

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STOLEN GENERATIONS
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

ICN: 8367

**DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE 2022
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

17 November 2022



SASGAC

Past | Present | Future

In accordance with the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act, 2006

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the sovereign custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as relevant, to living Kurna people today and into the future.

We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STOLEN GENERATIONS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
(SASGAC)**

VISION

That Stolen Generations survivors, our descendants, families and communities are afforded their inherent birthright to live with dignity, to be respected, to have their unique experiences understood, to restoration with our cultural identity, and with our cultural, and First Nations rights acknowledged and supported.

SASGAC continues to honour the significant contribution by our fearless, visionary leader, and inaugural Chair, Ms Christine Egan* to the South Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation (SASGAC).

SASGAC acknowledges all community people who have travelled into the Dreaming over the past twelve months particularly those who are Stolen Generations. Our condolences to their families and their communities. Their lives have been examples of resilience and bravery in the face of hard times and suffering and we honour you.

**Permission sought from family to use full name*

From the Chair

Over the past three years each and every one of us has been impacted by local and world events, the most significant and horrific being the world wide COVID19 Pandemic. Some of us have fallen seriously ill with this disease; some of us have lost loved ones to the virus, and some of us have lost loved ones to other causes.

The Board gives its condolences to you and your families on the loss of your loved ones.

The Black Lives Matter Movement – which we all know has been going on in this country since colonisation – brought to the front pages the racial inequities experienced by People of Colour and Indigenous Peoples across the globe, and led to powerful demonstrations here in Australia. As we all know flowing through the current levels of disadvantage in our daily lives is the connection to the Stolen Generations particularly in the areas of incarceration and in health including aged care. The National Healing Foundation *Make Healing Happen: it's Time to Act* Report presents data which shows that Stolen Generations individuals (defined as removed before 1972) suffer higher levels of disadvantage than those experienced by the overall Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the nation.¹

As members of the Stolen Generations we recognise the social, political, financial and health and wellbeing impacts of removal on First Generations and our descendants. We also are strongly aware of the imperative for the Stolen Generations voice to be represented at all levels of decision making, and that there is a responsibility for governments to ensure that our unique needs are addressed across all areas of government.

These have been the foundational principles of the business of the Board and I am truly grateful to all those who have voluntarily sat as Directors of SASGAC. I commend these individuals for always working in a culturally safe, cohesive and committed way to achieve and grow the core purpose of the Corporation and to deliver on our commitments.

Thank you all

Jenni Caruso

¹ National Healing Foundation, *Make Healing Happen: It's time to Act*, May 2021.
<https://healingfoundation.org.au/app/uploads/2021/05/Make-Healing-Happen-Report-FINAL-May-2021.pdf>

DIRECTORS' EXECUTIVE SUMMARY NOVEMBER 2022

Over the past three years the Board of SASGAC has worked towards continuing to progress SASGAC Corporation Objectives. All members will be aware that the holding of meetings and progression of the Corporation has been deeply impacted by the COVID19 Epidemic.

Since the last AGM, there have been some changes to the Board Membership. The Directors wish to thank those who have given time to sit on the Board – your contributions have been very valuable and have ensured that the Board could continue to carry out the business of the Corporation. While the pandemic meant that the Board was unable to meet regularly, meetings were held online when possible and the business of the Corporation was attended to. Individual Directors have provided private advocacy to members of the Stolen Generations and will continue to do so. This has included the provision of Confirmation of Aboriginality to a number of people under the auspices of being an Incorporated Body with Common Seal.

At present the Board is made up of seven volunteer Directors including Aunty Martha Watts whose presence is a steadying force and whose contributions have guided the Board in its decision making.

MAINTAINING CORPORATION STATUS AS AN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED ORGANISATION

The South Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation has its incorporation status in the Office of Registration of Aboriginal Corporations (ORIC) and comes under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act (CATSI), 2006.

As an incorporated body SASGAC is required to meet a number of obligations to ORIC, including the submission of yearly reports, updating our membership list, updating the list and contact details of our Directors. Over the past six months SASGAC Directors have worked to submit all required reports and documents, ensuring that the Corporation meets ORIC compliance. The reports required for 2021/2022 will be uploaded to the ORIC site.

Federal Government Requirement for Director's of Boards/Organisations to be allocated a Director's ID.

As of 1st November 2022 the Federal Government's Australian Business Registry Services has mandated that all Directors of incorporated bodies apply for and be allocated a *Director's ID Number*.

The ASIC website states: A *Director ID* is a unique identifier that a director will apply for once and keep forever – which will help prevent the use of false or fraudulent director identities. *All directors of a company, registered Australian body, registered*

foreign company or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation will need a director ID.

All current SASGAC Directors are applying for an individual Director's ID. If Board membership changes at this AGM, the new nominees will need to apply for a Director's ID before signing the SASGAC *Agreement to Be Appointed Director* form. Under **Section 9.1** of the SASGAC Rule Book the new Board must appoint Office Bearers at the first meeting of the Board after the AGM. This meeting must be held no later than 7 days after the AGM.

For the purposes of 2022 to ensure compliance with the Federal requirement for Directors to be allocated a Directors' ID, the nominees who are voted on to the Board by the meeting will be required to apply for, be allocated and be able to show that they have a Director's ID during that seven day period. This must be done *before* the nominee signs the SASGAC *Agreement to Be Appointed Director* form which will confirm their appointment to the Board.

From November 2022 SASGAC AGM, members who are considering or wish to be appointed to the Board *must apply for and be allocated a Director's ID* before making a submission to join the Board.

As it is a Federal government requirement, this stipulation is non-negotiable and will be required for any member wishing to be appointed to the Board either outside of a SGM, an AGM or at AGM.

CORPORATION BUSINESS (2020 -2022) ACTIONED

There have been a number of focus areas for the Board to consider ensuring the Corporation meets its commitments and to maintain momentum of the Corporations core business. The main activity for the Board has been to deliver on the **Journeying Forward Project** for which SASGAC received funding in 2017 from the South Australian Stolen Generations Community Reparations Scheme to carry out a Project which was aimed at positioning the inclusion of Stolen Generations voices as a Peak Body in the State to act as an advocate for Stolen Generations individuals and organisations in the policy and political arenas.

Since August 2022 the Board has worked towards ensuring the carrying out of proposed activities as outlined in the South Australia Community Reparations Journeying Forward Project the deliverables identified at the time were:

Deliverable	Description
1. 2 x Round Tables in 2017	Round Table 1: discussions to commence bringing together of Stolen Generations groups for discussions on developing a coordinated communication approach Round Table 2: to confirm principles of operation for a coordinated communication approach and identify priority actions for 2018 and 2018/19
2. 2 x Gatherings in 2018	Gathering 1: for all members and supporters to come together to learn about the current activities and services linked to Stolen Generations reparation. (to occur before July 2018) Gathering 2: To be determined by membership (to occur between Sept 2018 to Dec 2018)
Business Plan for SASGAC 2018 to 2020	Development of a Business plan which considers SASGAC role in State and Commonwealth Government strategic agendas regarding Aboriginal Peoples and Stolen Generations, the further strengthening of the alliance between the current various groups representing Stolen Generations on South Australia, progressing the reparation and healing for members of the Stolen Generations and their families. The Business Plan will be fully costed with proposed likely sources for funding explored.

Given the Pandemic, the mechanisms for activities held to achieve those deliverables had to be adapted to the current environment taking into consideration the health and well being of members and participation in meetings/consultations.

To that end in 2021 the Directors put a call out to Aboriginal Consultancy Groups to engage in consultation with Stolen Generations individuals and organisations with the aim of carrying out the activities to comply with the funding agreement with Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AARD).

Activity Description	Commencement Date	Conclusion Date*
Manage SASGAC Membership Base	6 January 2022	14 May 2022
Plan & coordinate first roundtable in March 2022, with subsequent report and presentation of data collected	6 January 2022	14 May 2022
Research, prepare & provide business case report to SASGAC	6 January 2022	14 May 2022

A number of Proposals were received with MTL Consulting Services being contracted to undertake the necessary steps to fulfil SASGAC's requirements. MTL undertook the activities guided by SASGAC Board of Directors.

The outcomes of the information and data collection, as well as guidance from participants were written up in the May 2022 *Report into the South Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation*. Hard copies of this Report will be available at the AGM and also is available on the SASGAC website:

<http://sasgac.com.au/resources.html>

MTL Consultancy Services also developed the SASGAC website and email, giving the Corporation a forward facing presence. The website can be found at <http://sasgac.com.au/index.html>. The website will be officially launched at the 2022 AGM.

As a result SASGAC were able to deliver the Final Report on the activities outlined in the Agreement to AARD on June 30, 2022.

** With finalisation of the Project all of SASGAC's funding was expended.

While seeking to ensure the continuation of SASGAC and its development into a Peak representative body as envisaged at the time of the Corporation's establishment through the exploration of avenues to attract ongoing funding, the next stage of SASGAC rests in planning for and delivering on the original vision of SASGAC being positioned as a Peak Body in this State.

DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS

SASGAC seeks to build on its past record of providing a voice for Stolen Generations during and at the end of the SA Government's Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme by establishing and maintaining connections with various bodies.

Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA)

In past years the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA) provided a venue for SASGAC meetings. The Board thanks AHCSA for their support.

South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)

Over the past 12 months in line with their Reconciliation Action Plan, the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute has provided similar support in the provision of a venue when Board meetings transitioned to afterhours. The Board thanks SAHMRI for their support

Rosewater Football Club

The Rosewater Football Club has recently provided SASGAC with a meeting venue with no charge. Our thanks go to this community group for your support.

National Healing Foundation

SASGAC has developed a working relationship with the National Healing Foundation of which the current Chair is a member of their Reference Group. This relationship has been very beneficial to SASGAC and we thank the Chair of the Foundation, Ian Hamm and Fiona Cornforth for their time, guidance and input to the Board with the aim of supporting SASGAC in moving forward towards its original vision.

Through its national funding scheme, the National Healing Foundation approved a financial grant of \$33,000 to SASGAC which has provided financial certainty until the Board can identify other possible funding sources.

Many thanks go to the National Healing Foundation from the Board of Directors.

ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR CORPORATION AND PROVIDING ADVOCACY

SASGAC Directors have communicated regularly with funding bodies including AARD Attorney General's Department and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Grant Programs Unit, Business and Projects. We continue to work towards strengthening those relations as an avenue for possible future funding.

The Board of SASGAC will canvas the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Hon. Kyam Maher for ongoing funding especially as the current government does not provide funding support to any Stolen Generations group in the State.

The Board intends to petition the current Premier to ensure the Premier and his Office is aware of the needs of Stolen Generations in this state, to advocate for Stolen Generations inclusion in all State government Aboriginal Affairs and to seek funding to support the ongoing work of the Corporation. Research undertaken by the Healing Foundation shows that in South Australia in 2018 there were approximately 2,100 Stolen Generations individuals in SA, and that of the current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in this state, 46% are affected across all the identified areas of disadvantage (see information sheet on SASGAC Website). SASGAC will endeavour to make the Premier his office aware of these statistics and the imperative of including Stolen Generations in any policy making for Aboriginal people in this state.

South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations Network (SAACCON)

The membership of SAACCON is Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations who have identified a number of the Priority Reforms of *Closing the Gap* which impact the business of their organisations. As such SASGAC sought and has been granted membership of SAACCON with the aim of ensuring that Stolen Generations needs are incorporated into both State business and recognised in other member organisations.

The *Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap between the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations Network and the South Australian Government* (November 2022 – June 30, 2025) was signed by representatives of SAACCON and the State Government on 10 November 2022, with SASGAC listed as a member organisation.

The Board sees this membership as one means of providing advocacy for South Australian Stolen Generations people and their descendants and also as an avenue for accessing funds and administrative support to continue to establish a SASGAC Secretariat with the aim of consolidating the Corporation as a Peak Body for Stolen Generations in the State.

South Australian Aboriginal Voice to Parliament

The Board recently met with Dale Agius, Commissioner for First Nations Voice to have input into the consultations to ensure that a Stolen Generations voice is incorporated and embedded in any format/model the South Australian First Nations Voice takes.

The Commissioner's Engagement Report was released on 9 November 2022 and includes the following:

Some people raised that a broader approach to diversity could be considered to include other specific lived experiences, for example Stolen Generation survivors; people living with disability; and LGBTIQ+ people. People put forward that this could fit within nomination and election processes.²

Majority of feedback acknowledged there are many people living on Country who come from a different place, including Country outside of

²Commissioner for First Nations Voice to the South Australian Parliament: November 2022, p 21 https://www.agd.sa.gov.au/aboriginal-affairs-and-reconciliation/commissioner-for-first-nations-voice/first-nations-voice-model/FNV-Engagement-Report_v3.2-web.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2ImFrEv17C0h3ShdpuPozy6u3XjYugWvqfmz3J50Nf2QytGHR0HJwoHps

South Australia. They raised concerns that limiting eligibility for these people to stand for The Voice would mean that First Nations community leaders who live in the community but whose Country is elsewhere would not be eligible to nominate.³

The Report stated: Additionally, people raised that this would mean people who have been disconnected from their heritage, such as Stolen Generation survivors, would not be able to nominate.

“We want to bring cultural identity, but for those who have been stolen, we can’t leave them out in the cold – because it’s not their fault. We should not exclude them, we should include them.”⁴

The Board is pleased with these inclusions which articulate the positions put forward and held by SASGAC.

MEMBERSHIP

The current membership is 59– the greater percentage are Stolen Generations with 14 second generations, 3 third generations and 1 fourth generation. Sadly a number of our members have passed away – we honour them and extend our condolences to their families and their communities.

FINANCES

As noted earlier, with the finalisation of the Journeying Forward Project which was funded by the State Government under the Stolen Generations Community Reparations fund SASGAC was left with \$1,133.49 in funds. AARD invoiced SASGAC for the remaining \$1,133.49 which was paid by the Board.

The Board submitted a funding proposal to the National Healing Foundation which made SASGAC a grant of \$33,000.00. The current balance is \$32,189.97.

In order to remain financially viable, SASGAC will petition both the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Premier for a sustainable funding stream.

Appointment of Bookkeeper

In accordance with ORIC requirements, SASGAC appointed Bookkeeper G Canova of GC Accounting and Business Services to undertake the Bookkeeper’s Report (for Corporations <\$100k). . See attached Bookkeeper’s Report and Financial Statements for 2021/2022 for the financial acquittal to AARD.

³ Op.cit. p 29

⁴ ibid

Financial Acquittal

SA Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation



For the period 01 January 2022 to 30 June 2022

\$AUD

Opening Bank Balance - 01/01/2022	\$ 81,221.83
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Income

Grant Income	-
Sundry Income	2.67
Total Income	2.67

Operating Expenses

Accounting & Bookkeeping	330.00
Consultancy	77,000.00
Insurance - Business	1,310.00
Printing & Stationery	247.82
PO Box Renewal	338.00
Stall Fees - NAIDOC SA 2022	235.84
Travel & Taxi Fares	629.35
Telephone & Mobile	-
Total Operating Expenses	80,091.01

Net Profit / Loss During Period	-\$ 80,088.34
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Closing Bank Balance - 30/06/2022	\$ 1,133.49
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