

Culturally Respectful Aboriginal RTW Service NEWSLETTER

June 2021 | Issue #3



WorkFocus Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to elders both past and present.



May Recap

Group photo above left to right: Heidi Gilseman (WorkFocus Australia), Ashleigh O'Donnell (WorkFocus Australia), Nathan Moran (Local Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council), Mei Ling Yong (WorkFocus Australia), Sera Shepherd (WorkFocus Australia), Georgina Shafren (WorkFocus Australia)

Photos used with permission.

National Reconciliation Week 27 May to 3 June

WorkFocus Australia had the honour of hosting a collaborative event with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council to discuss Working towards Reconciliation in Australia.

The CEO of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council discussed the need for truth telling, historical acknowledgement, and the very much needed teachings of Australia's dark history.

Our event was held in The Australian Hall which is of great historical significance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and other cultural groups in Sydney. A beautifully fitting venue to discuss the important topics of how to achieve Reconciliation with Australia's First Peoples.

For more information regarding the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council or our National Reconciliation Week event, please visit the following websites:

www.metrolalc.org.au

www.workfocus.com/newsroom

MABO Day 3 June

To commemorate the final day of National Reconciliation Week, WorkFocus' Aboriginal RTW service leaders and champions reflected on the momentous efforts of Mer Island man, Eddie Koki Mabo, who was successful in overturning the notion of terra nullius (land belonging to no-one).

The Mabo decision is so important as it acknowledges the traditional rights of Indigenous Peoples to their land and waters and paves the way for native title in Australia, however, the mining and pastoral departments were concerned about the ramifications of the High Court's decision.

Ever since the High Court's decision, indigenous Peoples have continued to face problems with being able to claim native title on crown land. Read more about these issues in this ABC News article:

[Learn more](#)



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4-11 JULY 2021

NAIDOC WEEK

Heal Country!

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to learn more about the different nations of Australia's First Peoples.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself.

This year's theme for NAIDOC Week of Heal Country, heal our nation, highlights the need for stronger measures to recognise, protect and maintain the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

WorkFocus Australia will be celebrating in various areas across the country to ensure our different branches are learning about their local Aboriginal nation as we all live in work on different Aboriginal lands.

Stay tuned for more details of what we are getting involved in for NAIDOC Week 2021.



HEAL
COUNTRY!
4-11 JULY 2021

New shirts, new look!



Left to right: Mei Ling Yong, Sera Shepherd, Georgina Shafren

During National Reconciliation Week, we were excited to announce the arrival of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander RTW Service shirts which feature our unique service logo designed by the very talented Justine Kinney, founder of Cultural Creative Agency (CCA).

A Yawaru woman from Broome Western Australia, Justine specialises in graphic, visual, web and brand design and draws on her strong indigenous business background to drive her passion for continuous intercultural dialogue to engage with her clients.

The circular shape of the service logo supports our holistic approach towards acknowledging and respecting the health, well-being, life and work goals of each person, while at the same time providing a unique visual identity.

The moving arrows symbolise that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service acknowledges, respects and provides for the cultural and individual needs of each client, with the focal point representing the overall goal of providing a culturally tailored, respectful and appropriate recovery and return to work service.

Justine has provided permission to utilise her artwork as our service logo.

[Learn more](#)



Spotlight on two of our *Aboriginal Service Champions*

Starting from this issue, we will be providing a new section so that you can get to know our amazing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander RTW Service team. This month we feature Mei Ling Yong and Teagan Bulman.



Mei Ling Yong
Service Leader

Mei is one of our National Customer Experience Managers and more importantly, one of the service leaders for our Aboriginal RTW service. Over the past two years, Mei has been leading our service and assisting our service leaders and champions to ensure we are providing a culturally respectful rehabilitation service to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.

Through this service, Mei has developed close community ties, specifically with the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council in Sydney. Outside of work, Mei loves to keep active by going to gym classes, walking at national parks, cooking, and exploring new eateries in and around Sydney.



Teagan Bulman
Injury Management Specialist

Teagan is one of our Injury Management Specialists based in our Bunbury office in WA. Teagan holds a Master of Exercise Science and as an Exercise Physiologist she uses her clinical knowledge to assist in returning injured people to their work and life.

Being part of the Aboriginal RTW service has allowed her to experience and learn about our local indigenous culture at a much deeper level than she previously understood. Understanding the culture means she can tailor her services to better suit each individual client and help other parties involved in their claim understand the differences as well as support our local team.

When she is not at work, you'll find her on the netball court, playing with her puppy or curled up on the couch with a good book.

WorkFocus Australia Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander logo developed by Justine Kinney from Independent Indigenous Design Agency - Cultural Creative. Used with permission.

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GET IN *touch*

Please call us on **1300 570 181** or visit
workfocus.com/return-to-work/aboriginal-return-to-work-service

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