

ANNUAL REPORT

**SOUTHERN
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION**

ABN: 94 436 195 200 ICN: 232

2023/2024



OUR VISION

STEP UP...
STAND TALL...
WALK TOGETHER...

Step Up....

Empower self-determination and Aboriginal led solutions

Stand Tall....

Lead the way with cultural and business integrity

Walk Together...

Build inclusive relationships, partnerships and community through mutual respect and empathy

Southern Aboriginal Corporation

Head Office

27 Chester Pass Road
ALBANY WA 6330

PO Box 5277
ALBANY DC WA 6332

Phone: 08 9842 7777

Email: reception@sacorp.com.au

Central Albany Office

3/90 Frederick Street
ALBANY WA 6330

Rangers Office

22 Locke Street
ALBANY WA 6330

Bunbury

16 Zoe Street
BUNBURY WA 6230

Katanning

42 Clive Street
KATANNING WA 6317

Narrogin

119 Federal Street
NARROGIN WA 6312



sacorp.com.au



SACORP17



Southern Aboriginal Corp

Contents

CEO's Message	6
Chairperson's Message	8
Board of Directors	9
Our Organisation	10
The Organisation Chart	12
Our Community Services	13
Family Violence Prevention Legal Service	13
<i>Relevant Statistics</i>	14
Gnumaries Hurt	15
<i>Relevant Statistics</i>	15
Aboriginal Youth Empowerment Project	16
<i>Relevant Statistics</i>	17
Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer – Suicide Prevention	18
<i>Relevant Statistics</i>	18
First Nations Family Dispute Resolution Service	19
<i>Relevant Statistics</i>	19
Rangers	20
<i>Relevant Statistics</i>	20
Tenancy Support program	22
<i>Relevant Statistics</i>	23
Housing	24
Child Safe Organisation	27
Finance	30



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.



We **empower** our people through supporting **self-determined** and **Aboriginal-led solutions** which leads to building our people and our community.

We promote **equity** and **seeking justice** for all by implementing a culturally informed trauma integrated healing approach which allows us to provide a culturally safe place and dignified service provision.

We **embrace change** and new perspectives which helps us grow and make informed decisions.



We acknowledge and take **pride** in sharing where our journey started and how this influences our journey ahead.

We embrace **cultural integrity** as a norm and inspire others to do the same.

Our commitment to practicing good governance builds **trust** and **faith** in all that we do through operating with **integrity, accountability** and **ethical** business practices.



We value relationships based on **mutual respect** and treat people with **empathy** and **compassion**.

Through a community led approach we build partnerships by embracing **collaboration** and **co-design** principles.

CEO's Message

In the 2023-2024 financial year, the Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC) has made significant strides in delivering holistic and culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal communities across the Southwest, Wheatbelt, and Great Southern regions of Western Australia.

Our Family Violence Prevention Legal Service (FVPLS) exceeded KPIs, serving 173 clients in the first half of the year and 218 in the second half. Our trauma-informed approach has strengthened access to justice through enhanced partnerships and outreach initiatives.

The Gnumaries Hurt Program effectively raised awareness about tobacco use, conducting 16 health promotion activities that reached 239 individuals. This program is now entering its next phase and is expanding its focus to address emerging health concerns like marijuana and vaping.

The Aboriginal Youth Empowerment Project (AYEP) demonstrated the power of self-determination, supporting youth engagement and life skills development.

Our Rangers Program has actively engaged Aboriginal youth in environmental conservation, fostering a sense of connection to country and culture. This program not only contributes to the sustainability of our land but also empowers participants through skill development and employment opportunities.

Mental health issues are a growing concern in the community and our Suicide Prevention Initiatives have focused on community outreach and support services, promoting mental wellbeing and resilience among Aboriginal peoples.

Our Housing Program has provided essential assistance to families navigating housing challenges. By offering advice, resources, and support, we help clients secure and maintain stable housing, contributing to their overall wellbeing and community stability.

Additionally, our Tenancy Support Program has played a vital role in helping individuals and families sustain their tenancies. Through practical support, advocacy, and education about tenant rights and responsibilities, we empower clients to maintain stable housing situations.

SAC has continued to strengthen its partnerships and is pleased to receive funding from the Commonwealth for the Great Southern Safe Places project, which will provide safe, culturally appropriate crisis accommodation for up to six families. This facility will offer vital support for women and children escaping domestic violence.

In addition to the significant achievements of our programs, SAC once again proudly hosted community events such as the Great Southern NAIDOC Awards and the annual NAIDOC Ball. These celebrations highlight the achievements of Aboriginal individuals and groups, fostering a sense of pride and unity within the community. These events serve as platforms to recognise the invaluable contributions of Aboriginal people to society, encouraging ongoing engagement and support for cultural initiatives.

We are proud to report a 58% Indigenous employment rate, underscoring our commitment to community empowerment. I extend my gratitude to our dedicated staff and stakeholders for their hard work in making a meaningful impact in our Aboriginal communities.



Chief Executive Officer
Asha Bhat
Southern Aboriginal Corporation



Chairperson's Message

As Chairperson, I am proud to report that SAC has made remarkable progress in 2023-2024. The FVPLS has become a vital resource, exceeding performance targets and positively impacting clients affected by family violence.

The Gnumaries Hurt Program has engaged the community through health promotion efforts, leading to increased awareness of tobacco-related risks, with plans to address marijuana and vaping.

AYEP has empowered Aboriginal youth by fostering cultural engagement and life skills, with plans for future expansion into other regions.

Our Rangers Program has successfully involved youth in environmental stewardship, creating pathways for skill development and promoting sustainable practices within our communities.

Our Suicide Prevention Initiatives have prioritised mental health, offering vital support services that promote resilience and community well-being.

Additionally, our Housing Program has been instrumental in assisting families with housing needs, ensuring that stable housing contributes to their overall wellbeing and community integration. The Tenancy Support Program has also been critical, providing essential resources and advocacy to help individuals maintain their tenancies and understand their rights as tenants.

Indigenous Skills and Employment Program (ISEP) supports Aboriginal participants, especially those transitioning from post-prison release, by equipping them with the necessary job readiness skills and creating pathways to sustainable employment.

One of the most exciting developments on the horizon is the proposed Kairli Cultural Centre, envisioned for the Albany foreshore, next to the Albany Entertainment Centre. This innovative project aims to create a vibrant hub for cultural celebration and connection while providing significant economic opportunities for the community. The Kairli Centre will serve as a gathering place for cultural activities, exhibitions, and community events, enhancing the region's cultural landscape while driving tourism and local economic growth. With its strategic location, the centre is poised to become a focal point for celebrating Noongar culture and heritage, bringing people together and fostering a deeper understanding of Aboriginal traditions and stories.

SAC's commitment to a culturally safe and community-driven approach is at the core of its operations. SAC remains focused on the future with optimism and

determination. Through its expanding services in FVPLS, housing and employment, SAC is driving meaningful change. With strong leadership and a commitment to community-driven action, SAC is building a stronger, more connected future for Aboriginal families.

I commend our fellow Board members, staff and stakeholders for their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of Aboriginal peoples in our regions, and I look forward to another successful year ahead.



Chairperson
Daniel Colbung
Southern Aboriginal Corporation

Board of Directors

Introducing Our Board of Directors



Chairperson
Daniel Colbung
(Albany Ward)



Vice Chairperson
Leah Dunn
(Narrogin Ward)



Director
David Colbung Sr
(Albany Ward)



Director
Trevor Fades
(Bunbury Ward)



Director
Faye Statory
(Narrogin Ward)

Our Organisation

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.

The Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC) is a community-driven, Aboriginal-led organization serving the Noongar people in Albany, Western Australia, and beyond. Established in 1983, SAC formed from a shared vision at the Southern Area Aboriginal Consultative Committee, gaining crucial backing from the National Aboriginal Conference.

With support from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, SAC set up an early team, including an Aboriginal Information Officer, and established community-based roles in Bunbury, Albany, and Katanning.

SAC has since spearheaded impactful programs, addressing cultural needs and securing resources for the Noongar community.

One major achievement was acquiring the former St. Francis Xavier Mission, now called Ngullah Mia or "our home" in Noongar, creating a foundation for lasting community connection.

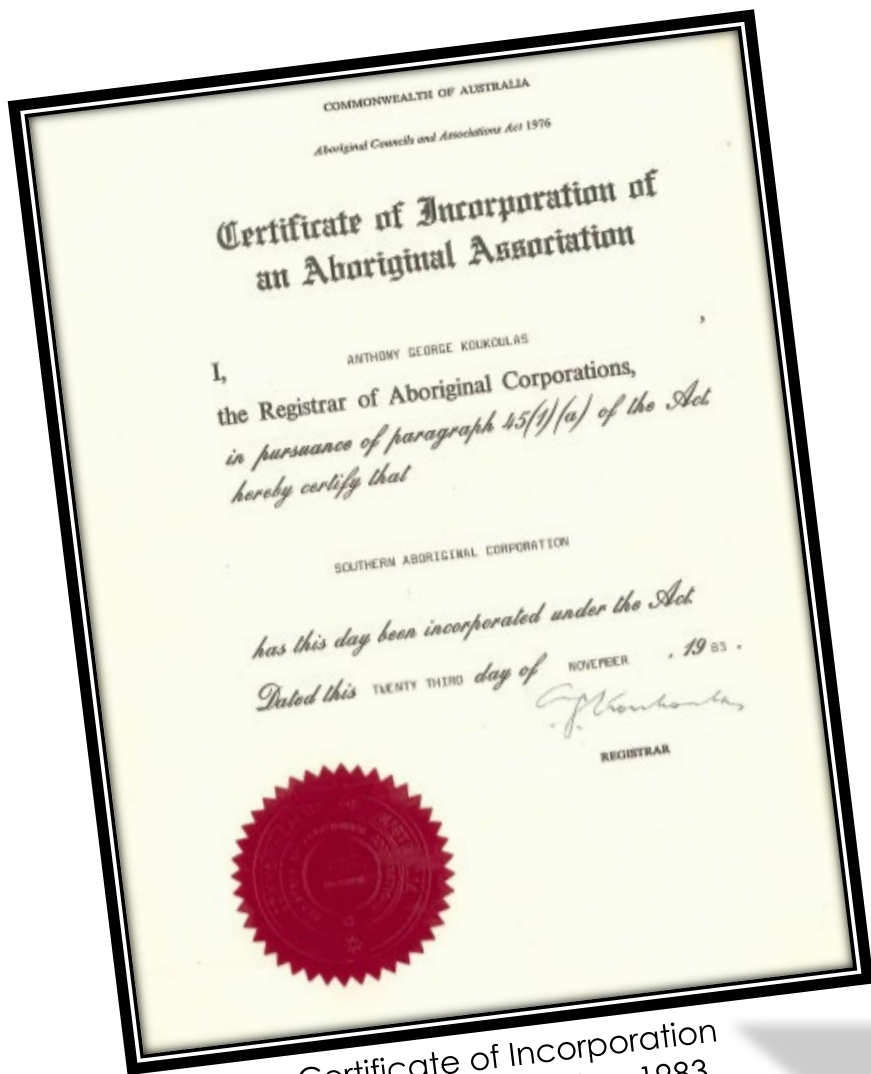
SAC continues to manage important sites, offer social housing, and run initiatives like the Family Futures and Bringing It Home programs.

Currently, SAC's active programs include:

- Gnumaries Hurt (tobacco cessation) Health Promotion
- Community Housing and property management
- Family Violence Prevention Legal Service
- Aboriginal Ranger Program

Today, SAC stands as the largest Aboriginal resource agency in the Noongar Country, operating across sixteen towns (from Bunbury in the west, Brookton and Pingelly in the north, Albany in the south and eastward across to Kondinin) and 120,000 square kms. Approximately 2,100 Aboriginal people live in this area, many of them in the smaller country towns.

With a steady commitment to Noongar well-being, SAC coordinates services and advocates for sustainable growth, fostering a future that honours heritage and meets evolving community needs.

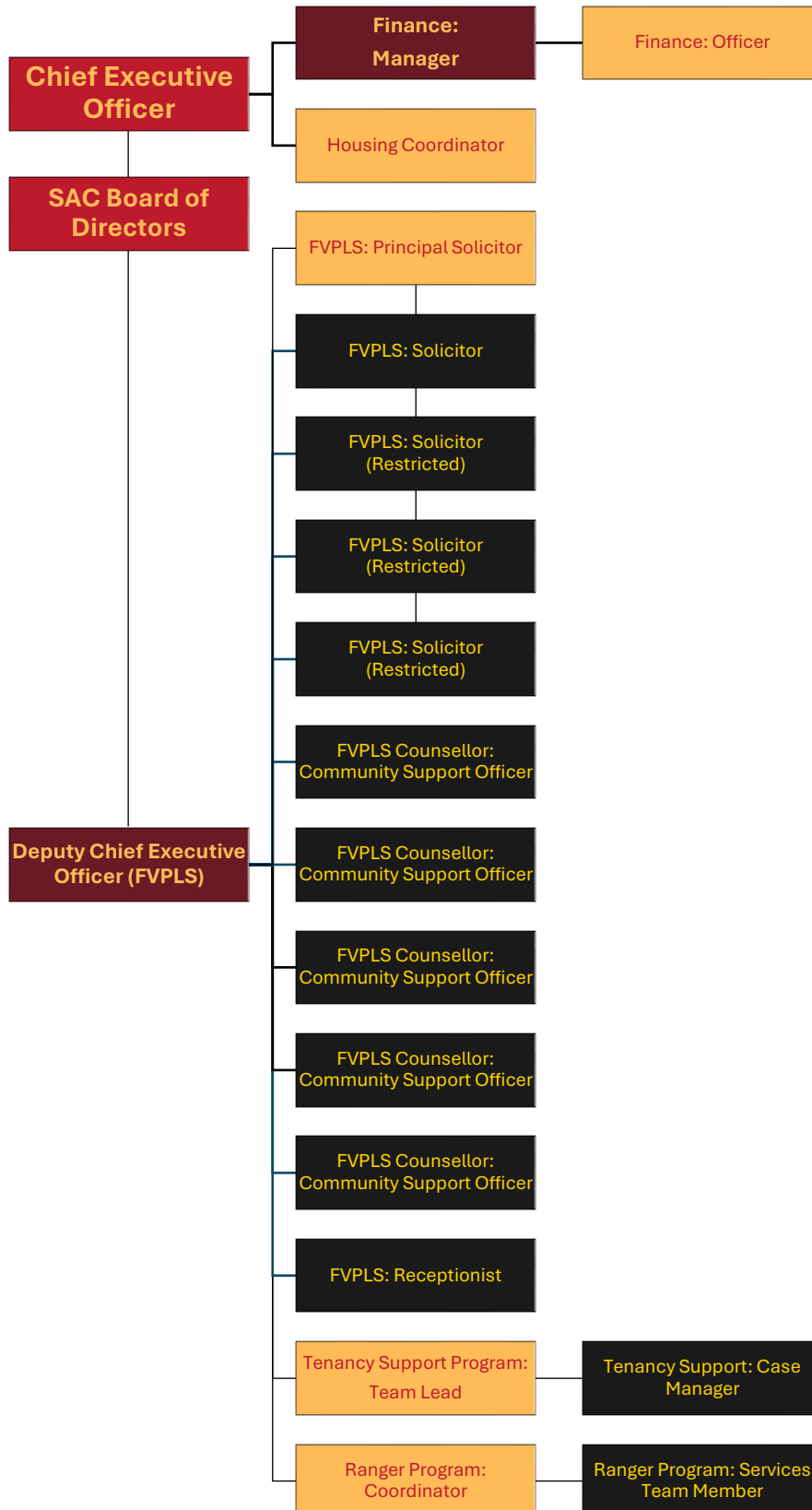


Certificate of Incorporation
dated 23 November 1983



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

The Organisation Chart



Our Community Services

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE

The SAC Family Violence Prevention Legal Service (FVPLS) provides critical, trauma-informed support to Aboriginal people facing family and domestic violence across the Southwest, Wheatbelt, and Great Southern regions of Western Australia.

Through a holistic approach, we offer essential legal services in child protection, family law, restraining orders, and criminal injuries compensation, paired with advocacy, counselling, and referrals. Our dedicated approach helps ensure that those most in need can access life-changing support.

This year, we expanded community access to justice by increasing referral pathways, boosting staff, and reaching remote areas with mobile service vans. We engaged communities through awareness events like NAIDOC Week, R U Ok Day, and Reconciliation Week, and delivered educational programs on healthy relationships and family violence prevention.

FVPLS is proud of its strengthened workforce, filling all positions, achieving zero resignations in 2024, and maintaining a 58% Indigenous employment rate as of June 30.

Our commitment to our clients and communities remains unwavering, as we continue to deliver vital resources, broaden outreach, and foster resilience across the regions, paving the way for safer, stronger futures.



Relevant Statistics

SAC FVPLS far exceeded their KPI's over the past financial year

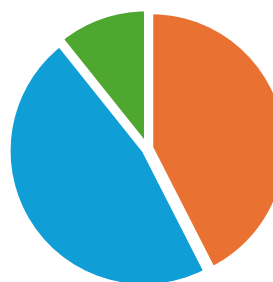
Key Performance Indicator	6 Month Target	July-December 2023	January to June 2024
Number of Clients	50	173 (345%)	218 (436%)
Legal Services Delivered	140	264 (188%)	339 (242%)
Non-Legal Services	600	814 (135%)	1,122 (187%)
Representations Opened	20	82 (410%)	70 (350%)
Community Legal Education Sessions	15	13 (87%)	23 (150%)
Early Intervention and community awareness	50	39 (78%)	57 (114%)

Ongoing Legal Matters



- Protection and Care
- Criminal Injuries Compensation
- Family Law - Parenting
- Restraining Orders
- Other

Clients



- New (99)
- Existing (109)
- Repeat (25)



GNUMARIES HURT

The *Gnumaries Hurt Program*, presented in partnership with the Western Australia Country Health Services, focuses on educating Aboriginal people in the Great Southern region about the health risks of smoking. Through targeted education, we aim to increase awareness of the harms from tobacco use and second-hand smoke to empower people with the knowledge to make healthier choices.

The program includes:

- Local health campaigns that spotlight the dangers of smoking,
- Brief intervention sessions offering personalized support for quitting, with treatment referrals and resources,
- *Smarter than Smoking* workshops designed to build community knowledge,
- Free distribution of materials to encourage quitting,
- Collaboration with other services to spread awareness across the region.

Our long-term aim is to reduce tobacco use among Aboriginal people to lower preventable hospitalizations and early deaths.

In 2023-2024, SAC began talks with the Western Australia Country Health Services to expand the program to include education on marijuana and vaping harms. Efforts are underway to align these expanded goals with program outcomes.

Relevant Statistics

In the 2023-2024 financial year:

- 17 clients received brief smoking cessation interventions;
- 16 health promotion and education activities occurred;
- 239 Aboriginal people attended workshops and community activities that promoted the Gnumaries Hurt message; and
- 40 interactions with other service providers occurred.



ABORIGINAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

The Aboriginal Youth Empowerment Project (AYEP) empowers Aboriginal youth through programs crafted by and for them. Launched in November 2022 with funding from the Department of Social Services' Inclusive Communities Grant, AYEP aimed to build self-determination, foster positive relationships, and drive sustainable, community-focused results.

Although the pilot ended on June 30, 2024, AYEP's work has made a lasting impact on individuals and communities, proving that culturally connected and relationship-centered approaches make a real difference.

AYEP's programs focused on understanding and adapting to each participant's evolving needs. Activities included:

- Connecting to country, culture and kin to champion wellbeing;
- Linking in agencies and providing warm referrals to other community service providers;
- Supporting school attendance by assisting the student to identify and remove or minimise attendance barriers;
- Accessing soft skill development opportunities - leadership, communication, problem solving, managing emotions, building resilience, coping with stress, respectful relationships;
- Developing work readiness skills;
- Promoting and supporting access to further education pathways; and
- Building community capacity through providing them with the tools to support Aboriginal youth.

By partnering with community agencies and offering warm referrals, AYEP has strengthened local networks that can continue to support youth long-term. This holistic approach not only provides direct support but also creates a ripple effect, encouraging communities to build their own capacity to support youth in meaningful ways.

AYEP has proven that focusing on cultural connection, trust-building, and individual strengths is a powerful model. Now, with the foundation laid and the program's benefits clear, further funding would allow the Southern Aboriginal Corporation to address service gaps and extend this approach to more Aboriginal youth in regions like the South West and Wheatbelt.

By expanding AYEP's reach, communities can see young people thrive, build resilience, and make meaningful progress toward a future filled with opportunities and self-determination.

Relevant Statistics

- 78 case management clients that were supported
- 77 workshops and cultural activities were delivered; and
- 360 Aboriginal youth aged 12-18 years from the Great Southern region engaged in the service.

Stakeholder survey results:

- The services and activities provided as part of this project support Aboriginal youth to better deal with issues, challenges and barriers.
- Program listened to and understood the needs of young Aboriginal people in our community.
- Moderate to sizable change in Aboriginal youth's behaviours, skill set or self-determined decision making.
- Building the trust and connection with the youth, family, school and community has been a major success factor.
- Having additional support and mentors will drive results now that the model has been proven.



ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER – SUICIDE PREVENTION

In partnership with the State Government's Mental Health Commission, the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) – Suicide Prevention Program has been delivered by SAC since 2021 across Western Australia.

This program drives grassroots suicide prevention and early intervention efforts across the Great Southern region, closely following the Regional Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Plan and adapting to new needs as they arise within communities.

The ACLO Program aims to strengthen well-being and reduce suicidal behaviours by creating community-focused initiatives that address key risk and protective factors.

By promoting mental health awareness and breaking down stigma, the program encourages open conversations and provides accessible spaces for individuals to seek help. Key outcomes include improved mental health literacy, a decrease in stigma related to mental health and suicide, and increased confidence in seeking support for oneself or others.

To ensure the program remains relevant, SAC plans to update the Regional Suicide Prevention Plan for the 2024-2025 financial year.

During this past year, SAC coordinated or supported numerous community-centered activities including:

- 3 x 2-day Mental Health First Aid courses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants,
- 2 x 3-day Trauma-Informed Care workshops
- 2 x Deadly Thinking Youth programs
- 5 yarning circles for healing and cultural sharing
- 2 x Connecting to Country camps
- 1 x Community gathering; and
- Developed 18 tailored resources that were shared with local communities.

Through these efforts, SAC continues to build partnerships and create impactful, culturally safe spaces for community healing and resilience.

Relevant Statistics

Throughout the 2023-24 financial Year:

- 25 stakeholder interactions have occurred with over 300 attendees; and
- 15 community-based activities were coordinated with over 200 attendees.



FIRST NATIONS FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICE

Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) is a service designed to help people work through conflicts that arise during separation or divorce. This process, including mediation, assists in resolving issues related to property, finances, and most importantly, children.

The First Nations Family Dispute Resolution (FNFDR) Program, funded by the Australian Government's Attorney-General's Department, is a pilot project running until June 2026. Over the last two years, SAC has built the capacity to offer FDR services in Albany and throughout the Great Southern region. SAC's FNFDR service focuses on providing culturally safe and respectful spaces for families and communities. This service helps resolve disputes where there is conflict between the carers of children, either during or after a relationship breakdown, and works to ensure decisions are made in the best interests of the children involved.

SAC's FNFDR service uses tailored, culturally appropriate models to meet the unique needs of families while still adhering to FDR standards and prioritizing children's welfare. This early intervention approach aims to resolve family arrangements before they escalate, reducing the need for involvement from child protection authorities or the courts.

SAC's understanding of family goes beyond the traditional nuclear family, embracing kinship and extended family networks. The service allows for multiple parties to participate in the process, recognizing that resources such as time and travel allowances may be needed to accommodate everyone involved.

SAC's FNFDR service plays a vital role in creating positive outcomes for children and families. By collaborating with other key stakeholders in FDR, the service contributes to healthier, more effective solutions for families navigating difficult situations.

Relevant Statistics

Over 100 community members and service provider representatives attended yarning circles and focus groups that informed the design of our FNFDR service.

11 different community organisations contributed to the design of our FNFDR service.



RANGERS

The SAC Ranger Program launched in December 2020 and has quickly grown, delivering positive results through employment, training, and environmental work. Rangers help the local community by cleaning bush areas, removing weeds, and picking up rubbish, giving back to the land and their region. This program directly benefits the environment and strengthens connections to Country.

The Aboriginal Ranger Program (ARP) is funded in multiple rounds, with Aboriginal Corporations applying for funding. Round four began in July 2022 and runs until June 2024. Some key highlights from 2023/24 include: on-country visits with Elders, such as a trip with Lester Coyne to Oyster Harbour and the Porongurup and Stirling Ranges, and a meeting with Carol Petersen at the Torbay Catchment Group. The Rangers also worked closely with Vernice Guillies and Larry Blight, visiting the Denmark fish traps. These trips connected Rangers to thousands of years of history, as they reflected on the enduring legacy of the fish traps that have been in use for over 10,000 years.

The Rangers also worked alongside local catchment groups, DBCA Albany, the City of Albany, and schools to tackle environmental projects. These included revegetation, weed control, feral animal monitoring, flora surveys, and path restoration. These efforts help protect the land, while building skills and fostering long-term environmental stewardship.

In 2024, SAC received funding for another two years, continuing the work from July 2024 to June 2026. This funding supports the employment and training of Rangers, empowering young people to engage with Country and pass on their knowledge. The program also helps mitigate climate risks through habitat restoration and protects threatened species. By working with Elders and training providers, the Rangers will promote cultural tourism, support environmental conservation, and preserve cultural heritage.

The project employs 6.3 full-time positions, including two women employees, and provides a platform for Rangers to manage land and cultural sites, protect Country, and share knowledge. Rangers will also collaborate with schools and create tourism products that raise cultural awareness in the community and among visitors. This ongoing work not only supports the environment but also nurtures a stronger connection between people and the land.

Relevant Statistics

There are currently six contracted rangers, and five casual rangers employed by the program.

During the year 2023 /24 the rangers completed seven on country visits to significant places with Elders. Over 20 hectares of weed control, two cultural burns on farmland bush reserves, five days of camera monitoring and twenty days of pig point surveys, 10 hectares of revegetation, three events working with schools and weeks of restoration of culturally significant places.

Two Rangers successfully completed their Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management. Two Rangers made significant progress towards the completion of their Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management. The Rangers attended 10 informal training sessions with Elders and industry experts. Traditional tool making training and beach cleanup methodology are examples of this training.



TENANCY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Southern Aboriginal Corporation's Tenancy Support Program (STSP) has been running for 18 months. The first year focused on fine-tuning the program and adapting the model to fit community needs. Over the past 12 months, we've surpassed our KPIs and built strong, collaborative relationships within the community.

We've recently added Penni Lukies to our team, who brings over five years of experience in community services. In her short time with us, Penni has proven to be an invaluable asset. STSP currently serves over 100 clients and continues to grow. Word of mouth and repeat clients reflect the positive reputation we're building. People are reaching out to us, not just through formal referrals, but by direct requests because of the support we offer.

The STSP model focuses on identifying and addressing gaps in services, working directly with tenants and community members. We've strayed from the traditional approach of accepting government referrals and instead put the tenants at the center of the process, allowing them to drive their own support. This approach has led to greater engagement and success in our work.

Although some services were initially hesitant to partner with us, we're seeing progress. For example, Advance Housing, the largest community housing organization in the Great Southern, has recognized our work with challenging tenancies. They've offered us an MOU and invited us to their team meetings. Other organizations are following suit, and we're seeing increased interest in collaboration.

After refining our approach and adapting to local challenges, we're confident that the lessons learned here can be applied to other regions. Recently, we met with service providers in Narrogin, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. We're planning similar visits to the Southwest to continue building these connections.

The Southern Aboriginal Tenancy Support Program is thriving, and the future looks bright. The feedback from our funding provider has been extremely positive, and we're now awaiting the outcome of a recent funding application to extend the program for another three years.

Looking forward to another exciting year 😊

Steve Pinner

Team Lead

Southern Aboriginal Corporation

Relevant Statistics

Total Clients: 108 with another 11 at inquiry stage, and 23 repeat clients.
KPI is minimum 50 clients pa.

Outcomes:	Unsuccessful exits	7
	Successful exits	54
	Clients currently supported	32
	Suspended clients	15
	Clients at Inquiry (not yet engaged)	11

Clients are able to re-engage at any time by contacting STSP.



Housing

Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC) manages 79 properties across several regions, including Albany, Mount Barker, Katanning, Narrogin, Tambellup, Gnowangerup, Kojonup, Wagin, Pingelly, Kondinin, Brookton, Boddington, Collie, Bunbury, Australind, Brunswick Junction, Waroona, Manjimup, and Yalyalup. Of these, 69 properties are leased, while 10 are currently vacant.

In the past year, SAC took back the management of nine properties previously handled by Elders Narrogin and Ray White Katanning. These properties, located in Pingelly, Narrogin, Katanning, and Wagin, are now directly overseen by SAC.

Routine inspections of all properties revealed safety and compliance issues that had gone unnoticed by previous housing officers. Thanks to these inspections, all 69 leased properties are now fully compliant with safety regulations and standards.

This proactive approach to property management ensures that SAC can maintain the highest standards of safety and compliance.

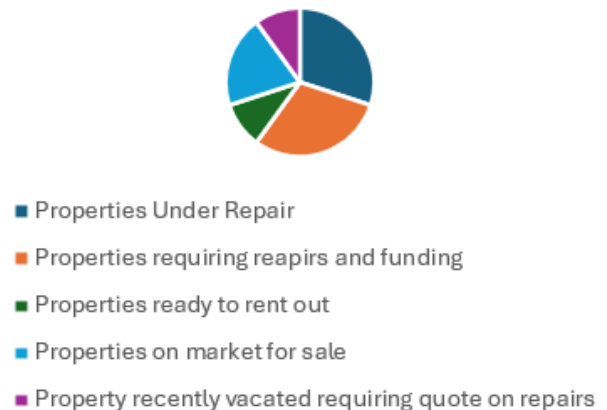
It also highlights the organization's commitment to providing quality housing for the community. By regaining control over property management and addressing maintenance issues, SAC is setting a strong foundation for future success.

Vacant Properties

Of the ten remaining properties which are currently vacant:

- 3 properties are currently under repair
- 3 properties require repairs, these have been quoted on and require funding at present of around \$70,000 give or take
- 1 property has been refurbished and ready for tenants
- 2 properties are on the market for sale
- 1 property is recently vacated, and quote required for repairs
- 3 properties currently under repair

Vacant SAC Properties



New Tenancies

Over the past 12 months SAC has welcomed eight new families into our properties in the regions of Albany, Pingelly, Bunbury, Katanning, Yalyalup & Narrogin

New Properties

SAC has purchased one home in the Yalyalup region which is now tenanted.

Refurbishments

SAC is pleased to announce that the Refurbishments have been well underway in this last year with 2 of our properties in Bunbury being completed, 1 property's bathroom refurbished, with another soon due for completion in the area, 1 property in Collie and 1 property in Brookton.

Rental Arrears

A significant amount of diligence and continuity over the past year has resulted in the level of arrears decreasing.

As of 2 October 2024, there is currently \$39,365.91 in total arrears which represents 34 of our 69 tenants (49.27%)

The arrears are broken down into Rental Arrears and Other Arrears (damages, utility charges etc) 12.27% of arrears represent "Other" and 87.73 represent Rental arrears.

2023/2024 has been a financial struggle for some of our tenants with increased inflation and costs of living. We have actively engaged in assisting those in financial distress and have put in place payment plans to slowly reduce their arrears whilst supporting them through difficult times.

For the \$34,537.25 total of rent arrears this broken down as follows:

- Arrears Over \$1,000 (10 tenants) 29.41% of total rent arrears
- Arrears \$500-\$999 (4 tenants) 11.76% of total rent arrears
- Under \$500 (20 tenants) 58.82% of total rent arrears.

Payment Plans & Evictions

We have been working closely with tenants who have long-standing rent arrears, offering payment plans to help them stay in their homes. Our priority is to preserve tenancies wherever possible. However, not all tenants are willing to work with us. Over the past 12 months, three tenancies were terminated by the Magistrates Court, each requiring an eviction process.

Transitional Housing

We are proud to report nearly a full year of successful occupancy in the two Domestic Violence transitional properties we manage, in partnership with Anglicare.

Housing Applications

The demand for housing has surged, with over 100 applications received this year alone. Unfortunately, we cannot provide homes for everyone due to a lack of

available properties. The current housing crisis is affecting many, but we have successfully filled the properties that have become available.

Community Housing Accreditation

SAC is working towards Community Housing accreditation. This will help us access additional funding and property opportunities, further strengthening our mission to support the community.

From Sharon Milentis, Property Manager

As Property Manager, I've spent the last 18 months completing a Social Housing qualification through North Metropolitan TAFE. This course will be completed in two months, thanks to the support of our CEO, Asha Bhat. With 28 years of experience and my Property Manager registration, this qualification helps me better serve SAC as we work toward becoming an accredited Community Housing provider.

Brookton House:



Bunbury Refurbishment:



Collie Refurbishment:



Child Safe Organisation

SAC has endorsed the following operational policy statement aligning to the organisations child safe practices.

Policy Statement: Our Journey of Child Safe Practices

WE RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We walk together with our children and young people knowing they have the right to feel safe, to be protected, to be heard and to be supported. Everyone is treated equally, is welcomed and included.

WE ENCOURAGE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO HAVE THEIR SAY AND ENSURE THEY ARE INFORMED

We create opportunity for children and young people to step up, have their say and be informed. We listen deeply, with an open mind and an open heart, to what they say and how they feel. Without judgement on their journey, we empower self-determined solutions to the challenges and barriers they face.

OUR TEAM ARE POSITIVE PARTNERS

Our footsteps will lead children and young people in the right direction to forge their own path in life. We make every footstep count to empower our young people. We champion and nurture people's journey with encouragement and hope.

Our team is backed up by robust policy and protocols that support child-safe practices. We implement a range of tools and training to support the continued development and improvement of our workforce, including aligning to the '10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations'.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY JOURNEY IS DIFFERENT

We walk alongside our children and young people in their journey, no matter where they start. We support and empower them to determine pathways of wellbeing and thriving contribution. This is done with compassion, empathy, and dignity.

We recognise the uniqueness of every child and young person. We celebrate their achievements and understand that each will grow and learn differently.

WE MODEL CULTURAL INTEGRITY

Our Cultural Integrity Model provides a whole-of-organisation approach to applying our values and cultural ways of working. This is backed up by our organisation's cultural capability, we achieve through our authentic approach to continuous learning.

We teach our children and young people about culture, connection to country and kinship knowing that this sets them on a path of strong wellbeing.

WE MODEL TRAUMA INFORMED CARE AND PRACTICE

A Culturally Informed Trauma Integrated Healing Approach is embedded into our organisation and is at the forefront of delivering services to our children and young people.

Our children and young people should not have to deal with abuse, harm, or neglect on their own. If they feel unsafe, threatened or if they see or hear something that causes them concern, they can speak to our staff. All concerns will be taken seriously, and our response will be to take timely action (proactive and preventative) that integrates trauma-informed care and practice to protect from future harm and support their healing journey.

Our children are our future.... They are our tomorrow, our legacy.

As a child safe and friendly organisation, we value children and understand that safety doesn't just happen. Throughout the 2023-2024 financial year, SAC has been working towards increasing their capacity as a child safe organisation and embedding our commitment to protecting children in our organisation's culture and service delivery practices. We understand that a child safe organisation consciously and systematically:

- Creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing is at the centre of thought, values and actions
- Places emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children and young people
- Creates conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people
- Creates conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm
- Responds to any concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm

SAC's interactions with children as part of our operations has expanded through implementation of the pilot project 'Aboriginal Youth Empowerment Project'. This will continue to expand in future years through establishing the First Nations Family Dispute Resolution services and other child focussed programs. Key activities that involved interactions with youth included:

- Delivering empowerment, health related and social emotional wellbeing workshops
- On country program participation
- Youth yarning sessions

- Transport to education facilities and external service providers
- Being present through the warm referral process to external service providers
- Advocating on behalf of children and young people
- Children and young people attending facilities with care givers

SAC's Child Safe Organisation Risk Assessment was drafted using the organisations updated risk matrix. Whilst a lot of risk controls are already embedded in the ways of working within the organisation, additional risk mitigations strategies have been identified and SAC are in the process of implementing. This includes:

- Updating position descriptions to align with child safe principles
- Updates staff and board of directors code of conduct to include alignment to child safe practices
- Updated staff training regarding child safety
- Creation of promotional material that supports an informative approach to SAC's child safe principles and practices

Whilst SAC is compliant with the Child Safety Framework, we acknowledge that improvements can be made through implementing and embedding all identified risk mitigation strategies, including measures to ensure third parties apply to child safety requirements.



STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue	2.1	7,419,288	5,152,942
Other income	2.1	831,594	215,655
Employee benefits expense	2.2	(2,750,621)	(2,876,738)
Depreciation expense		(723,362)	(589,456)
Repairs and maintenance		(438,382)	(136,393)
Other expenses	2.3	(2,188,572)	(1,708,082)
Operating deficit		2,149,945	57,928
Finance income		204,458	254,847
Finance costs		(10,828)	(1,570)
Net finance income		193,630	253,277
Surplus before tax		2,343,575	311,205
Income tax expense	2.4	-	-
Surplus after tax		2,343,575	311,205
Other comprehensive income			
Items that are or may be reclassified to profit or loss			
Revaluation of property, plant and equipment	3.1	-	1,034,763
Total other comprehensive income		-	1,034,763
Total comprehensive surplus		2,343,575	1,345,967

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1	2,751,947	3,031,404
Trade and other receivables	4.2	271,453	160,050
Term deposits	4.1	1,688,100	2,347,607
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	5.1	1,651,401	1,020,827
Total current assets		6,362,901	6,559,888
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3.1	24,947,877	24,732,305
Right-of-use assets	4.5	104,093	200,233
Total non-current assets		25,051,970	24,932,538
TOTAL ASSETS		31,414,871	31,492,426
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	4.3	1,063,457	3,369,144
Employee benefits	4.4	298,884	303,108
Lease liabilities	4.5	145,101	114,172
Total current liabilities		1,507,442	3,786,424
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits	4.4	96,162	80,383
Lease liabilities	4.5	-	157,928
Total non-current liabilities		96,162	238,311
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,603,604	4,024,735
NET ASSETS		29,811,267	27,467,691
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		7,621,335	5,277,760
Reserves		22,189,932	22,189,931
TOTAL EQUITY		29,811,267	27,467,691

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

STRONGER
TOGETHER



SOUTHERN
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION

ABN : 94 436 195 200 ICN :232