

2024 - 2025

Annual Report



Gudan Gulwan
Youth Aboriginal
Corporation





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Youth Aboriginal
Corporation





CONTENTS

Saff and board of directors	4
History & Vision	5
Organisational Strategic Priorities	5
Strategic Objectives 2021 - 2026	6
Chairperson's Report	7
Chief Executive Officer's Report	8
Training	9
New Capital Building	10
Staff And Management Planning Days	12
Case Management	13
Organisational Accreditation	13
Group Programs Overview	14
Back To School Program	14
Young Men's Group	15
Dougie Hampson-Chatfield Touch Football Day	15
School Holiday Program	16
Music Program	16
Reconnect Tutoring Program	17
Street Beat Outreach Program	17
Parenting Our Way (POW)	17
NAIDOC Children's Disco	18
Growing Healthy Families	19
Community - Arts For Therapy	20
Winter Assistance Program	21
Intensive Family Support	21
R U Ok Day?	21
Young Women's Group	22
Children's Christmas Party	22
Treasurer's Report	24
Audited Financial Statements	25

20
25

STAFF 2024-2025

Name	Position	Section
Joanne Lesiputty	Chief Executive Officer	Management
Katherine Oldfield	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Management
Alyce Davison	Operations Manager (July - Sept 2024)	Management
Cyndy Newman	Operations Manager – June 2025	Management
Malcolm Towney	Team Leader (June- Dec 2024)	Child, Youth and Family Support and Reconnect
Peter Williams	Team Leader (December 2024)	Child, Youth and Family Support and Reconnect
Rhianna Connors- Johnston	Early Childhood Worker	Child, Youth and Family Support
Jayden McLachlan	Youth Support Worker	Child, Youth and Family Support
George Morseu	Family Support Worker	Child, Youth and Family Support
Thomas Hodge	Family Liaison Officer	Reconnect
Jayde Eldridge	Family Liaison Officer	Reconnect
Papunya Connors	Team Leader	Drug and Alcohol/Mental Health
Dale Huddleston	Youth/Drug Alcohol Outreach Worker	Drug and Alcohol/Mental Health
Aliesha Cross	Dual Diagnosis Worker	Drug and Alcohol/Mental Health
Budda Connors	Mental Health & Wellbeing Outreach Worker	Drug and Alcohol/Mental Health
Wayne Martin	Program Support Worker	Growing Healthy Families
Dianah Riley	Team Leader	Intensive Family Support
Michael Mitchell	Outreach Worker	Intensive Family Support
Natalie Simpson	Outreach Worker	Intensive Family Support
Ruby Roberts	Outreach Worker	Intensive Family Support

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

Chairperson	Robyn Martin
Deputy Chair	Mark Farrow
Treasurer	Sel Cooper
Director	Paula McGrady
Director	Diane Collins
Contact Officer	Joanne Lesiputty

Staff who have left the organisation during 2024-2025, we would like to say thank you for your contribution:
Alyce Davison, Malcolm Towney, Dianah Riley, Michael Mitchell and Natalie Simpson.

HISTORY & VISION

Established in 1992, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation exists to support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the ACT and surrounding regions to grow strong in culture, identity, and community. Our purpose is to protect, nurture, and empower children, young people, and their families as they journey through life — from birth through childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood.

Grounded in culture, kinship, and connection to Country, Gugan Gulwan works alongside families, Elders, community, and partners to build an integrated network of services and supports that strengthen families and respond to the needs of children and young people experiencing vulnerability.

For more than three decades, Gugan Gulwan has drawn on the knowledge and wisdom of our community to guide our work. This deep cultural and professional expertise underpins our role as a champion and catalyst for positive change in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people across our region. We are committed to sharing our knowledge, walking together with others, and creating opportunities that amplify the voices of our children and youth — ensuring they are heard, respected, and represented in community and across all levels of government.

ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Gugan Gulwan's strategic priorities are centred on strong leadership, cultural governance, and community-led decision-making. We are committed to delivering culturally safe, professional, and accountable services that remain firmly grounded in the voices and aspirations of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Our work ensures that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are meaningfully involved in all decision-making processes, leading and guiding the design and implementation of solutions to challenges that directly affect their lives. We remain focused on prevention and early intervention, ensuring our programs and services are evidence-based, culturally informed, and led by our community to strengthen the wellbeing of our children, young people, and families.

Gugan Gulwan continues to grow its leadership, cultural authority, and knowledge base to effectively engage with, advise, and influence government, policymakers, funding bodies, external stakeholders, and partners. Through this, we strive to ensure that the development and delivery of child, youth, and family services across the ACT reflect the strengths, needs, and aspirations of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

A key leading priority for 2025 was realised with the transition into our new, purpose-built facility in March — a significant milestone that enhances our capacity to meet the needs of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. This move strengthened our foundations for growth, sustainability, and long-term community benefit.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

2021 – 2026

1. Governance & Leadership

Strengthen organisational governance through transparent, culturally grounded leadership and accountability.

2. Community Voice & Decision-Making

Empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices to be heard, valued, and authoritative in shaping services and policies.

3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Approaches to Prevention & Early Intervention

Deliver evidence-based, culturally safe, and community-led initiatives that promote wellbeing and resilience.

4. Cultural Authority & Community Leadership

Uphold and embed cultural knowledge, values, and leadership across all aspects of our organisation and service delivery.

5. Purpose-Built Facility

Establish and operate from a fit-for-purpose facility that supports holistic, culturally safe programs and strengthens community connection.



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I am pleased to present my first Chairperson's Report for the 2024–2025 year.

The past year has brought challenges and achievements for Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation (GGYAC). I am proud to say the organisation has met these with resilience, continuing to deliver high-quality, culturally grounded services and strong governance.

I acknowledge Jo Lesiputty, who initially took on the interim Chief Executive Officer role before being formally appointed following a competitive process. Jo has led with integrity, dignity, and a deep commitment to community and culture, guiding GGYAC through a demanding period while ensuring transparency and collaboration with the Board.

The Board also extends thanks to former Deputy Chairperson, Kathryn Oldfield, for her dedicated service and willingness to step up when needed. We wish her every success in the next stage of her career.

Our youth programs continue to strengthen, providing safe and nurturing spaces for young people. Partnerships, such as with Worldview to deliver the *Young Brothas* program, have enhanced our support for young men to develop as leaders while celebrating their cultural identity.

A highlight of the year was the long-awaited move into our new purpose-built premises, funded by the ACT Government. The official opening in August was a proud milestone for the organisation and community. The building reflects years of advocacy and community input,

featuring healing spaces, a music room, and Aboriginal-inspired design elements that make it both functional and welcoming. From our beginnings at Boomanulla Oval with no running water, this achievement marks a new era for Gugan Gulwan.

To our staff, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your commitment during times of change and challenge. Your dedication to children, young people, and families, often under pressure, demonstrates the strength of our shared values.

I also thank my fellow Board members for their continued guidance and wisdom. Gugan Gulwan maintains a reputation for good governance, demonstrated through our successful audit and accreditation outcomes. The organisation remains in a strong financial position, supporting continued stability and growth.

Our Board discussions are robust yet respectful, reflecting our shared passion for the community and belief in our team. I am humbled by the trust placed in me as Chairperson and grateful for the collective knowledge and experience within the Board.

In closing, I thank the community, staff, Executive, and management teams for their ongoing support. Together, we continue to strengthen Gugan Gulwan's vision of empowerment, cultural pride, and opportunity for our children, young people, and families.

Mark Farrow
Chairperson



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

2025

It gives me great pleasure to present my first report for Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation (GGYAC) as Chief Executive Officer.

I would like to pay homage to our founder and former leader, Kim Davison, for her brilliant work in building and sustaining the organisation, and for her unwavering commitment and passion for the community. Her leadership created the strong foundation upon which children, young people, and families continue to grow, thrive, and aspire to their dreams.

I am honoured to lead the organisation and remain committed to ensuring the legacy left by those who have contributed to GGYAC is upheld — with cultural grounding, integrity, and respect at the heart of everything we do.

Since commencing in the interim CEO role in October 2024, and my permanent appointment in April 2025, I have led significant change management processes to strengthen alignment across staff, the Board, and the broader community. My leadership approach is grounded in cultural integrity, collaboration, and community knowledge — empowering staff to navigate change while providing them with autonomy, voice, and opportunities to contribute meaningfully to the organisation's development and growth.

I sincerely thank all staff for their dedication and resilience during a period of transition and adjustment, including leadership changes and preparations for our move

into the new state-of-the-art building. Their continued commitment ensured the successful delivery of case management services, programs, events, and, reflecting Gugan Gulwan's enduring strength and visibility within the community.

Our partnership with OzChild through the *Functional Family Therapy (FFT) program* represents a dual opportunity to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, and families to succeed. This partnership strengthens family relationships, builds resilience, and enhances our ability to provide holistic, culturally responsive support to the community.

Gugan Gulwan continues to put the community first — whether it be through case management, programs, events and stakeholder meetings. Every initiative is guided by cultural values and the belief that strong connection to family, culture, and community is essential to positive outcomes.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our funding bodies, whose contributions enable us to deliver high-quality, culturally grounded programs and services. Our key partners include ACT Government Directorates, Commonwealth Agencies and community partners, whose trust and investment allow us to continue expanding our services, maintaining strong community focus, and enhancing our organisational capacity. Together, we will continue to build on our strong foundation, uphold our cultural values, and lead the organisation into a future that



TRAINING

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation staff are committed to maintain levels of training to support their work with the community. This year has been a busy time to ensure compliances were met to support the organisation seek accreditation status against Quality Innovation Health and Community Services (QIC) Standards. Below is snapshot of training staff have undertaken, but not limited to:

reflects the aspirations of the community we serve.

The year ahead brings optimism and opportunity. Key priorities are already underway which include resetting policy directions, enhancing staff development and training, developing the new Strategic Plan 2027–2031, and refreshing strategic documents to strengthen governance, compliance, and community and stakeholder commitments.

As we move forward, a key focus is on driving vision, growth, and partnerships to expand our reach, increase funding, and build capability — ensuring Gugan Gulwan continues to create lasting, positive impact for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, and families across the ACT and surrounding regions.

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation is a cornerstone Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) in the ACT and will continue to lead the way in delivering culturally grounded, community-first services for children, young people, and families. Thank you for your support on all levels.

Jo Lesiputty

Chief Executive Officer

- Domestic Family and Sexual Violence
- Child, Youth Protection Services
- First Aid and CPR Refresher
- Mental Health First Aid
- Work, Health and Safety HS
- Infections Control
- Trauma Informed Care
- Traditional Indigenous Games
- Alcohol & Other Drugs, Mental Health
- Food Handlers and Preparations
- Fire Warden Awareness Training
- Young Person Violence in the Home (YPVITH)
- Bullying and Harassment, Sexual Harassment Training
- Talk to them Training - DFV
- Do No Harm Training – Mental Health
- Redicase – Case Management Training
- CentreRed online training
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Program
- SHS SHIP and Validata basic training
- F2F training with Peninsula; Managing Workplace Behaviours & Managing Absenteeism, Mental Health & Workplace Culture

NEW CAPITAL BUILDING

After a long and eagerly awaited journey, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation proudly transitioned into its new capital building, following two meaningful years at Lansell Circuit, Wanniasa. This move marks an exciting new chapter for the organisation and the community. To celebrate this milestone, two community and stakeholder days were held, giving members the opportunity to walk through the building, connect with staff, and enjoy catered hospitality.

Projex Building Group was engaged to deliver the new facility—an important milestone for both Gugan Gulwan and the broader community. The purpose-built building has been designed with a strong cultural focus, creating spaces that honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, connection, and ways of being. The facility features bespoke finishes, cultural art installations, and dedicated spaces for community gatherings, program delivery, art practice, and music recording—strengthening pride, belonging, and opportunities for young people and families.

Three cheers to Gugan Gulwan for achieving a 5-star rating under the Green Star Buildings tool! The new Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation building in Wanniasa is now the first operational building in Canberra to be certified with a 5-star rating under the Green Star Buildings v1.0 tool—an extraordinary achievement that reflects leadership in cultural design, sustainability, and community wellbeing.





STAFF AND MANAGEMENT PLANNING DAYS

MURRAMURANG RESORT NSW

The 2025 planning days brought the Gugan Gulwan team together to celebrate achievements, acknowledge areas for improvement, and strategically plan for the year ahead. The program provided opportunities for staff to engage with new management, reflect on and honour the organisation's history, and strengthen business operations — reinforcing the importance of our work in supporting families and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

This year's planning days were rich in culture and connection, fostering a sense of belonging, understanding, and truth-telling among staff. Activities focused on collaboration, networking, teamwork, and discovery, inspiring all participants to align with the organisation's new direction as we transition into our purpose-built

facility. Staff were empowered to contribute to the delivery of organisational objectives over the next twelve months, with a structured six-month review to ensure progress and adaptability.

Staff wellbeing and self-care were central priorities throughout the planning days, ensuring that our team feels supported, valued, and equipped to provide culturally safe, high-quality early intervention services. The event highlighted the importance of balancing professional growth with personal wellbeing, fostering resilience, and sustaining the strength of the workforce.

Gugan Gulwan extends its sincere thanks to Soward Management for designing and facilitating the 2025 planning days, which provided inspiration, guidance, and clarity for the year ahead.



CASE MANAGEMENT

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting families and the community through a culturally grounded and locally developed case management model. Under this model, two workers from different internal teams jointly engage with clients during all visits, providing comprehensive and coordinated support. This approach helps clients to strengthen their resilience, build self-determination, and create positive life outcomes.

Our case management practice is a collaborative and culturally responsive process that includes assessment, planning, facilitation, coordination, evaluation, and advocacy. By drawing on strong communication, trusted relationships, and available community resources, Gugan Gulwan ensures that individuals and families receive holistic and effective support that meets their unique needs and aspirations.

ORGANISATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Amongst the busy schedule GGYAC already had, the organisation turned their sights to gearing up for accreditation with the Quality Improvement Program (QIP) as an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO), with assessment scheduled for October 2025.

The QIP accreditation recognises organisations that meet high standards in governance, service delivery, and continuous improvement. Accreditation through QIP reinforces GGYAC's commitment to providing high-quality, culturally grounded services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, and families, and ensures the organisation continues to meet the expectations of the community, funding bodies, and stakeholders.

**We are proud to be
a QIP accredited
organisation**



GROUP PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

2025

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation recognises that strong connections to family, culture, and community are essential to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. Throughout the reporting period, culturally grounded group programs supported young people to strengthen their cultural identity, build confidence, and develop practical skills. These programs, delivered by culturally knowledgeable staff, provided opportunities to engage in traditional practices, deepen community connections, and foster resilience. Gugan Gulwan continued to offer tailored programs to both community members and case-managed clients, ensuring meaningful engagement and contributing to the overall strength and wellbeing of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

During the reporting period, Gugan Gulwan successfully delivered its Back-to-School Program, designed to ease the transition into the new school year and ensure children were equipped with the resources they needed to succeed. The program provided meaningful support to families by supplying practical items that helped children feel prepared and confident for the academic year.

Each child received a school bag containing a hat, laptop bag, mouse pad, lunch box, and drink bottle. In total, 90 families were assisted, and 210 backpacks were distributed.

Gugan Gulwan remains committed to empowering the community through initiatives that promote educational success and wellbeing.

YOUNG MEN'S GROUP

The Young Men's Group (YMG) supports boys aged 8–12 by providing a culturally connected, supportive space each Thursday from 4–6pm. The program focuses on strengthening school engagement, building positive friendships, and supporting personal and cultural growth through a wide range of activities. Participants took part in cultural learning through painting, artefact making, yarning, and cook-ups, as well as educational outings such as Questacon. The program also offered recreational activities including ten pin bowling, swimming, movies, and traditional Indigenous games, alongside life-skills development and presentations from guest speakers.

During the reporting year, **18 participants engaged across 12 sessions**. To acknowledge their commitment, the group enjoyed end-of-year activities at Luna Park and Raging Waters.



YOUTH WEEK EVENT

DOUGIE HAMPSON-CHATFIELD TOUCH FOOTBALL DAY

Gugan Gulwan hosted a Youth Touch Football Day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and the services that support them across the ACT. The event was held in honour of Dougie Hampson-Chatfield, who passed away in August 2021 at the age of 36. Doug grew up in Canberra and remained closely connected to Gugan Gulwan throughout his youth, with his family continuing those strong ties today. The day brought together seven teams in a celebration of community, culture, and sport. The Douglas Memorial Team, made up of family members, were the outright winners—playing with passion and flair in a fitting tribute to Doug. The event was delivered in collaboration with ACT Touch Football and attracted approximately 100 young people at Boomanulla Oval, the heart of the local community.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Gugan Gulwan's School Holiday Program provides culturally rich and supportive activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (ages 8–12 and 13–18) during school breaks. Grounded in strong cultural values, the program fosters social connection, cultural engagement, healthy lifestyles, resilience, and self-confidence, while offering a safe, supervised environment that also supports families. Across the year, participants engaged in educational, cultural, recreational, and physical activities, including high-energy excursions, sports, and community-building events, reflecting Gugan Gulwan's commitment to inclusive and culturally affirming experiences. Consistently high participation and a waiting list demonstrate the program's popularity and impact.



MUSIC PROGRAM

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation's music program has had an exceptional year, beginning with winning the 2024 ACT NAIDOC Award for Creative Talent of the Year. As the program continues to grow, **12 young artists** have gained increasing opportunities to showcase their talent at major community events. Performances throughout the year included the National Multicultural Festival, NAIDOC Family Day, the ACT Youth NAIDOC Awards, Gugan Gulwan's Annual Children's NAIDOC Disco, the Belconnen Arts Centre NAIDOC event, the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flag Raising Ceremony, Open Mic Nights at Tuggeranong Arts Centre, the Tuggeranong South Festival, and the Woden Community Christmas Concert. These engagements highlight both the talent of our young performers and the program's expanding reputation across the ACT.



RECONNECT TUTORING PROGRAM

The Gugan Gulwan Tutoring Program provides tailored, one-on-one academic support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the ACT from Year 2 to Year 12. This free program offers up to ten individual one-hour sessions per year, helping students overcome barriers to engagement and strengthen their learning outcomes. The program focuses on personalised academic support, improved engagement, effective learning strategies, and the development of confidence, resilience, and positive attitudes towards education. Expected outcomes include improved academic performance, higher grades, increased confidence, and stronger participation in learning. During the reporting period, **24 students participated** across two terms.

STREET BEAT OUTREACH PROGRAM

Street Beat provides holistic, immediate, and practical support to young people by offering health promotion, culturally appropriate resources, and strong referral pathways. The program's strength lies in meeting young people where they are—physically, emotionally, and culturally—and supporting them in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Operating every Friday and Saturday night from 7–11pm, trained Gugan Gulwan staff

patrol congregated areas and youth meeting places who distributed **1862** preventative health packs.

This year, staff noted an increase in young women accessing these packs, largely due to the inclusion of drink-testing kits, which allow users to test beverages for common spiking substances. This addition has led to greater engagement and important conversations around personal safety.

PARENTING OUR WAY (POW)

Parenting Our Way is a culturally safe program that brings parents, carers, and families together to strengthen relationships and support one another in raising strong, connected children. The program celebrates Aboriginal ways of parenting—learning together, sharing stories, and drawing on the strength of community and culture. Families can connect with community members, access local services, and build confidence in a warm, welcoming, and culturally rich environment.

GGYAC also recognises and celebrates the families who walk with us by hosting Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Easter raffles. These gatherings not only honour the important role of family but also strengthen community spirit and connection throughout the year.

NAIDOC CHILDREN'S DISCO

On 11 July 2024, Gugan Gulwan proudly hosted its NAIDOC Children's Disco, bringing together more than 200 young people, families, and Elders for a vibrant community celebration. In keeping with the 2024 theme, Keep the Fire Burning, the NAIDOC Committee placed young people at the heart of the event by inviting them to MC—recognising them as the next generation who will carry culture forward. The evening was confidently led by Tahalianna Soward-Mahanga and Junior Williams, whose energy set a warm and culturally strong tone.

Entertainment was provided by talented participants of the Gugan Gulwan Music Program, with performances from DJ Cuddles. Guests also enjoyed face painting, glitter tattoos, a photo booth, and a range of food options, contributing to a fun, inclusive, and family-friendly night.



GROWING HEALTHY FAMILIES

The Growing Healthy Families program deliver culturally appropriate, wrap around support services and referrals for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in preschool to secondary years and their parents/carers in the ACT, Queanbeyan and Yass. Activities coordinated in this reporting period include:

- **Weekly Lunch Program:** Delivered to 188 students across Gungahlin College, Lake Tuggeranong College, Mount Stromlo High School, Melrose High School, and Queanbeyan High School. This program provides not only meals but also regular touchpoints for building relationships and supporting young people in a culturally safe and welcoming way.
- **Fortnightly Outreach Support:** In partnership with the Clontarf Foundation, GGYAC provides cultural arts and artefact sessions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. These sessions offer young people the chance to deepen their understanding of culture, identity, and community while strengthening school engagement and wellbeing.
- **Drop-In Program (Planned Restart):** With the transition into the new capital building at Grattan Court, GGYAC is preparing to relaunch its Drop-In Program. This initiative offers a soft entry point for young people who may be experiencing exclusion due to behaviours of concern or complex challenges. The program is responsive to community needs, providing a culturally safe, supportive environment where young people can access immediate assistance, connection, and guidance.



COMMUNITY - ARTS FOR THERAPY

Art therapy is delivered through a cultural lens, supporting clients to heal, express themselves, and work through past or present behaviours of concern in a way that honours Aboriginal ways of knowing, being, and doing. The program draws on cultural strength, creativity, and identity to guide healing. By grounding the therapeutic process in culture, individuals deepen their understanding of self, strengthen cultural pride, and reconnect with the knowledge carried by community, Elders, and Country. During this reporting period the following arts therapy program were conducted at various sites that includes:

- **36** participants from Ted Noffs engaging in cultural arts at Burrunju Art Gallery
- **34** participants engaging in art and woodwork classes at Bimberi
- **32** Drug and Alcohol Arts Therapy sessions at Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC)
- **34** young men transitioning into independent living, seeking education and living skills support through Worldview and Gugan Gulwan services.



WINTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Gugan Gulwan's Client Assistance Winter Program provided enhanced support to 39 individual clients and 88 families, recognising the ongoing challenges posed by the cost-of-living crisis. The program offered practical, meaningful assistance to help families navigate financial pressures, including:

- Winter school uniforms
- Food hampers
- Skip bins
- Carpet cleaning
- Pest control
- Gardening services
- Other brokerage requirements

Through this initiative, Gugan Gulwan continues to respond to community needs with care and culturally safe support, ensuring families are supported during the colder months.

INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT

The Gugan Gulwan Intensive Family Support (IFS) program proudly provides culturally grounded, trauma-informed support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families across the ACT and surrounding regions, empowering young people aged 0–25 years to thrive.

At the heart of the program is the Family Wellbeing Mat and Cards, an 11-domain tool that guides tailored support

while honouring each family's unique journey. Through storytelling and narrative practice, families can share their experiences in a safe, culturally respectful space, fostering healing, connection, and pride in identity.

R U OK DAY?

This year, the organisation was honoured to welcome Joe Williams, a proud Wiradjuri/Wolgalu man, who spent time with our community sharing his powerful personal insights into mental health and suicidal ideation. His presence and storytelling created a safe and meaningful space for reflection, learning, and connection.

A range of partners—FFT, CW (OzChild), IAHA, CIT Yurauna, Headspace, Thirrili, Worldview, and The Junction—hosted stalls to promote mental health and wellbeing. The day also featured a shared BBQ lunch and dedicated networking sessions, giving families, young people, and service providers the opportunity to engage, build relationships, and strengthen community support.

Gugan Gulwan invites you to

our *R U OK Day* event.

We are inviting expressions of interest from our local community to participate in our event, where you can showcase your organisation's connections to the community.

12th September 2024

11am-2pm Located at Gugan Gulwan

To register your EOI please click on the below!

- If you are attending as a SCHOOL group register [HERE](#)
- If you are attending as an individual FAMILY register [HERE](#)
- Sporting groups, Indigenous businesses and organisations register [HERE](#)

If you require further information, please email: jayden@gugan-gulwan.com.au

@RUOKDAY

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

RUOK?
A conversation could change a life.



GROUP PROGRAMS OVERVIEW CONTINUED

YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUP

The Gugan Gulwan Young Women's Group (YWG) continues to provide a culturally safe and empowering space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young women every Wednesday afternoon during the school term. The group offers a range of creative, cultural, and skill-building activities, supporting **18 participants** in their personal growth and connection to heritage.

This year, participants had the special opportunity to wear traditional possum cloaks, generously provided by Aunty Matilda House, and use coolamons carved by Gugan male staff. It was inspiring to see the young women stand proudly in their cloaks, celebrating their culture. Each participant also received a photo frame capturing these moments, serving as a lasting reminder of their cultural journey and achievements.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Gugan Gulwan, in partnership with Winnunga Nimmityjah, proudly hosted the 2024 Annual Children's Christmas Party, drawing a remarkable turnout of community members and more than **400 children and young people under 18 years** who received gifts from Mr and Mrs Santa Claus. This signature event continues to be one of the most anticipated celebrations on the Gugan Gulwan calendar.

The Christmas Party strengthens community connection, promotes healthy lifestyles, and uplifts cultural pride. The carnival-themed celebration was filled with excitement, offering face painting, jumping castles, an obstacle course, life-size games, and a variety of food options for families to enjoy. The festive atmosphere created a vibrant space for children to have fun and for families to share in the joy of the season.

Gugan Gulwan and Winnunga were heartened by the smiles, laughter, and sense of unity experienced throughout the day. The event also provided a valuable opportunity for families and community members to reconnect, network, and celebrate the strong community spirit that continues to guide our work.



**GUGAN
GULWAN
IS NOT FREE
ZONE**



Please do not bring any peanuts or other products containing nuts into this service.

**GUGAN GULWAN
IS NOT FREE ZONE**



Please do not bring any peanuts or other products containing nuts into this service.

If you have come into touch or you have consumed any products containing nuts, you are asked to kindly wash your hands immediately.



TREASURER'S REPORT

As Treasurer of Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, and on behalf of the Board, I am pleased to present the audited financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2025.

Throughout the 2025 financial year, Gugan Gulwan has continued to maintain a strong and stable financial position. We are proud of the way our financial management has supported the organisation's strategic goals and enabled us to continue delivering high-quality programs and services to our community. This strength reflects the collective efforts of the Board, leadership team, and staff, and our shared commitment to using resources responsibly, efficiently and in line with our values.

The audited financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2025 are available on the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) website and can also be provided upon request.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to CEO Joanne Lesiputty and Deputy CEO Katherine Oldfield for their leadership, dedication, and care throughout the year. We also acknowledge and appreciate the valuable support of Marie Roach (MYOB Consultant), Pamela Brown and Kylie Kueter (Bookkeeper), and Kelli Lawton of Cosgrave Soutter for their professionalism and contribution to strengthening our financial systems and reporting processes.

Finally, we thank Nexia for their professional and diligent conduct of the 2024–25 audit. We look forward to the year ahead with confidence in Gugan Gulwan's continued financial strength and stability as we work together in service of our community and young people. Thank you.

Sel Cooper
Treasurer

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Gugan Gulwan's audited Statement of Profit or Loss and Statement of Financial position for the year ended 30 June 2025 are as follows:

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation

ABN: 25 118 162 073

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue and other income			
Revenue from contracts with customers	2	3,060,596	2,577,560
Other income	2	99,761	135,131
		<u>3,160,357</u>	<u>2,712,691</u>
Expenses			
Auditor's remuneration	11	18,000	17,000
Vehicles and travel expenses	12	20,627	138,590
Program costs	13	534,124	323,566
Employee benefits expenses	14	1,899,115	1,804,676
Operating expenses	15	659,598	442,113
		<u>3,131,464</u>	<u>2,725,945</u>
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year		<u>28,893</u>	<u>(13,254)</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>28,893</u>	<u>(13,254)</u>

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	2,216,944	2,658,306
Trade and other receivables	4	35,395	-
Other assets	5	81,443	60,917
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,333,782	2,719,223
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	91,596	125,403
Right-of-use asset	9	96,247	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		187,843	125,403
TOTAL ASSETS		2,521,625	2,844,626
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	121,196	260,666
Employee benefits	8	64,306	49,042
Lease liability	9	91,524	-
Contract liabilities - unspent grant funds		508,802	835,918
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		785,828	1,145,626
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liability	9	7,904	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		7,904	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		793,732	1,145,626
NET ASSETS		1,727,893	1,699,000
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		1,727,893	1,699,000
TOTAL EQUITY		1,727,893	1,699,000

Note: the full financials are available on ORIC's website www.oric.gov.au



www.gugan-gulwan.com.au



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