



## FACT SHEET

- Yarnteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation was first established in 1991. In June 07 the Yarnteen members unanimously agreed to the transfer of incorporation of Yarnteen ATSI Corporation to Yarnteen Ltd, a company limited by guarantee. Yarnteen Ltd is a not for profit company whose object is to provide Aboriginal people with training and employment opportunities to provide relief from unemployment
- “Yarnteen” means “**all/everybody**” in Awabakal language – traditional owners of Newcastle area.
- Vision – *To empower Indigenous Australians to achieve economic self-sufficiency which will enable them to prosper within the whole community system and to “become full free agents in their own development”.. Jonas 1991*
- Yarnteen have both social and economic objectives.

**Improved Social Wellbeing** – to build capacity within Indigenous communities and create valuable partnerships between Indigenous and non Indigenous people.

**Sustainable Economic Self-Sufficiency** – To encourage greater indigenous participation in the broader economy through indigenous owned enterprises and self-employment.

- Significant Achievements over the past 15 years:

**Yarnteen CDEP (NOW CALLED YOULOE-TA INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION)** – one of the largest CDEP’s in NSW with up to 266 participants. Established by Yarnteen in 1993 the CDEP has been successful in providing mainstream employment opportunities for the CDEP participants. Through the period 1994 – 2002 Yarnteen CDEP had placed over 200 participants into full time traineeships and apprenticeships.

Since October 2002 the CDEP has been under the management of Youloe-ta Indigenous Development Association, who also operate an Indigenous Employment Centre, which has placements for 50 participants.

**Community Resource and Training Centre at Garden Suburbs.** The Centre is located on 7 acres of natural bushland and was bought by Yarnteen in 1995, from profits generated by Yarnteen's commercial activities. A new building was constructed in 1999 from funding through the Australian National Training Authority and ATSIC CDEP. Today the centre offers accommodation for the Youlooe-ta Indigenous Development Asso. The centre also provides conferencing, catering and bush tucker tours.

**Small Business Assistance and Incubation** - Yarnteen has assisted several Indigenous small businesses to get established. These businesses include Cardiff Property Services which is owned and operated by an Aboriginal licensed builder undertaking contracts with the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office and Department of Housing and Warialda Engineering and Welding the Aboriginal inventor of the "Davis Starlifter".

**Microsoft "Unlimited Potential" Foundation Partner** – in launching their "UP" program Microsoft has chosen Yarnteen to be one of 5 Foundation Partners to roll out it's UP program. Yarnteen is the only Indigenous partner and in 2006 was chosen to present our work at the Global Microsoft "UP" Conference in Seattle, USA.

**Yarnteen Cultural Camp** – Yarnteen has established a cultural camp on 100 acres in the Wollombi – Broke area. Located within 15 klms of one of the richest areas for NSW Aboriginal rock art and cave paintings. The cultural camp is operated by an Aboriginal businessman and is utilised by many educational groups for cultural education purposes and by sporting and recreational groups.

**Yarnteen Creative Enterprise Centre** – This newly established centre combines both Yarnteen's economic and social well being objectives by providing a centre where Indigenous community, small businesses and organisations can gain support and bridge the digital divide for greater access to information and technology for community economic development.

The Centre currently employs 4 full time Indigenous employees and through Yarnteen College be offering training in Business Administration, digital media, job search and cultural awareness.

**Yarnteen Creative Enterprises Pty Ltd** is the subsidiary responsible for the management of the Yarnteen Creative Enterprise Centre.

**Yarnteen College** - Yarnteen College is one of 4 Indigenous Registered Training Organisations in NSW, providing national accredited training. The organisation has a strong focus on Vocational Education Training. Yarnteen College will deliver training at both the Yarnteen Creative Enterprise Centre and the Community Resource and Training Centre.

Yarnteen has also established 2 very successful commercial enterprises:

**Yarnteen Investments Pty Ltd trading as Port Hunter Commodities (PHC)** (a wholly owned subsidiary company of Yarnteen established in 1993) is a modern up-to-date bulk warehousing and commodity bagging enterprise located within the port of Newcastle area and one of a few major export/import and distribution facilities with Australian Quarantine approval

for meals and commodity products in Newcastle. In 2000 Port Hunter Commodities was awarded a National Australian Quarantine Award for Excellence in Plant Quarantine. PHC employs 6 Full time employees.

**Yarnteen Investments Pty Ltd trading as Riverside Car and Boat Wash** (a wholly owned subsidiary). Riverside Car and Boat Wash was established in August 2005 and offers a modern eco friendly car and boat wash in the coastal town of Port Macquarie NSW.

Other investments:

**Scarborough House** - located in Woden, ACT, is a 15 storey office complex which IBA purchased from the Australian Commonwealth Government in 2001. Along with IBA, there are currently 4 Aboriginal partners. They are Yarnteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation, Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, Wunan Foundation Inc and Groote Eylandt & Bickerton Island Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation.

### **Governance:**

- Individual members of Yarnteen have reached the highest positions in Indigenous affairs in Australia. Positions held include: Elected as Commissioner with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission (1996-1999), appointment on the Indigenous Business Australia Board (2001-current), NSW Board of Vocational Education (2003-2004), Chair of NSW Aboriginal Business Roundtable (2002-2004), representation on National Stolen General Committee.
- Yarnteen has been held up as a model and benchmark for indigenous community and enterprise development. The success of Yarnteen has been attributed to the vision, stability, cohesiveness and co-operation we have been able to generate from all sectors of the indigenous and wider community.
- Yarnteen has advocated the way forward for our people is to continue to place a greater emphasis on the economic empowerment of Aboriginal communities, families and individuals and the consequential development of the means for financial independence. We must empower our family units and our youth to enable them to participate in education, employment and business development opportunities and to have the choices to make informed decisions.

Yarnteen's vision has always been to "become full free agents in our own development". To achieve this Yarnteen has shown a credible track record on enterprise development, financial management and accountability.