

# Commitment to Reconciliation



Since our inception Yarnteen has been dedicated to the process of reconciliation. Yarnteen Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders Corporation first became an incorporated organisation in June 1991, set up by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Yarnteen is a non-Government, not for profit organisation. The name Yarnteen comes from the Awabakal tribe of the Newcastle area and means "All/Everybody".

Yarnteen's aim, to become *"full free agents in our own development"*, has always been the principle by which our actions are determined. Our objectives are to encourage greater Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in the broader economy through Aboriginal owned enterprises and to promote capacity within Aboriginal communities, share information and encourage strong ethical leadership.

We believe in working towards a society where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can enjoy the same standard of living to that of other Australians, without the loss of their personal spirit or cultural identity. If we can, by our actions, pave ways for effective economic independence, overcoming social disadvantage and the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights we will contribute to creating a fairer society.

This commitment's foundation is to:

- Reaffirm** our task of building a future rich in opportunity. Know that the actions and decisions we enable now are the legacy for generations to come;
- Resilience** to triumph over the destructive influences we may face. Be proud about identifying and including the Aboriginal spirit, connection to land and cultural identity in a modern society;
- Respectful** relationships between non Aboriginal Australians and Aboriginal people to share in the economic wealth of the country and achieve true freedom of choice.

It is our intention with this commitment to challenge ourselves to remain determined and focused on our aims and objectives.

- Our values will reflect the spirit and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Our actions will promote effective governance and economic independence.
- Our partnerships will support shared outcomes and benefits.

Throughout our history, Yarnteen have strongly advocated the importance of Partnerships with the private sector. Without a real commitment backed by long term actions from the private sector, genuine Indigenous participation in the main economy will remain a failure on truly reconciled Australia.

The actions we take to achieve these objectives will be detailed in a Reconciliation Action Plan to be developed in consultation with our staff, our partners and the communities we serve over the coming months.

\*(W.Jonas; 1991:12, Rpt, Four Successful Organisations)

*Our commitment to Reconciliation is intergenerational: we are entrusted to creating a fairer society for 7 generations forward.*