



Merrissa Nona



Since 2016, **Merrissa Nona** has been the Chief Executive Officer of ***Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good*** (DIYDG), an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth led group based in Cairns. It provides a platform for young people to do good and lead in their communities.

[The mission of the organisation](#) is to inspire, equip and empower young people to take action and change the world.

Their vision is that one day every young person will discover their power to make a difference.

DIYDG presented at the National Indigenous Youth Empowerment Summit in Cairns. They deliver leadership workshops, volunteer activities, training camps, professional development programs and educational activities to support indigenous youth leaders of today and tomorrow.

In addition to her role as CEO of [Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good](#), Merrissa has since 2010 been a Program Manager with Anglicare North Queensland.

In that role, Merrissa has been deeply involved in a wide range of community programs to support young people at risk of disconnecting from family, community, school, training and employment.



DIYDG - Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good

Community organisation

Clint Grossman



Clint Grossman was first introduced to reconciliation sometime around 2009, through his work as a supplier to BHP and Rio Tinto.

Later, as a contract manager with [Chubb Fire and Security](#), he had been responsible for developing a number of indigenous engagement plans, but felt progress under these plans was limited and they provided insufficient scope for follow-up.

He chose a different path when tendering for a very large contract in 2016 and, after enlisting the support of his senior leadership team, he commenced formulating his first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Within two years, Clint's team had launched their Innovate RAP. He says the most challenging aspect of their journey was gaining approval from his UK-based head office to publish the RAP and this drove his resolve to ensure 'reconciliation' became part of his company's accepted cultural norm.

In 2019, Chubb delivered online cultural awareness training for over 2,000 people nationally under the RAP.

As part of Chubb's first Cultural Awareness Workshop, Uncle Bill Buchanan and Aunty Heather Castledine presented to Chubb's Senior Leadership Team and Reconciliation Work Group in Brisbane, which Clint says helped to build belief among his colleagues in their RAP journey. He says it was also an opportunity to see first-hand how the work of RQI was making a difference, so it was a natural progression for him to get involved with establishing a Cairns based Local Reconciliation Group.

Linda Harnett



Linda Harnett MA, BCW, Dip Bus, Dip HR, ADRC has worked in the Community Services sector since 1977, as both professional and volunteer.

She played a leadership role in the establishment of a Domestic Violence Service and Women's Refuge, and a Community Legal Service.

She worked with homeless persons, and as a youth worker, helped children placed into the Care of the Children's Services Department.

She has worked as a Coordinator in Disability Services, and as the Manager of a Family Day Care Service.

Linda's leadership and commitment to the principles of reconciliation led the Brisbane based Family Day Care service to become the first Australian early childhood education service to develop and implement a [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).



Australian High Court Justice, the Honourable Michael Kirby presents Linda Harnett with a Finalist Certificate for the Workforce Council's 'Michael Kirby Award for Inclusiveness.'

Linda led an early childhood education service to become the first in Australia to develop and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan

In May 2003, Linda was awarded an [Australian Centenary Medal](#) by the Commonwealth Government for 'Distinguished Services to Early Childhood Education.'

A longtime member of the Management Committee of [Reconciliation Queensland Incorporated](#) (RQI), since 2019 she has worked with RQI as the Regional Engagement Coordinator, Education Sector.

Louise Hunter



Louise Hunter is an Aboriginal and South Sea Islander woman with connections to the Girramay people of Cardwell, Kuku Nyungul, near Wujal Wujal and Ambrym Island, Vanuatu.

She was born and raised in North Queensland, and currently calls Cairns home -- where she is an active member of the community.

An employee of many State and Federal Government departments, she currently leads the [Indigenous Services team, State Library of Queensland](#), in their support of councils across Queensland to deliver library services and support to First Nations people.

State Library of Queensland collects, preserves and shares the documentary heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people across the State.

Through consultation and collaboration, the State Library's collections serve as a central point of access and programming, including exhibitions and showcases, family history workshops, language research, and contemporary storytelling.

State Library of Queensland collects a range of material pertaining to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people, including photographs, ephemera, posters, oral histories and digital stories. We also feature Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and artists of national significance.

