



# Link Up

Mary-Anne Frail &  
Jessica Milanovic

Link Up (NSW)

*Aboriginal Wellbeing Conference*

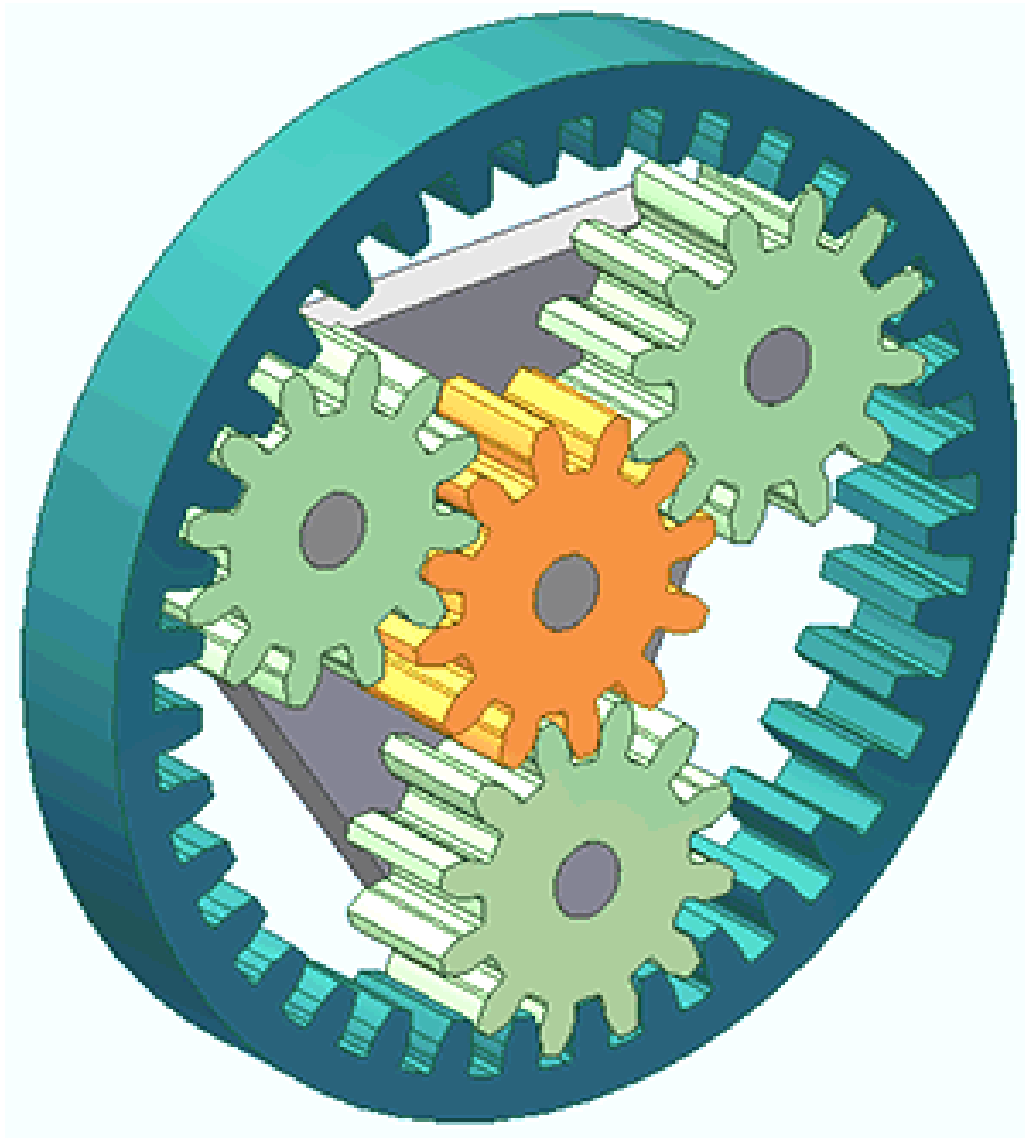
**Presenters: Mary-Anne Frail &  
Jessica Milanovic**



**LINK-UP [NSW]**  

---

**Aboriginal Corporation**



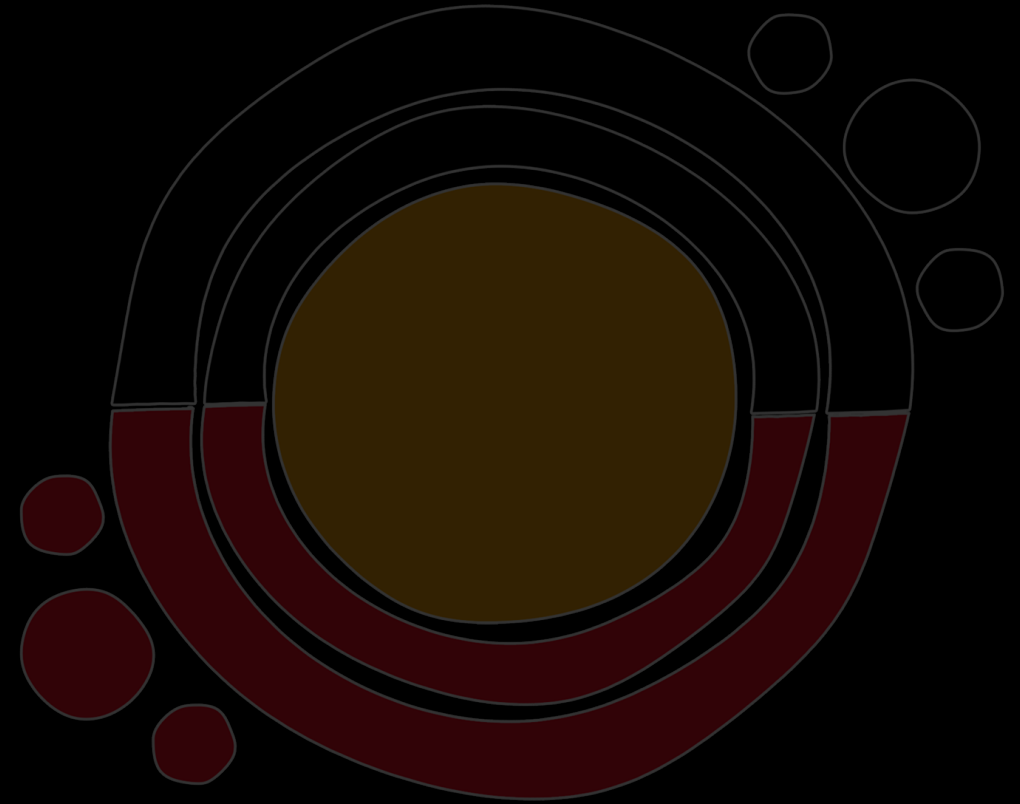
Our Being




## Question Time!

---

- Why do you think some Aboriginal people hide their identity?





Why people  
contact Link-Up  
(NSW)

- Self Identity
  - Connections
  - Belonging
  - Healing
- 



**LINK-UP [NSW]**

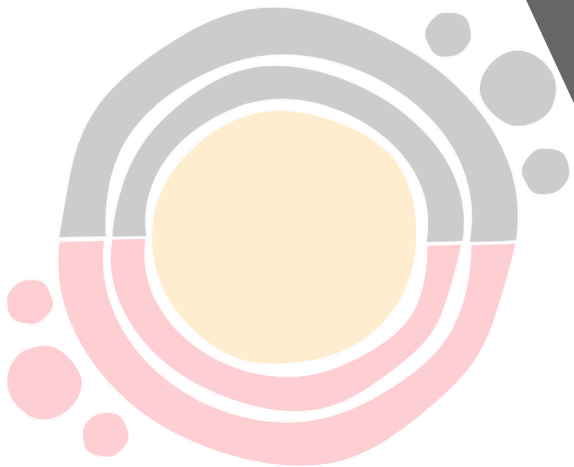


# The beginning of Link-Up

- Link-Up started by Coral (Aunty Oomera) Edwards, and historian Uncle Peter Read
- Aunty Oomera is an Aboriginal woman who had been raised in Cootamundra Girls' Home and wanted to find her family
- Aunty Oomera saw there was a need in the Aboriginal community to help find family for The Stolen Generations, that's when she contacted Peter and Link-Up was born

# How we started

- The first office was a home office
- There was only two employees and no wages
- They used their own car
- In 1983 Link-Up received its first funding from the Federal Government to provide services for Aboriginal people that were affected by the Government policy of forcible child removal
- The organisation was incorporated under the Aboriginal Associations Act in 1985
- Many volunteers, including Jean Carter and other Aboriginal Elders, assisted the development of the organisation



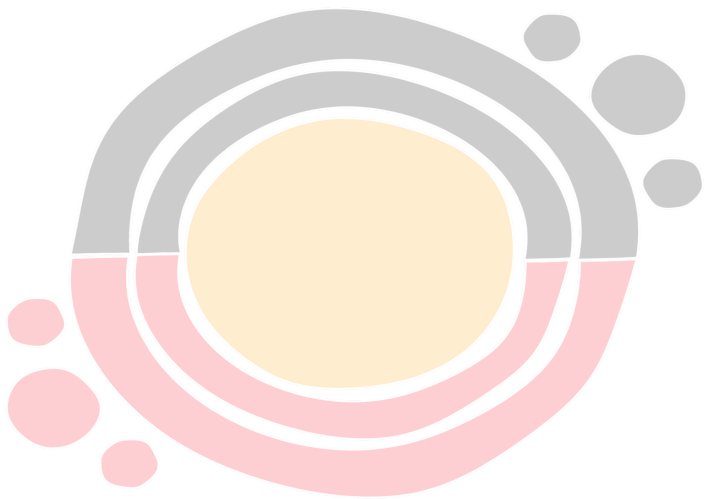
**LINK-UP [NSW]**  
**Aboriginal Corporation**



# Link-Up NSW CEO

Jamie Sampson





**LINK-UP [NSW]**  
**Aboriginal Corporation**

## Link-Up (NSW) programs:

- Reunification
- Family Link
- Redress
- Community Builder
- CAPO
- Events: COOEE and Healing Weekends



**LINK-UP [NSW]**

**Aboriginal Corporation**

## Reunification Team

- The Reunification Team are the Researchers, Caseworkers and Counsellors.
- STAGE ONE – Researchers must find evidence of Removal and Aboriginality, this will be approved and signed by Management
- STAGE TWO – Caseworkers have found family, country or graveside for the reunions
- STAGE THREE – Preparing the Reunion with Caseworkers and Counsellors

# Reunion Stories

---



# Family Reunions Photos



# Issues we face

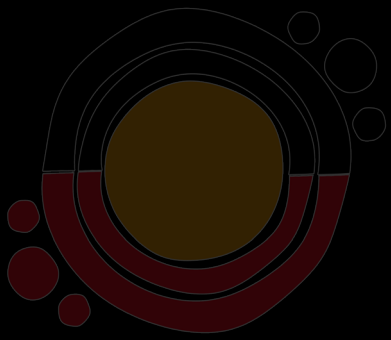
- 
- Funding
  - Death of family members
  - High turn over of staff
  - Waiting time for records
  - Lack of records
  - Unable to prove Aboriginality or Removal



**LINK-UP [NSW]**  
**Aboriginal Corporation**



# HEALING WEEKENDS



## Other Link-Up's around Australia

- Link-Up now has several offices, located around Australia.
  - Link-Up QLD, Brisbane and Cairns
    - Link-Up VIC, Melbourne
    - Link-Up SA, Adelaide
    - Link-Up NT, Darwin
- Link-Up WA, Perth, South Headland, and Kalgoorlie, Broome

# Video

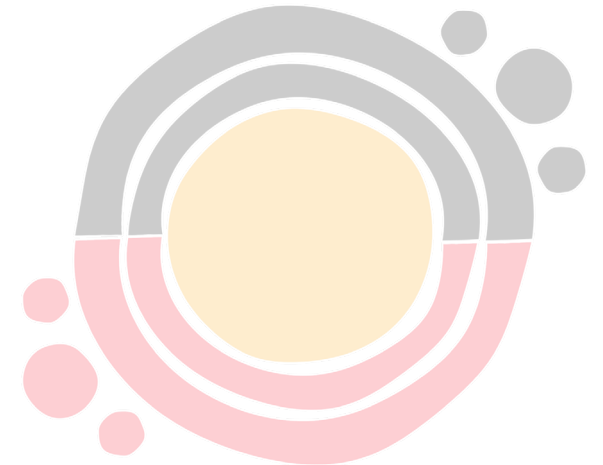
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2197330153846638&extid=ZKuKKACoUZi6b6lv>





“Thank you Link-Up NSW, for bringing us home on the land in which our Ancestors walked upon”

- *Aunty Raelene*



**LINK-UP** [NSW]  
Aboriginal Corporation



Any Questions?

**LINK-UP [NSW]**

---

**Aboriginal Corporation**