure appropriate risk management and the organisation's compliance with Australian Accounting Standards, the requirements of funding bodies and other external stakeholders including the ATO, ORIC, the Fair Work Commission, and the needs of clients and members.

Monthly financial reports were provided to the management team, in addition to reports given to the Directors on a quarterly basis. The Chief Executive Officer prepared budgets and reports for program managers and for funding bodies throughout the year to ensure that all funds are properly used within the agreed timeframes. Preparations for the annual audit took place between July and September 2017, and it is pleasing to report that the Auditors were entirely satisfied with SAC's financial report for the 2016–17 year.

Financial Position

KPMG completed the 2016-17 audit in October 2017. SAC ended the 2016-17 financial year showing a working capital of \$1,953,577, with the auditor noting that the organisation:

Significant changes in state of affairs

The following significant changes in the nature of activities occurred during the year:

- Indigenous Community Links (ICL) Program has transitioned into Indigenous Family Support Service (IFSS) Program and IFSS has received 12 months funding (until 30 June 2018);
- Family Violence Prevention Legal Service (FVPLS) Program was extended to 30 June 2018;
- The corporation has received funding for Men's Shed Program's Supervisor position until June 2018; and
- The Corporation has reached out to Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) to obtain help on investment strategy.

Other than the matters raised above, there were no significant changes in the nature of the activities that occurred during the year.

No matter has arisen since the end of the year that will or may significantly affect:

- a) The Corporation's operations in future financial years; or
- b) The results of those operations in future financial years; or
- c) The Corporation's state of affairs in future financial years.

Asha Bhat
Chief Executive Officer



Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration under
Section 339-50 of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander) Act 2006 to the Directors of Southern
Aboriginal Corporation

To the Directors of Southern Aboriginal Corporation

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2017 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


KPMG


Grant Robinson
Partner
Perth, Western Australia
6 October 2017

**Southern Aboriginal Corporation
Annual Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2017**

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

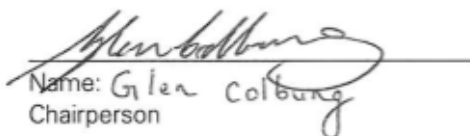
For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

The Directors of Southern Aboriginal Corporation ("the Corporation") declare that these financial statements have been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, the Regulations, the Corporation's rules and the funding agreements.

In the opinion of the Directors,

1. The financial statements and notes set out on pages 9 to 30, are in accordance with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and the Regulations including:-
 - i. complying with Australian Accounting Standards; and
 - ii. providing a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of the performance for the financial year ended on that date of the Corporation.
2. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Corporation will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors and is signed for and on behalf of the Directors by:


Name: Glen Colbung
Chairperson

Date: 5 October 2017



Independent Auditor's Report

To the directors of Southern Aboriginal Corporation

Opinion

We have audited the **Financial Report** of Southern Aboriginal Corporation (the Corporation).

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Report of the Corporation is in accordance with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with *Australian Accounting Standards* and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2007*.

The **Financial Report** comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017
- 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 including a summary of significant accounting policies
- Directors' Declaration.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards*. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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 Corporation in accordance with the independence requirements of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* 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 fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Other Information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in Southern Aboriginal Corporation's annual reporting which is provided in addition to the Financial Report and the Auditor's Report. The Directors are responsible for the Other Information.

The Other Information we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report was the Directors' report.

Our opinion on the Financial Report does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not



express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the Financial Report, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the Financial Report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information, and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for:

- preparing the Financial Report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards* and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*
- implementing necessary internal control 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
- assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. This includes disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objective is:

- 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. They 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/auditors_files/ar3.pdf. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.



Grant Robinson
Grant Robinson

Partner

Perth, Western Australia

6 October 2017