

**ANTaR**

Justice, Rights and Respect for Australia's First Peoples



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
**2018-2019**

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## WHO WE ARE

We are a dynamic organisation **supporting the millions of Australians wanting justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Peoples.** We are independent, non-partisan and not for profit. We are affiliated with a national network of state and territory groups.

## OUR VISION

A just Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights as First Peoples are recognised, respected and enjoyed.

## OUR PURPOSE

To be a respected 'Thought Leader' that engages, educates and mobilises the broader Australian community to support and advocate for treaty, justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Peoples.

Cover photo by Tim Laman.  
Rock stencil art at Carnarvon Gorge,  
Carnarvon National Park, Queensland, Australia.

# OUR PRINCIPLES

[THE WAY WE WORK]



We actively support the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to self-determination.



We partner with, and take our lead from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations. We build alliances with other organisations and across sectors in support of common goals.



We believe that all Australians should be fully informed about and have a role to play in achieving a just Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights as the First Peoples are recognised, respected and enjoyed.



We seek to amplify the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations.



We are committed to social justice and the full realisation of human rights, including those expressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



We believe in empowerment and community development. Working closely with our State and Territory ANTaR affiliates to educate the broader community about justice, rights and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

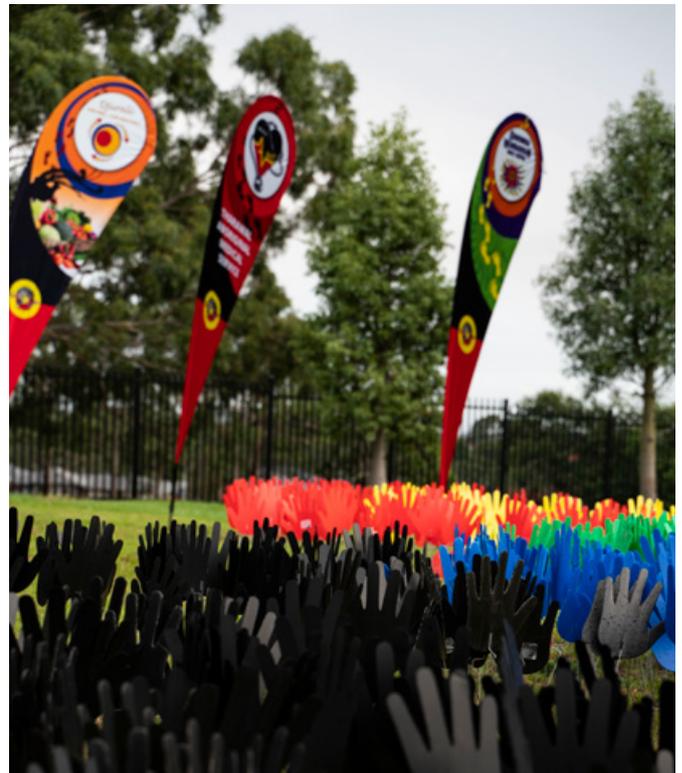


We believe in speaking up about injustice, inequality and racism.



We are accountable and transparent.

# OUR STRATEGIC GOALS



**To lead** public discussions about unfinished business, truth-telling (treaty, justice, rights and respect) and a reconciled Australia from a non Indigenous perspective, in solidarity and conjunction with First Nations leaders and organisations.

**To educate** the broader community about the history, cultures, lived experiences, languages and human rights of Australia's First Peoples.

**To build** an active and engaged network of Australians committed to the achievement of justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Peoples.

**To be** an effective and efficient organisation that values partnerships and develops our people both professionally and culturally to enable us to achieve our goals.



To read our Strategic Goals in full see:

[www.antar.org.au/strategic-plan](http://www.antar.org.au/strategic-plan)

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



“...one positive sign has been the emergence of the national Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations as the key interlocutor with COAG for creating a new COAG Closing the Gap process...”

In the 2018/19 Financial Year, ANTaR made the bold decision to focus on the foundational issue of Treaty, alongside maintaining our work with First Nations led campaigns. One of ANTaR's First Nations founders, Richard Frankland, talks of 'tomorrow Australia' – an Australia where the identity of the nation is no longer contingent on the denial of the perspective and reality of First Nations Peoples; an Australia that is sung of as 'old' not 'young', and whose flag and birth-date no longer exhibit representations of invasion.

National pride will only come from recreating the conditions of Australian nationhood so that First Nations Peoples' sovereignty and spiritual custodianship of the lands and waters becomes the basis for a renewed nation. Talking Treaty is a national discourse we need to have. While not all First Nations Peoples have 'signed-on' to the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart', its message concerning 'voice, truth and treaty' – celebrated as the 2019 theme for NAIDOC week – are universal aspirations for the First Nations of these lands and waters and for those who seek to be in solidarity with them.

Much of this past financial year has seen ANTaR National, in coalition with First Nations partners, preparing for the National Treaties Summit 2020 at Melbourne University. It is from this summit that ANTaR hopes to work with First Nations leaders in launching the Treaty Campaign. Victoria is already going down the Treaty road, with the Northern Territory and Queensland also following. Hopefully the campaign will see the Federal Government one day join this process towards a tomorrow Australia.

While there have been some disappointments in terms of our advocacy this financial year, one positive sign has been the emergence of the national Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations as the key interlocutor with COAG for creating a new COAG Closing the Gap process, in some respects, building on the 2016 Redfern Statement. Also, we were pleased to see the appointment of the Honourable Ken Wyatt as the first First Nations person to be Minister for Indigenous Australians. The fact that the Shadow Minister, the Hon. Linda Burney, is also a First Nations person, is a promising sign for Federal politics and is another step away from the 'mission manager' approach of the past.

In terms of our internal, organisational matters, we experienced the usual financial fluctuations and occasional difficulties but we hope our renewed focus on Treaty will create a firmer basis for fundraising. Under the inspired leadership of our National Director, Paul Wright, the national ANTaR team has maintained its respected role as an organisation working in solidarity with First Nations Peoples. As ever, ANTaR National is ready to play its role and continue to pursue its vision for a mature nation built on respect for, and implementation of the rights of First Nations Peoples.

In closing, I want to thank our staff, Board members and Council members for the great work they have done this year. A big thanks to Kirsten Grey, who left the Board before the 2018 AGM, for her policy 'smarts' and deadly support for the work of ANTaR. She has been greatly missed.

And, of course, a big thanks to our invaluable members and supporters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lewis'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey background.

**Peter Lewis**  
**PRESIDENT, ANTaR**

# NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT



“One of the best solutions to the over-incarceration rates is Justice Reinvestment. In April 2019, I had the good fortune to join former Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda, on a road trip to Bourke in northern NSW to meet up with our friends at the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment project.”

The 2018-19 year was my first full year as National Director and it has been a busy year for ANTaR in our work for rights, justice and respect for Australia's First Peoples.

Politically, it has been another mixed bag for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs in Australia. The re-election of the Morrison Coalition Government meant that there was very little policy or planning for Indigenous affairs. The formation of the **Coalition of peaks**, 'a representative body comprised of around forty Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations that have come together to have their collective voice heard on issues that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people', meant that the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) decided to push back the reformation of the Closing the Gap Strategy. We are still waiting to see what will come of the new 'partnership' between government and the Coalition of Peaks, and much depends on the funding and policy settings that are negotiated.

ANTaR has continued our long association with the Close the Gap Campaign as a foundational member of the Campaign's steering committee. In early 2019, ANTaR took a lead role for the Campaign in producing National Close the Gap Day in March. ANTaR has now taken over responsibility to host the Campaign's online content and we have **standalone web pages** dedicated to Close the Gap and NCTGD on behalf of the Campaign. Along with the Campaign Secretariat, Oxfam and the **Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation**, we hosted a fantastic launch of the **Campaign's 2019 Report** at Campbelltown NSW.

We have also continued to auspice the **Change the Record Coalition** and have worked with our Coalition partners to provide strong advocacy messages around raising the age of criminal responsibility, supporting justice reinvestment initiatives across the country and incorporating justice targets into the next Closing the Gap Strategy. Australia continues to lock up First Nations Peoples at extreme levels

and the Change the Record Coalition is a clear voice of authority on how to address this shameful record.

One of the **best solutions** to the over-incarceration rates is Justice Reinvestment. In April 2019, I had the good fortune to join former Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda, on a road trip to Bourke in northern NSW to meet up with our friends at the **Maranguka Justice Reinvestment project**. ANTaR is a member of **Just Reinvest NSW** and it is an honour for me to sit on its Executive Committee. We are hoping to see new justice reinvestment projects take off with communities in Mt Druitt, Moree and Armidale in the near future.

In 2019, ANTaR produced Election Scorecards for the **NSW (March)** and **Federal (May)** elections. The Scorecards provided non-partisan analysis of the major contesting parties' policy platforms relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. This was a valued initiative that we will continue to provide for upcoming elections in all jurisdictions.

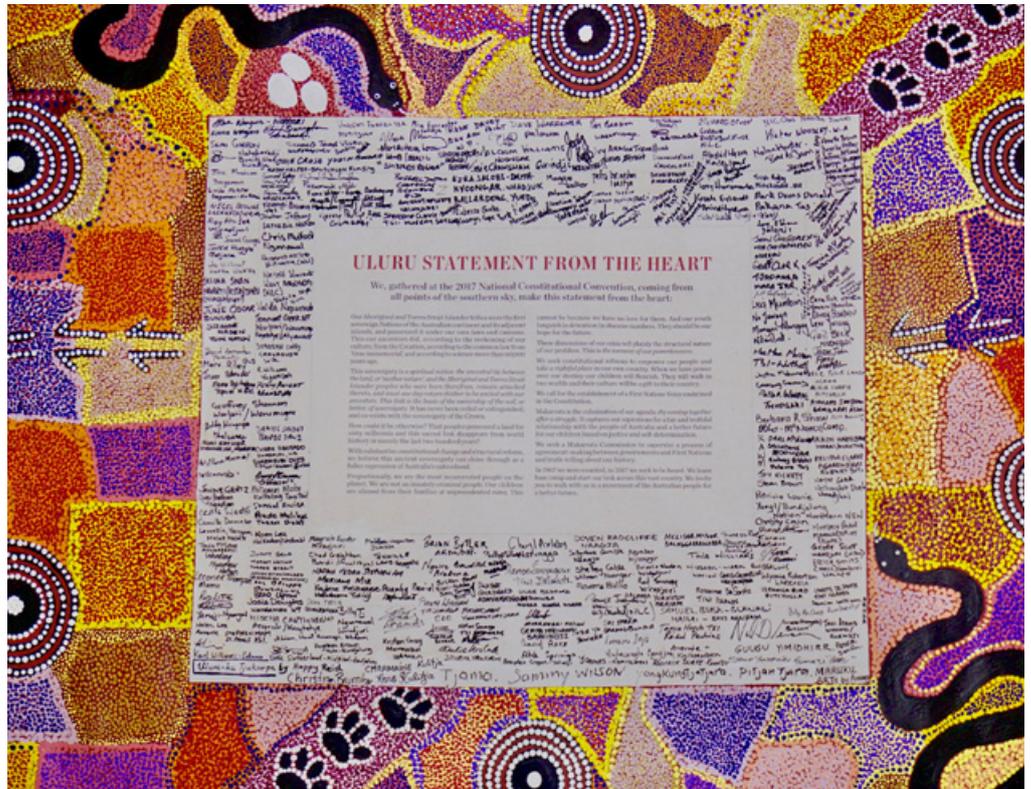
We were pleased to launch our **ANTaR Blog** in early 2019, and to date we have some very thoughtful blog pieces from our President, Dr Peter Lewis; Reconciliation Australia CEO, Karen Mundine; Rheumatic Heart Disease campaigner Vicki Wade; and ANTaR Board Director, Shannan Dodson, among others.

## **National Treaties Summit 2020**

I will have more to say on this in next year's report but we have been working hard over the last 12 months, in partnership with the University of Melbourne and the National Native Title Council to create the **National Treaties Summit**.

The Summit will be held 16-18 April 2020 and will be a national dialogue about the importance of agreement-making, a chance to compare and share experiences from the Australian jurisdictions, to explore international experiences and to contribute to the momentum of Treaty and agreement-making across Australia. We are very

“I want to thank our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander friends, leaders and their peak organisations.”



excited by this event and expect the Summit to become a landmark occasion in the push for a framework of Treaty-making across Australia with the First Peoples of this continent.

I want to thank our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander friends, leaders and their peak organisations.

I am very grateful to the ANTaR Board for their wisdom, direction and support. Led by our President, Dr Peter Lewis, we have passionate and experienced Board of Directors that are a testament to the strength of our organisation.

Thanks to the staff for all their hard work and commitment over the last year.

We are a small team that is never shy in going above and beyond for ANTaR. Thanks to our regular volunteers – Wendy Rayner, Sue Downes, Sheilagh Kelly and Cathy Noble – and the many other volunteers and interns that have given their time to support our community stalls or muck in at Sea of Hands working bees. Couldn't do it without you.

I very much look forward to the next year and am excited about the opportunities ahead as we work towards a truly reconciled Australia.

**Paul Wright  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

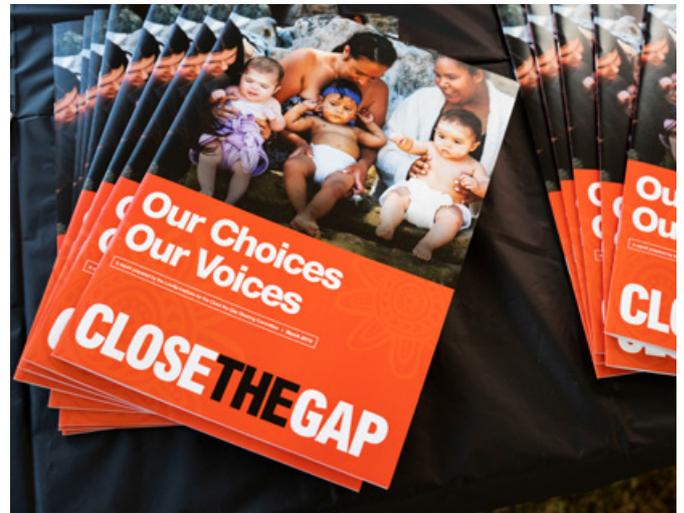
# ABOUT OUR WORK

## CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

Since the Referendum Council delivered its report in October 2017, the Coalition government has outrightly rejected its proposals, right up to the unexpected Coalition win in the federal election May 2019. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership has remained firm in its call for 'Voice Treaty and Truth'.

The most recent developments in this struggle to bridge the gap between Indigenous expectations and political realities has been Minister Wyatt's announcement of yet another senior advisory group headed by widely respected Indigenous leaders, Professors Tom Calma and Marcia Langton. With 20 other selected First Nations and non-Indigenous members, the group is directed to design options for a model of legislated, rather than constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to government (rather than Parliament), and a form of constitutional recognition.

For ANTaR, as an organisation that exists to support First Nations Peoples in their claiming justice, rights and respect, it can be difficult to know how to support appropriately and effectively – particularly when there are very real and valid differences of view on how to proceed. ANTaR has from the beginning, and continues to support and back the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and we want to see a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament and a Makarrata Commission established to drive agreement-making and truth-telling across Australia – and as soon as possible.



## CLOSE THE GAP

National Close the Gap Day (NCTGD) continues to be an opportunity to send governments a clear message that Australians value health equality as a fundamental right for all. As a foundational member of the Campaign's steering committee, ANTaR took a lead role in producing NCTGD in March 2019. In Sydney, with Campaign Secretariat, Oxfam, ANTaR partnered with Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation – Aboriginal Medical Service, South Western Sydney, to host an exciting NCTGD community event and launch the Annual CTG Report. It was heartening to see the increased number of registrations and range of events in schools and workplaces, reflecting increasing awareness in the community of the stark health disparities between First Nations and non-Indigenous citizens. Most notably ANTaR invited communities to host a screening of multi-award winning 'Take Heart' narrated by Stan Grant – a film that raises awareness of the high levels of Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities despite the fact this disease was eliminated in most parts of Australia in the 1960s. ANTaR has now taken over responsibility to host the Campaign's online content with standalone web-pages dedicated to Close the Gap and NCTGD on behalf of the Campaign.

With only two of seven targets on track the Government's commitment to 'refresh' its Closing the Gap Strategy has resulted in a formal partnership agreement between COAG and the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations. Since the May 2019 Federal election, reformation of the Closing the Gap Strategy is on hold. ANTaR waits to see what will come of this new partnership and stands ready to advocate for self-determination strategies for the National Coalition of Peak Organisations.

## ABOUT OUR WORK [CONT.]

### CHANGE THE RECORD

In 2018-19, ANTaR continued to auspice the Change the Record Coalition of leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, community and human rights organisations. It provided strong advocacy messages focussed on: raising the age of criminal responsibility, supporting justice reinvestment initiatives across the country and incorporating justice targets into the next Closing the Gap Strategy. Australia continues to lock up First Nations Peoples at extreme levels and the Change the Record Coalition is a clear voice of authority on how to address this shameful record.

### JUST REINVEST

In early 2019, ANTaR Director Paul Wright with Mick Gooda, former Social Justice Commissioner, visited the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in Bourke far western NSW. An initiative begun in 2013 with the support of Just Reinvest NSW, Maranguka is an Aboriginal-led, place-based model that looks to invest in the community rather than to 'build more prisons'. Paul was able to observe first hand just how various clan groups, through the Bourke Tribal Council, operate to oversee the work of Maranguka, ensuring collaboration between their community and the various services from police, schools, youth groups, council and health.

ANTaR hopes to see new Justice Reinvestment projects undertaken with communities across NSW in the near future. With our partners at Just Reinvest NSW and through the Change the Record Campaign, ANTaR has been lobbying state and federal governments to more heavily resource justice reinvestment initiatives.



ANTaR National Director Paul Wright with former Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda, visiting the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment project in Bourke, NSW.

### TREATY

Over the last 12 months, ANTaR has been working on progressing national and state Treaty processes. In partnership with the University of Melbourne and the National Native Title Council, ANTaR is developing a National Treaties Summit to be held 16-18 April 2020. The Summit will be a national dialogue about the importance of agreement-making, a chance to compare and share experiences from the Australian jurisdictions, to explore international experiences and to contribute to the momentum of Treaty and agreement-making across Australia. We hope that the Summit becomes a landmark occasion in the push for a framework of Treaty-making across Australia with the First Peoples of this continent.

### HANDS UP

ANTaR National's Hands Up! program continued to roll out successfully, scaling up this year with more than 50,000 hands being sent out to schools, universities, church and community groups, councils, hospitals and businesses across the country to mark National Close the Gap Day, Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week and other events. The University of Adelaide, Griffith University (across five campuses), and Samaritans Foundation, all hosted 2000 piece Sea of Hands installations for the first time, while small 'puddles' of hands travelled as far north as Tully Kindergarten in Queensland and all the way down south to St Aloysius in Tasmania. Corporate Hands Up! bookings continued to grow, with Primary OSHCare hiring a Sea of Hands to plant as a part of their Reconciliation Action Plan launch. It is great to see communities across Australia, continue to use our iconic hands as the symbol of their solidarity and support for reconciliation and recognition.



# SUSTAINING OUR ORGANISATION

## Key Facts about our Development Program:

- Our appeals this year brought in \$177,459 in income; other appeals around campaigns raised \$60,545; and monthly donations from the Sea of Hands Partnership (regular donors) fell back to \$110,935.
- Expenses for these activities was at 8% of the income.
- 1,368 donors supported our Annual Appeals and digital campaigns together with 429 Sea of Hands Partners.
- We appointed a Fundraising & Supporter Care Coordinator to help improve the monthly giving program, contact with supporters and engagement with the community through the Hands Up program.

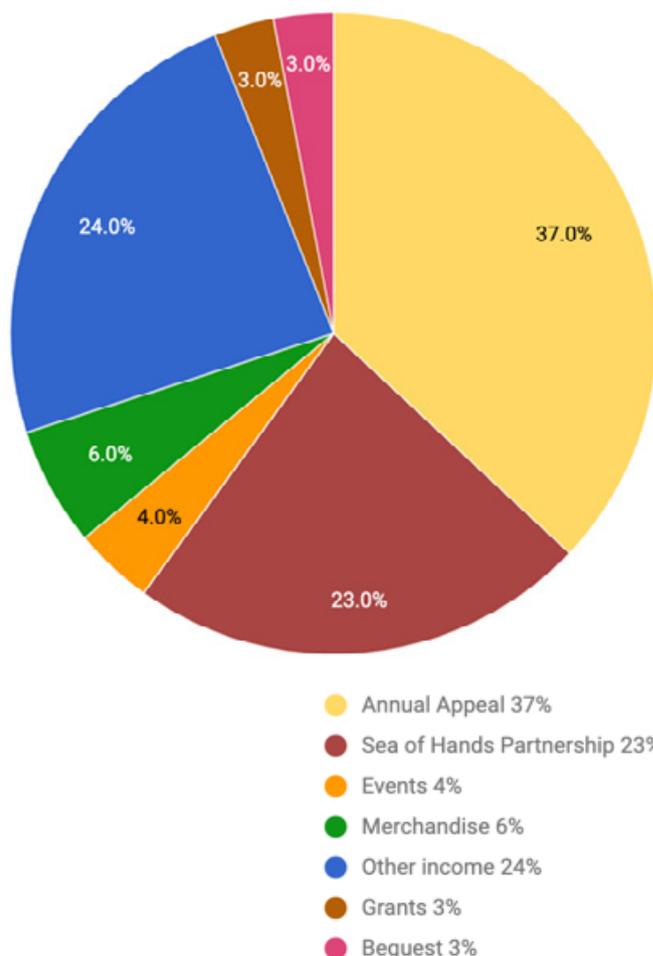
## External Review of Funds Development

The Board engaged external consultants More Strategic to conduct a review and analysis of ANTaR's Funds Development strategy and sustainability. More Strategic provided a thorough report and recommendations for changes to the organisations funds development strategy, many of which the Board and Management have adopted. Positive early reports of success have been reported since implementing changes to our funds development strategy. We thank Ruth Wick and More Strategic for the advice.

## Estate of the Late Dr Edward Linacre

We were very grateful to have received a bequest from the Estate of the Late Dr Edward Linacre, a long time supporter who passed away this last year.

His legacy will have a lasting impact on the sustainability of our campaign work, Sea of Hands movement, and the broad network of advocates we support.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

PROFIT & LOSS JULY 2018 TO JUNE 2019	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
<b>INCOME</b>		
Fundraising	\$385,940	\$559,116
Grants	\$14,000	\$0
Merchandise	\$26,825	\$25,464
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$48,365	\$5,870
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$475,129</b>	<b>\$590,450</b>
<b>COST OF SALES</b>		
COS - Merchandise	\$16,335	\$10,026
<b>TOTAL COST OF SALES</b>	<b>\$16,335</b>	<b>\$10,026</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$458,794</b>	<b>\$580,423</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
State ANTaR Disbursements	\$30,159	\$37,846
STAFF EXPENSES	\$310,493	\$257,386
Operating Expenses	\$196,893	\$167,532
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$537,545</b>	<b>\$462,764</b>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>	<b>(\$78,751)</b>	<b>\$117,659</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Interest Income	\$2,185	\$1,705
Total Other Income	\$2,185	\$1,705
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>		
Interest Expense	\$28	\$114
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$28</b>	<b>\$114</b>
<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$76,594)</b>	<b>\$119,251</b>

## FINANCIAL REPORT [CONT.]

BALANCE SHEET JUNE 2019	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank	\$385,164	\$384,651
Cash on Hand	\$374	\$63
Receivables	\$6,830	\$4,379
Other Current Assets	\$8,127	\$8,127
Fixed Assets	\$35,141	\$40,817
Stock on Hand	\$8,963	\$9,809
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$444,598</b>	<b>\$447,846</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Liabilities	\$5,987	\$2,062
Payroll Liabilities	\$2,396	\$3,680
Tax Liabilities	\$6,538	\$4,351
Payroll Provisions	\$21,217	\$14,460
Other Liabilities	\$130,525	\$57,848
Inter-State Office Amounts Due	\$9,915	\$26,418
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$176,580</b>	<b>\$108,819</b>
Net Assets	\$268,019	\$339,027
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained Earnings	\$344,613	\$153,099
Current Year Earnings	(\$76,594)	\$119,251
Sustainability Reserve	\$0	\$55,848
Insurance Reserve	\$0	\$10,828
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>\$268,019</b>	<b>\$339,027</b>

# UPDATES FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES



## ANTaR ACT

ANTaR ACT continued our engagement and advocacy around local ACT issues in 2018-19.



Muriel Bamblett, Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency.

### Advocacy and Campaigns

The David Hunter Memorial Lecture 2018, titled 'Change the future: children in out-of-home care' continued a major area of ANTaR's advocacy in the ACT. The lecture was presented by Muriel Bamblett, Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, the leading Aboriginal child and family welfare organisation in Victoria, protecting and promoting the rights of Aboriginal children and young people. As noted in the Family Matters Report 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the ACT are 12.5 times (nationally 9.8 times) more likely to be living in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children. The focus of the lecture was on what can be done to change this. Local people Selina Walker and Fran Crowe also provided personal reflections from their experiences. There was a lot of interest in the lecture with over 90 people attending, including a number of ACT Government representatives.

In consultation with the local Aboriginal traditional owners about the community's priorities, we continued to publicly advocate for change and support in a number of areas including:

- The rates of out-of-home care and the experiences of families, children and the Indigenous community in the ACT system (we now await the final report of the Our Booris: Our Way review in December 2019)
- Why the Healing Farm is not being used for the purposes for which it was developed (a review is now underway)
- Justice Reinvestment
- Re-opening Boomanulla Oval (which was finally reopened in May 2019)
- Empowering and developing Aboriginal-led organisations to service community needs.

We also engaged with the ACT Government about its response to the unlawful removal of significant scarred trees in the region, with the lack of enforcement of local heritage laws of great concern to the ANTaR ACT Committee.

### Education and Engagement

We provided historical material from ANTaR ACT's archives to support a local exhibition about the Stolen Generations, the generations of Indigenous children who were systematically removed from their families through policies and practices at all levels of government, and the ongoing effects this has had on Indigenous families and communities.

Following from previous years, ANTaR ACT members again joined the annual Frontier Wars March on ANZAC day this year. The march is a peaceful, respectful, and solemn memorialising of all those who died in conflicts between Aboriginal people and the colonists from the early years until as late as 1934.

We developed small grant guidelines to form good governance arrangements around our provision of grants and support to local community organisations and individuals, and provided grants to Boomanulla Raiders for their NAIDOC week jerseys and support for local attendance at a Narjong water healing ceremony at the source of the Murrumbidgee River, which was set up by Aboriginal elders, custodians and others from along the Murray-Darling basin.

We held stalls in Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week at local events. In Reconciliation week we hosted a 'Politics in the Pub' event with Dr Chris Bourke and Genevieve Jacobs, co-chairs of the ACT Reconciliation Day Council, leading a discussion about treaty in the ACT context.

We attended a range of events, and ANTaR committee member, Rita Metzenrath, participated in a panel discussion on the Uluru Statement from the Heart and Steps Forward on 24 September. The event was hosted by ANU Law Indigenous Reconciliation Project and included: Craig Ritchie (CEO, AIATSIS), Cheyne Halloran (United Ngunnawal Elders Council, Emma Towney (Solicitor, Canberra Community Law), and Jo Chivers (Deputy Chair, ATSIEB).

We continue to send out a monthly e-newsletter and post regular updates to our website and Facebook page that provide a source of information about Aboriginal-related events and activities happening across Canberra. These events are held by both ANTaR and many other Canberra institutions that focus on Aboriginal issues.

## UPDATES FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES [CONT.]

### ANTAR VICTORIA

ANTaR Victoria had an exciting 2018-19 year. We continued with the foundation laying work as begun in the previous year, however it was the revival and renewal of the School Talks programme that stood out.

#### Education and Engagement

The School Talks programme is run entirely by a team of volunteers. A one-hour presentation discussing issues which affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and some of the causes behind contemporary issues. ANTaR Victoria received the following feedback from a teacher:

“Students benefited greatly from ANTaR Victoria’s engaging presentation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and perspectives.”

Once again, we held a stall at the Share the Spirit (Balit Narrun) Festival. Share the Spirit is an annual outdoor concert that centres around music created by indigenous artists with a focus on showcasing the true diversity of indigenous performers across different genres. It is a free to attend, family-friendly festival.

The festival provides ANTaR Victoria an opportunity to promote our message to the approximately 5000 attendees. With the help of a wonderful team of volunteers, we had a very successful stall, and a sound financial result was welcome.



### ANTAR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The SA ANTaR Steering Committee meets monthly at the Norwood Human Rights Centre and we are involved in the ANTaR Council and other fora throughout the year. ANTaR South Australia activities over the past year have included Sea of Hands activity and other public engagements.

#### Advocacy and Campaigns

We produced and distributed across South Australia 14,000 of the very popular Aboriginal Significant Dates Calendars. This included up to 10,000 educational folders for schools distributed in Adelaide and some of the regional areas, and 4,000 back to back calendars for ten Aboriginal community sector organisations across SA as part of our public engagement program.

#### Education and Engagement

ANTaR SA members participated in:

- Proclamation Day on 28 December 2018 at Holdfast Bay the heartland of the Letters Patent and our Magna Carta Rule of Law Rights;
- Survival/Invasion/Colonisation Day on 26 January;
- Letters Patent Day on 19 February at the Memorial Film Evening at the Media Resource Centre’s Mercury Theatre. This was also significant as the anniversary of the late great Owen John Karpny and his 7-0 High Court win in 2013 which established his peoples’ native title fishing rights in SA;
- Sorry Day on 26 May with a Sea of Hands Display;
- Reconciliation Week & Mabo Day on 27 May to 2 June and
- NAIDOC Week (NAIDOC in the Mall) & National Aboriginal & Islander Day over 7-14 July.

## UPDATES FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES [CONT.]

### ANTAR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Another fantastic year in Western Australia, living on beautiful Whadjuk Nyoongar Boodjar.

As the impact of the structural changes to ANTaR over the last few years show their value to our national effectiveness, in WA we have been increasingly comfortable with our support for ANTaR's national lobbying and campaigns. It means that we can concentrate on our local initiatives which are growing in scope, worth and recognition.

#### Education and Engagement

In our **HELLO project**, we call language the music of country which connects all people to country. At Perth's NRM recent AGM Professor Peter Klinken AC said "language is a window to culture". HELLO enables anyone to learn how to say 'G'day' in some of the ancient languages of this land. We are gradually extending the scope of the project to include other first languages across WA and Australia.

HELLO has three main aspects:

1. Community participative installations spelling out the local word for hello by everyone at an event placing the word Boodjar (Nyoongar for country) on one of the Sea of Hands. The City of South Perth has supported ANTaR WA at the Hello Manning event this year and we are currently negotiating with them to do an installation at the 2020 Australia Day ceremonies including for new Australians.
2. A digital database of letters of the alphabet made using scanned images of each of the six colours of the ANTaR Sea of Hands – the letters are used to spell words for hello. Exciting possibilities we anticipate implementing in the near future are converting the letter database into a type-able font and creating an Australia-wide app.
3. Acknowledgements of country. These are only performed when the event or gathering has no budget for a proper Welcome to Country. Using Whadjuk Nyoongar country as an example, we have a projection(s) showing the words Kaya (hello) and Wandjoo (welcome). The words are spoken to the standing audience who then repeat them, so everyone is welcoming each other to the event in language.

Increased national capacity with the original languages importantly conveys respect for people and culture, contributing to increased self esteem and reconciliation.

Sustainable Urban Nutrition (SUN) is a system for growing food sustainably using urban waste that ANTaR WA has been developing over a number of years. It has reached the stage of collaborating with local waste management groups, a community garden



and local government and anyone is free to use the system. A condition for using the system is that at least a third (1/3) of what is produced is donated to others – if not a licence fee may be required. Any funds gained through licence will be donated to ANTaR. SUN has many community sustainability advantages. However, for this report the potential benefits for First Nations' peoples and communities are the main focus:

1. Improved health through access to affordable healthy food via organisations like Foodbank.
2. Local employment and enterprise opportunities that allow for cultural obligations like sorry business and lore.
3. Integration with local bush tucker and value adding of produce.

In combination these benefits will contribute to overall individual and community well being.

#### Youth Media

Youth can produce media wherever they are living or visiting in our nation. ANTaR WA has been gifted 10 hrs film footage of her life story by Lois Olney, renowned WA painter, actor, jazz musician and member of the Stolen Generation. The film was produced by WA Indigenous Stories. Further film footage produced by Aboriginal youth from the Pilbara region has also been donated. The aim of our Youth Media project is to invite young people to use these resources to:

1. Learning skills useful for their other life interests and experience – sport, music, community.
2. Learning aspects of culture whilst culturally educating everyone in Australia or overseas.
3. Youth Media has local employment and business opportunities.

The benefits to youth centre around local business and employment potential.

Combined, the three projects are designed to enhance self esteem and self determination at an individual and community level.

## UPDATES FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES [CONT.]

### ANTAR QUEENSLAND

ANTaR Qld has been fortunate to have the ongoing services of a very competent office manager working one day per week, while the Office Manager's role has changed to enable the provision of much-needed practical support for people using the services of the community organisation where the office is based. We have secured an ongoing office, and, thanks to significant annual donations, we have consolidated our financial base at least for next year. Despite numerous efforts to grow and engage membership this continues to be the most significant organisational challenge. We have a comparatively good footprint in the social media area and have utilised Facebook for the distribution of information and, on occasions, encouraging activism from our Facebook followers. Our information distribution networks allow us to provide important developments to a significant number of both First Nations and non-Indigenous organisations in Queensland. We continue to be active with Sea of Hands and a virtual Book club.

### Advocacy and Campaigns

#### Queensland Justice Reinvestment

The Balanced Justice campaign to reform the Youth Justice system of Queensland has had a major impact. Across the past eight years, ANTaR Qld has given solid commitment in the policy, research and advocacy sphere with a cavalcade of relevant ministers and governments. The ALP government since 2015 has received our approaches very positively. To sum up the 4 projects, the imperative is now prevention rather than punishment; government and community partnership rather than authoritarian, criminalising practices. Ten of our twelve key objectives are currently in implementation. The two remaining objectives are raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility (from 10 to 14) and health assessment prior to Children's Court proceedings.

#### Path to Treaty

The Queensland government has commenced a Path to Treaty process designed to reframe the important relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Queensland. This is a conversation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and the broader community. ANTaR Qld is playing an important role focusing on the Non-Indigenous community, attempting to provide information and encourage as many submissions as possible supporting the Path to Treaty process. ANTaR Qld is working with the Expert Panel and relevant government departments. Depending on the outcomes of deliberations by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, ANTaR Qld will be active in trying to bring about some form of Treaty or Treaties in Queensland.



### Family Matters

As contained in the Annual Family Matters Report there is a critical concern relating to the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care. This is a systemic phenomenon, which, despite numerous fine statements and policy reforms, has not impacted the disproportionate representation across child protection. ANTaR Qld has been heavily involved in the Family Matters campaign by being a member of a consortium of organisations and making submissions at both the State and Federal levels.

### Stolen Wages

ANTaR Qld continues to have a supporting role particularly assisting claimants wishing to make claims in the ongoing Court proceedings and government responses. This has been a very long program in Queensland with no definitive outcome. Our role remains one of support and where possible practical assistance.



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# ANTaR

Justice, Rights and Respect for Australia's First Peoples



Sea of hands

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ANTaR acknowledges the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation as the traditional owners of the land upon which our office is located.

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