



Mudgin-Gal
Aboriginal Corporation

seeding hope 

"Healing has to start from within,
right back at the point where we say,
this is our country, these are our lives.
Where we can live in hope and pride and
have the same chance of achieving our
dreams as any other Australian."

BRONWYN PENRITH, Chair, Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Women's Corporation

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<<FRONT COVER: Yatungka and her baby, Mya-Ruby, are part of Mudgin-Gal. Yatungka has been a vital participant in the 'Healthy Family Circle' program and helped develop Mudgin-Gal's sexual abuse resource, 'Not Just Another Yarn'. After taking maternity leave, Yatungka has returned to Mudgin-Gal in a casual capacity as an access and intake worker. She is now looking for ongoing opportunities for work and study close to her community.

Mudgin-Gal 'women's place'

Mudgin-Gal, which means 'women's place', is an Aboriginal organisation based in inner-city Sydney.

Mudgin-Gal traces its beginnings to the South Sydney Women's Centre in the early 1990s. While initially formed as a resource for women of all cultures, the Women's Centre increasingly evolved into a natural meeting place, support point and advocacy centre for Aboriginal women.

Recognising the real potential to make a difference to Aboriginal women and their families, in 1992 key members of the South Sydney Women's Centre made the decision to incorporate under the Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976. And so Mudgin-Gal came to be.

Today, it remains the only women's centre run by and for Aboriginal women in New South Wales, and one of only a handful nationally.

SQUARE PEGS AND ROUND HOLES

Even the best of will cannot substitute for genuine community knowledge, trust and engagement.

Australian Aboriginal affairs have too often been characterised by the comings and goings of countless penstroke-created committees and councils. Again with the best of will, the oversight, aims, operations and outcomes of such organisations have frequently been imposed more through bureaucratic or political dictate than an intimate understanding of the complex dynamics that have led to the social and other equity issues these organisations seek to address.

Too many cases of square peg organisations and programs failing to fill the ever-widening round holes of lack of health, education, legal, employment and social equity have contributed to tragically unnecessary outcomes for too many Aboriginal Australians.

That's where Mudgin-Gal is different.

>> **BELINDA'S STORY:** Belinda (pictured) has been part of Mudgin-Gal for more than 10 years, first as a client and now as an outreach worker, mentor and role model. Her first-hand knowledge of the cycle of drugs, crime and incarceration gives her unique insights and a special rapport with young women going through similar experiences. It is Belinda who wins the trust of many of the most alienated and alone and Belinda – and often only Belinda – who notices and takes action when one of the girls is missing or in trouble.

SERVICES THAT FIT THE COMMUNITY

Mudgin-Gal has evolved naturally in direct response to the real needs of real people from within its own community. Close to 20 years of first-hand experience: trial, error, failure and increasingly, success, has led to the development of innovative services and programs that really work.

More and more, these programs are acknowledged as among the best of their kind. This is expressed through awards, citations and their increasing adoption by other organisations in other regions. While Mudgin-Gal may be unique, the blueprint of hope it offers other Aboriginal people and organisations is not.

Whatever other recognition it achieves, what is and remains most important to Mudgin-Gal is the recognition and respect it earns in its own community. Evidence of this respect can be found in the growing use of its services and programs. Most of all, it can be seen in the living, breathing proof of the positive outcomes it promotes in the people who pass by – or come in to – its doors every day.

AT THE BRINK

Mudgin-Gal has reached the point where its direction is stronger than ever. Its programs are tried and tested, its ability to deliver measurable outcomes confirmed and its governance is sound. It has greater standing and acceptance both in its own and the broader community – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal – than ever before.

Despite these successes, Mudgin-Gal's future existence remains uncertain. The breadth, depth and continuity of services it provides is under constant threat. It is run by volunteers along with a skeleton staff paid via intermittent funding from a variety of state and federal government sources on a project-by-project basis.

Funding for day-to-day administration is provided by The Redfern Foundation, which is in turn reliant on funding from private and corporate donors. It is our hope that with support from the broader community Mudgin-Gal's work can continue and its vision and promise can be fulfilled.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The Redfern Waterloo area in which Mudgin-Gal operates is the acknowledged birthplace of urban Aboriginal culture and activism. Its Aboriginal population is around twice that of the national average. Of this population, more than 25% are children aged under 15.

With this high Aboriginal population comes a correspondingly high level of disadvantage.

As with Aboriginal Australians in other areas of the country, when compared with their non-indigenous counterparts, levels of low life expectancy, poverty, unemployment, family breakdown, lack of education, sexual abuse, alcohol and other substance abuse among the Redfern Waterloo population are very high.

The November 2004 publication, 'Making Connections: Better Services, Stronger Community, A Report on Review of Human Services System in Redfern Waterloo', by Morgan Disney Associates P/L, highlighted the following needs to help address the disadvantages.

- **The need for support for parents, families and children.**
- **The need to strengthen coordination and quality of service provision for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.**
- **The need for community leadership and opportunities for capacity building.**
- **The need for strategies to ensure safety of individuals and the community.**
- **The need to improve services for Aboriginal people (among others).**

Mudgin-Gal directly addresses all of these needs.

"Without Mudgin-Gal I'm not sure where I would turn. There is no other place for local women to go. Mudgin-Gal has given me the chance to work with women dealing with similar situations in their lives as I did. I love doing the work here and hope to continue for years to come in this place."

The gathering point

Mudgin-Gal has for years operated out of an inner city terrace house provided rent-free by Sydney City Council.

Right in the heart of the Redfern Waterloo precinct, Mudgin-Gal has become a local institution. It is a safe haven, a place to sit in the dry or the shade, and a place to shower or launder or cook for those who have nowhere else to go.

It is the preferred meeting and gathering point for the many groups of women and children who attend local events, classes and workshops. On any given day, you can expect to witness the rapid to-and-fro of its open culture; to meet many of its clients; and see many of its services and programs in action.

Its tiny courtyard – the only common space apart from the front room/reception area – has played host to countless meetings, art and culture classes, counselling and healing sessions – and the odd celebratory barbecue.

Two poky upstairs rooms serve as the office and administrative site from which Mudgin-Gal's programs and services are run.

PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS

DROP IN. Women are welcome to drop in for anything from a chat and access to laundry, kitchen and showering facilities to a request for information and referrals to specialist healthcare, legal and accommodation support services. These services are used daily by local women, homeless women and the many visitors to the area.

FAMILY SUPPORT. Mudgin-Gal is a natural base for a qualified family support worker who can support women and children in need. Its location, community and government contacts, trusted position and cultural alignment with those at risk ideally suit it for this purpose. While Mudgin-Gal has demonstrated success in this area and has often had such a worker on hand, intermittent and uncertain funding means this vital resource is not always available.

BLACK OUT VIOLENCE. Mudgin-Gal's groundbreaking work to address family violence has gained national recognition. Its 'Black Out Violence' campaign won the Violence Against Women Prevention Award in 2004 and has since been rolled out – with help from Mudgin-Gal trainers and ambassadors – to communities in regional NSW. The program has been cited by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission as a best practice model for addressing violence in urban Aboriginal communities.

HEALTHY FAMILY CIRCLE. This is a group of programs aimed at helping key women in the community to develop a wide range of mentoring and leadership skills. These women in turn promote their skills and values among their own families and peers. The focus is on education, training for employment, parenting and positive networking with likeminded and talented women. This is an award-winning program run in partnership with Relationships Australia, SDN Children's Services Inc and Connect Redfern.

INNER CITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION GROUP. Mudgin-Gal is the auspicing body for Sydney's major metropolitan anti-domestic violence group, which comprises members of some 15 other inner city organisations. It sources and trains volunteers for court support, promotes education, awareness and local support and training workshops for both women and men. It is a first for an Aboriginal group to hold office of this kind – and a further recognition of Mudgin-Gal's record and expertise in this area.

MARRICKVILLE HOUSES. Two inner-city houses administered by Mudgin-Gal provide low rental and emergency accommodation for women and families in urgent need of housing.

In July 2006, the purchase of a larger, neighbouring property for Mudgin-Gal was organised through the Indigenous Land Corporation. The extensive renovations required to create a modern, purpose-built facility in which Mudgin-Gal hopes to continue and expand its work are currently under way.



Black Out Violence

Perhaps the most prominent of Mudgin-Gal's achievements to date are those against violence, an acknowledged scourge of Aboriginal communities.

Mudgin-Gal's flagship projects focus on domestic and family violence, via its auspicing of the Inner City Domestic Violence Group and in the creation of its own innovative Black Out Violence program.

Black Out Violence started in Redfern in 2004 as the 'Enough is enough' campaign, when women organised a peaceful rally on the Block – then known mostly as a notorious centre of Aboriginal crime. More than 100 women attended to hear speakers declaring time and again that 'enough is enough' and exhorting listeners to take responsibility for ending this behaviour.

From this emerged Black Out Violence, a campaign focused initially in Redfern that has subsequently spread throughout the country.

UNITED BY A COMMON GOAL

The 2004 campaign literally kicked off at the premier Aboriginal sporting and social event in the state, the NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Carnival. Attendees wore purple armbands in recognition of their united commitment to reduce violence in Aboriginal communities.

Some 1700 Aboriginal football players from 85 participating football teams across NSW joined 'Football Fans Against Sexual Assault' and demonstrated their opposition to family violence and sexual assault against women. All participating teams were given information kits on prevention of family violence and sexual assault against women, including where to find further help.

That year, Black Out Violence won the Prevention of Violence Against Women Award.

Under the auspices of Mudgin-Gal and the Inner City Domestic Violence Action Group, Redfern Legal Centre and Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, Black Out Violence has since evolved into a comprehensive program tailored to address the circumstances and situations of Aboriginal Australians.

Today, the Program is rolled out to regional NSW via Mudgin-Gal women who run 'Train the trainer' programs. These teach other women how to spread the program into their communities and shape it to each community's particular situation. Black Out Violence has been cited by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission as a best practice model for addressing violence in urban Aboriginal communities.

GAINING CRITICAL MASS

Black Out Violence is an ongoing campaign, as is required to meet an ongoing problem. As well as overseeing the Inner City Domestic Violence Action Group and its Black Out Violence 'Train the trainer' initiatives, Mudgin-Gal has also provided a base for Aboriginal court support workers for people affected by domestic violence.

Employed through the Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme, these workers are among only a handful of those equipped to meet the particular needs and concerns of Aboriginal women who become involved in court proceedings, usually as victims, and sometimes witnesses, of violence.

A court appearance can be confusing, confronting and fraught with often terrifying cultural and historical overtones. The role of the court support worker is to go to court with the women, explain the proceedings and the various options and choices that flow from them, act as advocates and help them find the support: medical, legal or accommodation, that they need.

>> **NADEENA'S STORY:** Nadeena (pictured with one of her twin daughters) and her four children have been part of the cycle of violence and abuse that has characterised so many families from this community. She has broken away from the cycle and found the healing she has needed to help her nurture herself and her children, and bring them up with pride and knowledge in their culture that they will be able to pass on to peers and their own future families. For Nadeena, Mudgin-Gal was the first place where she knew safety, security and unconditional welcome. It's a place where she and her children still do.





CHIPPING AWAY AT IT

Mudgin-Gal's anti-violence stance is reinforced throughout the community each year by a series of events and special projects.

These include 'Stop Domestic Violence' days and the continuing support and involvement of the NSW Aboriginal Rugby League, along with support and input from other respected organisations such as the Redfern Legal Centre, the Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre and the NSW Police Service.

Among a host of other initiatives, Mudgin-Gal has been involved in the production of an educational DVD, 'Black Love', that was widely publicised on Koori Radio Black Chat and 'Plates in the Park', a community picnic at which attendees watched 'Desiree's Decision', a performance depicting domestic violence written and produced by Mudgin-Gal.

Mudgin-Gal's approach to domestic violence is inclusive and non-threatening, in keeping with a desire, wherever possible, to resolve issues by uniting rather than dividing families.

"Violence is not a part of Aboriginal culture and tradition. We don't want our daughters killed and our sons incarcerated."

DIXIE LINK-GORDON
CEO, Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Women's Corporation

- **There have been more deaths of Aboriginal women through assault than there have been deaths of Aboriginal people in custody.**
From 'Australian Statistics on Domestic Violence', by Judy Atkinson and Melissa Lucashenko. 1997.
- **Indigenous women experience violence at far higher rates than their non-indigenous counterparts. Compared to non-indigenous women they are 10 times more likely to be the victims of homicide.**
From 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide, Strang 1992, and the Department for Women, NSW 1996, respectively.
- **69% of assault cases against Aboriginal women were carried out by the spouse or partner.**
From the Aboriginal Justice Council 1999.
- **"Put in a nutshell, given Aboriginal experience of white institutions and authority agents it is scarcely surprising that, ultimately, women appear to find a violent spouse less threatening than the agencies from which they might seek relief."**
From 'Child Abuse and Neglect in Indigenous Australian Communities', Child Abuse Prevention Issues, Number 19 Spring 2003.
- **"Compared to women from non-violent homes, victims of domestic violence have higher levels of stress, anxiety, depression and other psychiatric disorders. They are almost five times more likely to commit suicide; to have higher rates of alcoholism; nine times as likely to abuse drugs; frequently present to caregivers with psychosomatic complaints; have more sleep disturbances such as nightmares; reduced coping and problem solving skills; are more likely to abuse dependent children; be chronic users of tranquilisers and socially isolated."**
From the 1996 ABS Report, 'Women's Safety in Australia'.



Healthy Family Circle

The poverty and dysfunction that has become generational in many Aboriginal communities is well recognised. At Mudgin-Gal, great steps have been taken to break this cycle through systematic programs that begin at the beginning, with the family.

Providing women with the tools and support they need to create strong, functional families is a Mudgin-Gal priority. Since its inception, family support in various forms has formed the core of its activities.

In 2005, these activities were further refined and strengthened with the development of an ambitious initiative targeted directly at those in the community most able to make an immediate positive difference to family life: women.

This was Mudgin-Gal's 'Healthy Family Circle' program. Developed in partnership with Australia's leading specialist in relationship support, Relationships Australia, it provides training and education, networking and experience in leadership to women through a series of ongoing initiatives.

Its overarching aim is to guide and support women who are natural leaders and 'fixers' within their families to achieve their potential, empowering them with the self esteem, confidence and life skills they need to become role models for their own children and families and, by extension, for their community. There is also a strong focus on the needs of very young mothers, of which there is a high population.

Healthy Family Circle is carried out in a number of ways.

BEGINNING AT THE BEGINNING

TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BETTER PARENTING. In a scheme that won a 2008 Federal Government Award in Equal Opportunities and Initiatives for Aboriginal Women, young women from the community were encouraged to participate in the Playgroup Facilitators Training Course, a certificate course run through TAFE. Eighteen participants completed the course and four have since gone on to gain employment in the early childhood field.

Conducted with SDN Children's Services Inc and Connect Redfern, this was a highly significant program whose spirit

and outcomes embody the Healthy Family Circle purpose. It provided participants with real prospects for employment – for many the only formal educational qualification they have yet completed. Critically, it also offered the mostly very young mothers who participated with accessible training in parenting and early childhood development.

The skills, understanding and positive behavioural modelling for parenting and childcare these young women took away from the course can now be implanted in their own families and communities.

KNITTED TOGETHER. This project brings together younger and older women and highlights the mentoring and leadership roles older women can play in the lives of the community. This group came together regularly to knit and crochet beanies with the ultimate aim of heading to Alice Springs to participate in a major Aboriginal event, the Beanie Festival. Attendance at this festival in turn provided women with more opportunities to strengthen connections and cultural exchange. Some of the women are now investigating the possibility of continuing this creative work on a commercial basis.

'NOT JUST ANOTHER YARN'. This is a booklet developed by Mudgin-Gal that clearly outlines the myths and facts surrounding child sexual abuse. It offers information on signs of sexual abuse in children, from babies through to teenagers, offers suggestions on how to interact with victims of abuse and where to find help and support. It articulates the experiences of women who have been affected and offers constructive ways to help them.

The tenor of this booklet is on the elimination of the shame associated with this issue and encouraging those who are affected to seek help. It is written by Redfern community members, for community members, with reference to the support agencies that are available, known and trusted in this area. This is only the second community-specific piece of its kind to be circulated in this area.

>> **LAUREN'S STORY:** Lauren is a young mother whose family has a long history in Redfern and on the Block. Lauren has great hopes of giving her daughter a life of possibility and potential and, since her baby's birth, has found Mudgin-Gal a source and centre of information and support.





'YARNING CIRCLE'. This is a biannual community event conducted by Mudgin-Gal in conjunction with Redfern Legal Centre and the NSW Police. It is an opportunity for women to come together to talk about the impact of sexual abuse on them as individuals and on their community. 'Not Just Another Yarn' came out of the real need identified in the Yarning Circles to bring the facts about abuse, and most importantly, how to address it, into the open.

Throughout each year, many other initiatives that deal directly with training and education, improve emotional and physical health, encourage socialising and networking without the use of alcohol, drugs and gambling, and address substance abuse and post incarceration rehabilitation, also take place under the auspices of Mudgin-Gal's Healthy Family Circle.



CYCLE OF ABUSE

In New South Wales, the rate of reported child sexual assault of Aboriginal females under the age of 16 in 2004 was more than double that of non-Aboriginal females in the same age group. However, NSW Health data indicates that of all the children in NSW who accessed services for sexual assault, only 11% were Aboriginal.

Around 27% of children and young people in out-of-home care in 2004-5 were Aboriginal. This is a rate of 42.4 per 1000 Aboriginal children, compared with 4.8 per 1000 non-Aboriginal children.

"Aboriginal adults are the result of their childhood experiences. For us to overcome the problems we are faced with we must provide a healthy emotional and living environment for our children."

BRONWYN PENRITH
Chair, Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Women's Corporation



Engaging communities

The chasm of ignorance and misunderstanding that's grown from the realities of Aboriginal history after white settlement has proven one of the most difficult for Australians to bridge. And while it's axiomatic that reconciliation can only be achieved when that gap is closed, it's far less often that real examples of this happening come to light. Mudgin-Gal, however, is one of them.

Mudgin-Gal is an inclusive organisation that believes both in caring for its immediate members and sharing strength and knowledge with other community groups. In taking its place as an active member of the wider community, Mudgin-Gal is not only building autonomy and respect for its own members. It is also taking positive steps to dissolve generations of misconception and misunderstanding.

It's a philosophy demonstrated time and again by Mudgin-Gal's close ties and willingness to engage and partner with other leading community organisations – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. After years of operation and experience, the threads of Mudgin-Gal's many connections have become so interwoven that they create a distinctive and recognisable pattern in the fabric of the inner city community.

These connections span government and non-government organisations large and small, the legal and medical community and more. Working with different groups enables Mudgin-Gal to further its aims and create bonds of unity in an often divided community.

FORGING COMMUNITY ALLIANCES

Mudgin-Gal's domestic violence initiatives are well established and leading in their field. But their success is also testimony to the cooperative and mutually respectful relationships Mudgin-Gal has developed with other critical stakeholders and experts. These include the NSW Police Service, leading Australian social justice and human rights advocacy group The Redfern Legal Centre, Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service, researchers from the University of Technology, Sydney and various government and council-sponsored groups including those that make up the Inner City Domestic Violence Group.

UNITING FAMILIES AND CULTURES

One of Mudgin-Gal's core aims is to promote safety and harmony within the family. This aim naturally extends to promoting harmony with the broader community. In an area populated by many ethnic groups, often disadvantaged and living at close quarters, Mudgin-Gal is closely involved in activities targeted at uniting cultures, to help advance understanding, tolerance and friendship. Running these family and broader programs has involved successful ongoing partnerships with many groups ranging from national peak bodies such as Relationships Australia, to leading government organisations such as the Redfern Waterloo Authority and grass roots community-based groups such as South Sydney Community Aid Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre.

SOWING SEEDS OF UNDERSTANDING

True bonds of community, compassion and understanding rely on direct personal contact and a sharing of the highs and lows of everyday life that is often lacking between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, whose interaction is often either rare or incidental. The 'Virtual Sisters of Mudgin-Gal' program is one that actively addresses this, by facilitating relationships between non-Aboriginal women who would like to share skills and their Aboriginal counterparts. Mudgin-Gal's 'virtual sisters' offer skills and learning and in so doing gain insight and understanding of the community into which they've been invited – along with the knowledge that they've made a direct and meaningful contribution. This kind of person-to-person, grass roots contact is the best way to dispel myths, create mutual respect and enable relationships that would otherwise never exist. Mudgin-Gal would welcome more opportunities to promote community and increase common ground between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal people in the future.

"Mudgin-Gal is an integral part of what we're trying to do in building trust and mending relationships with the Aboriginal people in Redfern. Mudgin-Gal helps us understand what's going on in the community so we can work together to solve the problems. When someone needs us but is too scared to ask for our help they will often go to Mudgin-Gal, then we'll come down, have a chat, form a bond and then a professional relationship. It's how we can build a better community. They say that "from little things, big things grow"... and that's Mudgin-Gal all over. I have really high hopes for them."

SENIOR CONSTABLE GARY JENNINGS
Domestic Violence Liaison Officer, Redfern Police

"After waiting six years from retirement to find a good match for my volunteer commitment, I couldn't believe my luck in being introduced to Mudgin-Gal. Here I could contribute my accountancy skills, forged in 21 productive years at NCOSS, to some of the most committed people I've ever met. The Mudgin-Gal crew care so much about their clients, and work so hard to improve the lives of Aboriginal people in the wider community, that I feel special being a minor part of their efforts. Mudgin-Gal's in my blood now; I can't imagine a Tuesday without the train ride to Redfern and my continuing education in Aboriginal culture."

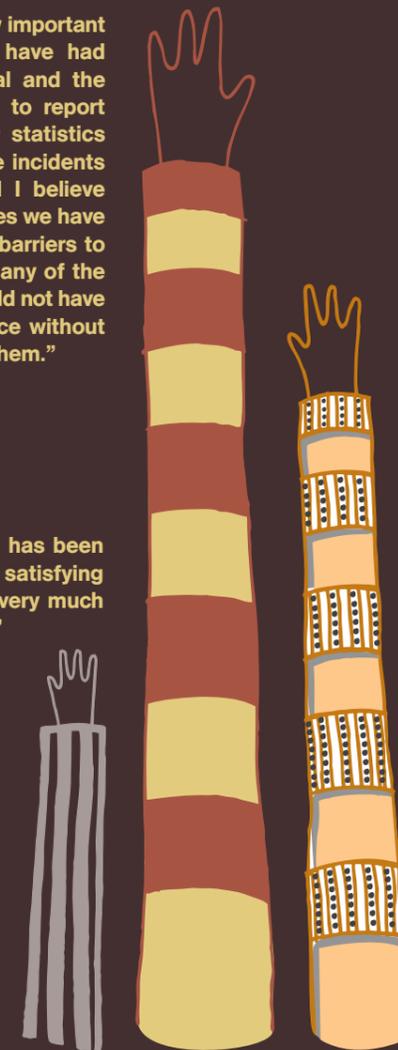
ANNA LOGAN
Virtual sister of Mudgin-Gal

"It's really hard to put into words just how important Mudgin-Gal is to the community. We have had great success working with Mudgin-Gal and the police to encourage Aboriginal women to report sexual abuse and family violence. Our statistics show that the level of reporting of these incidents has risen in the local community, and I believe some of this has been due to the initiatives we have worked on together to reduce systemic barriers to Aboriginal women seeking protection. Many of the Aboriginal women who come to court would not have reported sexual assault or family violence without the Mudgin-Gal women walking beside them."

SUSAN SMITH
Solicitor, Coordinator, Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service

"Working in partnership with Mudgin-gal has been a gift to Relationships Australia. Mutually satisfying and rewarding, this is a relationship we very much treasure and hope will continue to grow."

ANITA VOSPER
Regional Manager Northern Sydney
Relationships Australia NSW



👏 An enduring model...

Mudgin-Gal has a strong plan and a powerful vision for the future. Its evolving structure, expanding programs and increasing achievements position it to achieve more than it ever has before and in so doing, continue to meet the aims enshrined in its constitution:

- to relieve poverty hardship and distress being experienced by Aboriginal women and children;
- to encourage, stimulate and assist Aboriginal women in the pursuit of their individual goals and collective interest, be they recreational, social, organisational, educational or other;
- to establish and maintain a community centre for Aboriginal women with personal or collective needs;
- to cooperate with Aboriginal women, Aboriginal women's groups, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations to further the interests and meet the needs of Aboriginal women;
- to do anything calculated to improve the conditions of Aboriginal lives in relation as mentioned in the preceding rules, as may be prescribed by regulation.

A PLAN THAT SUPPORTS THE VISION

Since its earliest days, Mudgin-Gal has moved steadily ahead to achieve its aims. Robust governance and creating a strong repeatable management structure are critical enablers of this growth and success. Mudgin-Gal has a keen awareness of the need to build an organisation with the ability to continue beyond the tenure of the dedicated and inspiring individuals who've shaped it thus far.

To this end, roles and responsibilities within the organisation are increasingly clearly defined and there is a major push to ensure that invaluable corporate knowledge is recorded and accessible.

Documented procedures are in place across the organisation and formal training and induction – including for volunteers – is a critical part of ensuring that Mudgin-Gal's services are increasingly consistent, repeatable and accountable.



seeding hope for the future 👏

Above all, as it approaches 20 years of learning, growing and achievement, Mudgin-Gal's hopes lie with upcoming generations.

The future of this community and the many others with which it is connected will be shaped by the firsthand life experiences of its members. And nowhere are these more indelible than within the very first and most integral of communities, the family.

Mudgin-Gal's future plans and vision involve a continued and, it is hoped, expanded focus on supporting women as leaders, nurturers and role models.

There is strong hope that the additional space and potential offered by its new premises will give Mudgin-Gal greater scope to further its promising work in parenting and early childhood development. Already, there are plans to institute new, on-site programs that capitalise on Mudgin-Gal's trusted position in the community – a position that enables it to draw in ever greater numbers, explore greater opportunities and make an ever greater difference.

Despite such hopes, and despite its demonstrated ability to set real benchmarks across various areas, Mudgin-Gal's future remains uncertain.

Until Mudgin-Gal's funding is secured, its ability to effectively plan and craft the best programs and its freedom to explore and create the most productive partnerships remain under question.

Mudgin-Gal's leadership in its community's journey is well recognised by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians. It has been granted tax deductible gift recipient status by the Australian Taxation Office. Those who wish to contribute to its continued role can do so directly by visiting www.redfernfoundation.org.au

A 'THANK YOU' TO MUDGIN-GAL'S PEOPLE

Mudgin-Gal is its community. Without the efforts of many, our work could not continue. Our heartfelt thanks go to the many, many individuals and organisations that have contributed to Mudgin-Gal's achievements over the years.

Our particular gratitude goes to the inspiring and visionary group of Aboriginal women who responded to the call of their community by founding Mudgin-Gal.

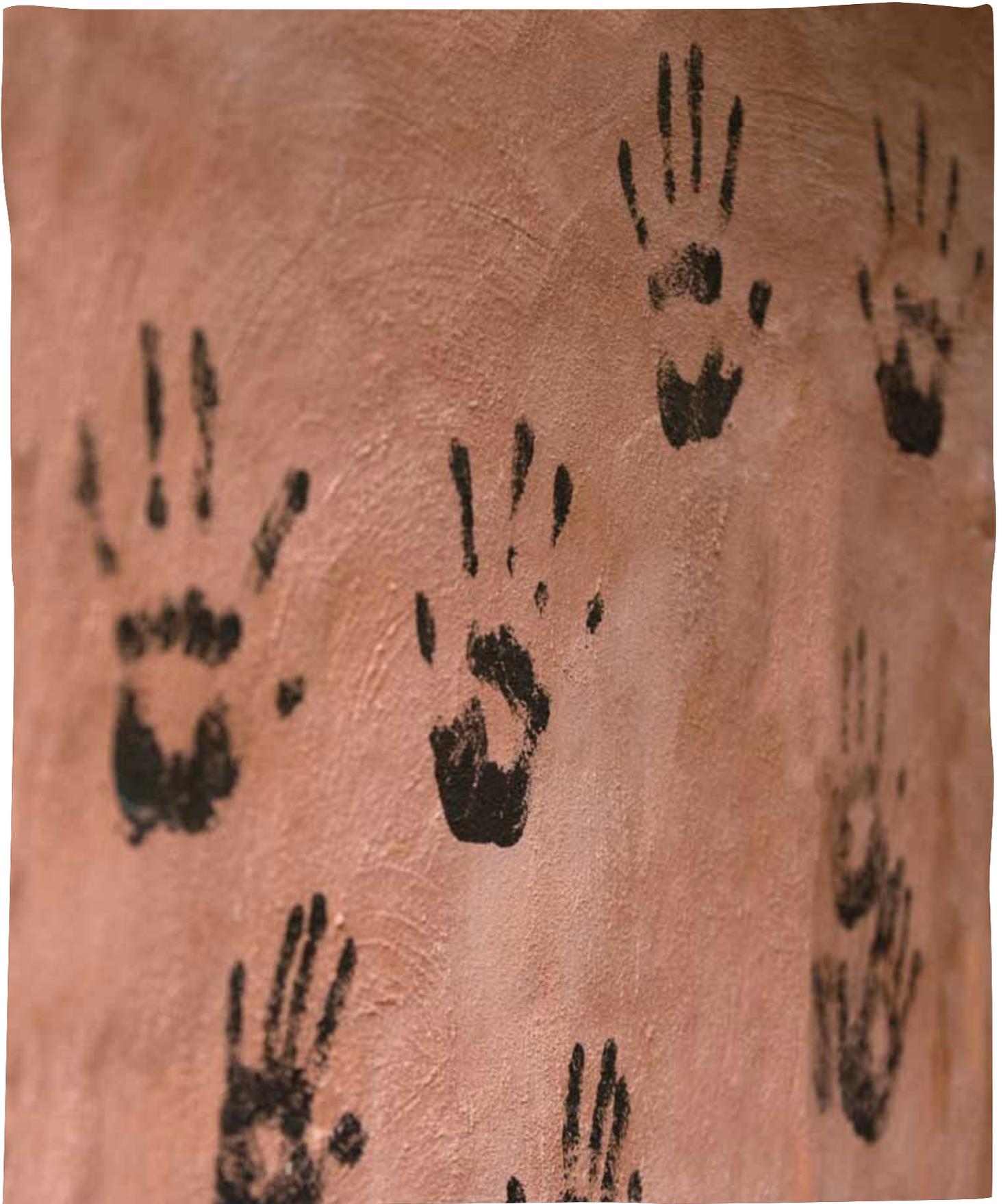
Aboriginal Medical Service	Ms Deb Mann
Dr Larissa Behrendt	Marrickville Area Community Housing
Susie Carleton	Sonya Pearce
Belinda Carr	Bronwyn Penrith
Lotti Ceissman	Angeline Penrith
Gloria Clark, Yallamundie	Judith Phillips
Connect Redfern	The Redfern Foundation
Ashlee Donahue	Redfern Legal Centre
Jo Fletcher	Redfern Waterloo Authority
Teresa French	Kim Redman
Gilbert & Tobin Lawyers	Relationships Australia
Koolyn Gordon	Anna Roberts
Yatungka Gordon	Christine Robinson
Indigenous Lands Corporation	Donna Smith
Jackie Jarrett	Jennifer Stanford
Ourania Kotzohambos	Tribal Warrior Association
Dixie Link-Gordon	Virtual Sisters of Mudgin-Gal
Melita Link	Anita Vosper
Anna Logan	Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's
Man Investments Australia	Legal Service

These are just a few of the staff, volunteers, partners and other friends of Mudgin-Gal who've been part of our success. While we can't thank all those we'd like to in this space, please be assured that your efforts are always appreciated and can and do make a real difference where it's needed most.

Mudgin-Gal looks forward to working with all of you and, we hope, many more friends in the future.

"Good health comes from within. Mudgin-Gal's message to our community is, if you have something to offer, step up. We are focused on nurturing and shaping people who have something to offer and can step up and be advocates for themselves and our community."

DIXIE LINK-GORDON, CEO, Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Women's Corporation



Mudgin-Gal
Aboriginal Corporation

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