



Ngadju Telegraph

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From the CEO's Desk Welcome to Edition #2 of the Ngadju Telegraph.

It's a jam-packed edition, with news about how Ngadju members can access funds allocated to our Benefits Management Scheme and a terrific story about how some of those funds are directly benefiting our younger Ngadju members.

We outline how registered Ngadju Aboriginal businesses can apply for government contracts under the State Government's new Aboriginal Procurement Policy, as well as highlighting how our 'best practice mining and heritage agreements with local mining companies will help deliver long-lasting and beneficial outcomes for Ngadju people in the Goldfields region.

In other news, **Trevor Donaldson**, **Eddie McKenzie** and **James Murphy** have been appointed to the NNTAC Board, with **Trevor** being elected Co-Chair and **Michael Smith** elected as Chair.

2018 shapes as a very exciting one for the NNTAC, with progress being made on several other mining and exploration agreements that will deliver additional long-lasting and

Rebecca plans future in beauty therapy thanks to Ngadju support



Rebecca Beach – "this course is life changing for me"

Rebecca Beach is a 'face' of Ngadju's future.

The 21-year-old student is completing her Certificate IV in Beauty Therapy and also Diploma in Beauty Therapy at the Murdoch campus of the South Metropolitan College of TAFE – all thanks to the financial support of the Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation.

"I'm so thankful for the opportunity that the Ngadju Aboriginal Corporation has given to me," Rebecca said. "I would never have been able to do this Cert. IV course or the Diploma without their support. "This course is life changing for me. I can't thank them enough."

Rebecca is the recipient of a \$5,000 grant from the NNTAC's approved Benefits Management Structure, which has a total of \$750,000 per annum allocated towards 14 policy areas including education and scholarships.

NNTAC CEO Paul Stenson said providing educational opportunities for Ngadju people like Rebecca was vitally important in order to help Ngadju's younger generation reach their full potential.

Rebecca aims to graduate in July this year and is hoping to continue her studies at university.

"I've really enjoyed doing the Cert. IV course but I want to do more of the medical side of beauty therapy and work with Doctors. Being able to do the Diploma course has opened up a whole new opportunity for me to go to university, which is really significant for me."

beneficial outcomes for Ngadju people in the Goldfields region.

Our 2018 priority initiatives are to open an office in Norseman to improve access for Ngadju locals, to acquire a coaster bus to assist Ngadju Elders and members without transport to get around the Norseman area (see story p3) and

to improve the living conditions of our Elders in Norseman (see story page 4).

I look forward to delivering on our agreed Strategic Initiatives for all Ngadju members.

Paul Stenson
Chief Executive Officer

IN THIS ISSUE:

Three new NNTAC Board of Directors

Page 2

New bus to open up travel for Ngadju Elders

Page 3

Better living conditions a must for Ngadju Elders

Page 4

New Trust fund up and delivering

Ngadju members can now apply for assistance packages under the approved Benefits Management Scheme.

Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation Chair Michael Smith said applications could be received for four of the six funding programs, covering Education & Scholarship, Elders Assistance, Funeral and Health and Medical Assistance.

He said funding packages for the Emergency Accommodation Program and the Sports Program would be determined in the new financial year, from 1 July 2018.

"All Ngadju members should be aware we have appointed a new Trustee and all enquiries relating to the Benefits Management Scheme should be directed to Abbott Native Title Trustees," Mr Smith said.

"Abbott's are using new application forms so I urge any Ngadju members who are wanting to apply for funds for under the Education & Scholarship Program, the Elders Assistance Program, the Funeral Program or the Health and Medical

Program, to contact Abbott's direct on **(08) 6165 4080** or via their email at **info@anntt.com.au**

"Once all of the programs are finalised for the 2018-2019 financial year they will be listed on the Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation website, with application forms for each program available for download.

"The Benefits Management Scheme is one of our agreed 23 strategic initiatives and is designed to provide opportunities to enable our younger generation to reach their potential while caring and supporting our Elders."

Currently, the Benefits Management Scheme provides for:

Education and Scholarship Program:

Priority applications will be given to members living on Ngadju country and where total fees are not

covered by school or government sponsored programs:

- Applications will be capped at a maximum amount per member's child per annum for primary school fees.
- Applications will be capped at a maximum amount per member's child per annum for secondary school fees.
- Applications will be capped at a maximum amount per member's child per annum for education for students with special needs.
- Applications will be capped at a maximum amount per individual per annum for TAFE and University Scholarships.

Elders Assistance Program:

Emergency funds for Ngadju members 55 years and older:

- Applications will be capped at a

More on page 3

NNTAC's Board of Directors

Three new members were elected to the Board of Directors following the annual general meeting held in Norsemen on the 23rd November 2017.

Trevor Donaldson, Eddie McKenzie and James Murphy were elected to the NNTAC Board of Directors for a two-year period through to the date of the annual general meeting in 2019.

Mr Donaldson was later elected Co-Chair of the NNTAC Board along with Chair Michael Smith.

Your current NNTAC Board of Directors are:



Michael Smith



Trevor Donaldson



Coralie Baumgarten



Donna Beach



Ruth Bonney



Eddie McKenzie



Barry Graham



David Graham



Sharon Johnson



James Murphy



Loretta Smith



Bronwyn Thompson



New bus to open up travel for Ngadju Elders

Ngadju Elders and members without transport will benefit greatly from a new bus that will travel between Norseman and surrounds to Kalgoorlie, Kambalda and Esperance.

The new Mitsubishi bus (pictured right) will carry up to 22 people, including the driver, and be converted to provide easier access for Elderly and disabled people, as well as wheel-chair access at the rear of the bus.

NNTAC Chief Executive Officer Paul Stenson said many Elderly Ngadju members in Norseman did not have any means of travelling to Kalgoorlie or Esperance to do simple tasks like shopping, or to visit a doctor, a dentist or an optometrist.

“This bus will open up so many opportunities for our Elderly members and also our Ngadju members who don’t have a car or any means of transport,” Mr Stenson said.



“They will be able to travel safely into Kalgoorlie or Esperance up to three to four times a week and do their shopping, or visit a doctor or dentist or specialist, or even catch-up with family members.

“It might appear a pretty simple thing for us but it will be a significant improvement for them and one that will help to deliver a better quality of life.”

Mr Stenson said it would take approximately eight weeks to modify the bus for disabled and wheelchair access, meaning it should be on the roads of Norseman in July sometime.

A qualified Ngadju bus driver will be employed by the NNTAC to manage the weekly timetable and bus routes, as well as ensuring all policies and guidelines for the use of the bus are adhered to.

New Trust fund

Continued from Page 2

maximum amount per individual per annum to support the payment of utilities (power, water, gas, rates).

- Applications will be capped at a maximum amount per individual per annum for essential household furniture and white goods.

Funeral Program:

Provided for Ngadju members or their spouse or child:

- Applications will be capped up to a maximum amount per funeral for all associated costs.

Health and Medical Program:

For Ngadju members where funds are not available from alternative government or health insurance programs:

- Applications will be capped at an amount per member per annum, with priority given to the elderly and disadvantaged.

Ngadju businesses urged to apply for government contracts

Registered Ngadju Aboriginal businesses have been encouraged to apply for government contracts under the State Government’s new Aboriginal Procurement Policy which starts later this year.

From July 1 2018, all State Government departments will be required to award one per cent of contracts to registered Aboriginal businesses, with this target increasing to two per cent in July 2019 and three per cent in July 2020.

Finance and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ben Wyatt said the targets would apply to all government agencies and government trading enterprises when purchasing goods, services, community services and works.

The Department of Finance will undertake engagement activities throughout the state to support both Aboriginal businesses and

state government departments with the implementation of the policy in 2018.

An education and training program, including regional engagement, will take place in the second quarter of 2018 allowing consultation and training to occur with both Aboriginal businesses and state government departments throughout the state.

The Aboriginal Procurement Policy is available on the Department of Finance’s website at www.finance.wa.gov.au



Better living conditions a must for Ngadju Elders

Donna Beach pauses for a second and quietly, but with much determination says: “I just want good health for the families up there ... better housing conditions ... them living in better conditions. That’s top of my agenda in terms of getting these programs up and running.”

For Donna – who was an inaugural Board Director of the Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation – ensuring the wellbeing of her Ngadju Elders is a critical objective for the Corporation.

“A lot of our Elders are still living in housing conditions that need to be upgraded,” she says.

“Better housing conditions will certainly help to provide better living conditions and, hopefully, will lead to better health for our Elderly Ngadju people, who are the ones that need care and attention.

“So for me, allocating funds for Elders’ health needs is one of our most important priorities, and then, making sure our young ones get support for their education.

Donna is quick to point out that the NNTAC has achieved a lot since being established mid-last year.

“We’ve done a lot in a short time... but it’s critical that we make these allocation of funds for Elders’ health needs and then, scholar-

ships and assistance to attend school for the young ones,” she said.

“Educating our young ones is the best thing we can do for our children.

“They’re our future and we’ve got to do everything we can to help them get a good education.”

A proud Ngadju woman, Donna is the daughter of Noongar man Thomas Bullen and Ngadju Elder Betty Schultz.

“My parents were well respected in the community,” Donna says.

“Dad was from Esperance but lived in Norseman with my mum, Betty, who was the only child born to “Pop” Mick Schultz and “Nanna” Patsy Dimer.

“In fact, Thomas and Betty grew up in the Norseman Mission together – they were among the first children to be put in the Mission.

“My parents, grandparents and great grandparents all lived on



Donna Beach

Ngadju country from Nanambinia – in the Balladonia area – right around Norseman.

“My apical ancestry goes right back to Lucy Diamond ... back to some of the earliest ancestors on Ngadju country.”

Donna says she lived in Norseman until her early 20s but moved away to start a family when she married. She now lives in Boddington working in the mining industry.

Ngadju people to benefit from ‘best practice’ mining deal

A ‘best practice’ mining and heritage agreement signed with local exploration company Pioneer Resources Limited will help to deliver long-lasting and beneficial outcomes for Ngadju people in the Goldfields region.

The agreement will provide ongoing compensation to the Ngadju people for their loss of native title rights over the company’s Pioneer Dome project area, situated near Norseman, about 130km south of Kalgoorlie.

Ngadju’s CEO Paul Stenson said the compensation would form a part of the \$750,000 per annum Benefits Management System (BMS) to provide a range of ongoing initiatives for Ngadju people.

“I congratulate Pioneer Resources for their approach to negotiating

this win-win outcome for both parties. It was a very efficient and effective process that only took about six months, which is a very quick timeframe for these type of agreements,” Mr. Stenson said.

Mr Stenson described the Pioneer Resources’ mining and heritage agreement as ‘best practice’ because it included provisions for costs to be paid, as well as compensation for loss of native title rights to allow for exploration and mining by the company.

“The previous arrangements were pretty tired and didn’t necessarily represent the best interests of native title groups,” he said. “We’ve made considerable improvements to the framework of the native title agreements to ensure that a ‘costs agreement’ is the starting point of our negotiations, Mr Stenson said.

“In the past, native title groups met a lot of the costs involved in negotiating an agreement with mining companies. Having a costs agreement negotiated up front is a big step forward for Ngadju people.”