

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

We are still going strong since 1997. Congratulations to everyone!



In my first year as Chair of the Board, I am pleased to present the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the National Indigenous Radio Service, and what a year it has been!

Last December we appointed the organisation's first female general manager, renewed our strategic vision for the next three years and with 2020 promising to be a year of growth, COVID-19 happened.

For a period of four months our journalists worked remotely from home, continuing to deliver fifteen daily bulletins with a laptop, mixer, microphone, and headphones. With thanks to grants from Google, First Nations Media Australia, and the Community Broadcasting Foundation, we were able to equip journalists working from home with new laptops, audio recording devices and monitors.

When the National Indigenous Radio Service was established twenty-three years ago, it represented the collective vision of several Indigenous media organisations who recognised the need for a national news service and provision of supplementary programming to existing and aspirant radio stations. The changing media environment and the way people access news and information both technologically and culturally, has prompted changes to the way we operate.

While still primarily delivering news and programming content via VAST, NIRS has invested in audio livestreaming services, data transfer processes and building a presence on social media platforms to increase our reach.

We have done this against a backdrop of shrinking sponsorship dollars and no increases in operational funding from the Australian Government. In response, NIRS has developed strategic partnerships and relationships with key bodies such as First Nations Media Australia, Koori Mail and NITV to ensure our Indigenous voice is maintained.

In closing, I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Chris Graham as general manager, and Kaava Watson as NIRS director for their roles in strengthening NIRS operations during their tenure.

Valerie Craigie NIRS Chair

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OUR FUTURE / PAGE 03

NIRS STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 - 2025

The National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) is a news service and content sharing platform established to provide daily bulletins and 24-hour programming to Indigenous community radio stations across the country. Our motto is to be the "Voice of Our People". The National Indigenous Radio Service Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Plan sets out the framework of how we intend to achieve a sustainable and reputable news service and content provider for community broadcasters and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences.

Strategic Intent

Objectives

Strengthen the NIRS News Service	 Consistently deliver original, important news stories relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people Build and retain a professional and trained workforce Increase number of community stations taking NIRS news service
Build our financial sustainability	 Strategic lobbying to appropriate funding for a national radio service Investigate alternative income streams Explore opportunities to increase sponsorship revenue Explore additional sponsorship for in-house productions e.g. Weekly News in Review Grow NIRS Investment Portfolio Monetise NIRS satellite and website Strong board and governance
Be the "go to" content provider	 Increase contributions to broadcast schedule Increase content sharing beyond satellite delivery to online and on-demand services Redesign website and increase online content

WHO WE ARE 2019-2020

The National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) provides a national news service which produces and distributes fifteen five-minute bulletins Monday to Friday which can be accessed free-of-charge by community radio stations across the country. The team is comprised of three journalists and a cadet.



Adam Evans is a Kooma man from South West Queensland and grew up in Brisbane. He studied at the Batchelor Institute in the Northern Territory before starting in the industry as a camera op/editor for NITV News. Adam has an interest in storytelling, working with video, cars and playing games



Merinda Ninyette is a Bibulmun/Piblemen Noongar Yorga (Woman) from South West Boojarah (country) in West Australia. She studied media at Triple A Training at Brisbane Indigenous Media Association and completed Certificates III & IV Media and Screen and Media respectively. She also attained a Diploma in Screen & Media. Merinda first began working for the National Indigenous Radio Service in early 2013 and has a passion for news.



Callan Jon Murray is a Yuggera, Turrbal and Jarowair man raised in Meanjin. He has a passion for radio and digital story telling and is undertaking a three-year cadetship with NIRS. He recently completed his Certificate 3 in Media with Triple A Training at Brisbane Indigenous Media Association. Callan has directed and produced several short documentaries which have all screened on NITV and SBS On Demand.



Stephen Clarke joined the National Indigenous Radio in early 2020. He grew up on Bundjalung country on the NSW Far North coast. He graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Journalism in 2015 and moved to Brisbane, where he worked for a small local paper before he became interested in working in radio. Stephen enjoys writing and telling stories on all subjects and most enjoys interviewing people who are passionate about what they do, no matter what it is.

FROM THE GM 2019 - 2020

The National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) continued to provide daily national news service and content distribution to Indigenous community radio stations across the country. This year NIRS conducted it's first survey in many years to garner subscriber feedback to improve service provision. These surveys will help inform content across news and program redistribution.



2020 was an eventful year for the organisation and just about everyone around the world with COVID-19.

The financial year began promisingly with NIRS becoming the first media service to secure a three-year grant from the Community Broadcasting Foundation. With the grant we can pay contractors for important administrative and technical support.

One contractor, First Nations woman and financial controller, Trisha Collins, took on further responsibilities when our accountant, Rodolfo Lovos, took ill. We thank Rodolfo for his role in managing the books for NIRS and thank Trisha for taking up the mantle.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking my predecessor, Chris Graham. Chris joined NIRS in 2016 at a pivotal time for the organisation. He was committed to building and strengthening the national news service and its standing. Under his leadership he provided mentorship and guidance to existing staff and engaged a new cadet and journalist to the newsroom. Working with the Board, Chris also oversaw the renewal of the NIRS website.

Sadly, due to his commitments to his own publication, New Matilda, Chris was unable to continue in the role, but is open to future collaborations and sharing of stories with NIRS.

During the year NIRS developed several partnerships with key media partners including NITV, Koori Mail and ABC. NIRS is also looking to developing relationships with the CBAA and FNMA's regional/remote news gathering projects to further enhance our reporting capacity. This will be complimented with periodic surveys of NIRS subscribers to strengthen our news service.

NIRS also developed a new Strategic Plan to further the objectives of the organisation. I look forward to achieving those outcomes in the coming years.

Karen Paterson General Manager



FROM THE NEWSROOM 2019 - 2020

The National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) compiles and broadcasts 15 news bulletins Monday to Friday. NIRS also produces a NIRS News Week In Review which has grown in popularity. This year the team travelled to Alice Springs, covered a broad range of issues and worked remotely for close to 6 months due to COVID-19.



Image supplied courtesy of First Nations Media Australia

November 2019 - In late November, the NIRS Newsroom temporarily relocated to Mparntwe (Alice Springs) for a week to attend First Nations Media Australia's annual Converge and media awards.

Converge brings together First Nations media and communications organisations, journalists and broadcasters in the spirit of learning, sharing and celebrating what is going on in our sector.

The 2019 Converge theme was Meeting Together - Moving in One Direction and was co-hosted by CAAMA which will celebrate 40 years of broadcasting next year.

More than 160 delegates from 50 organisations attended. Highlights of the week included a studio tour of CAAMA's new studios and keynote address by Larry Parr, chief executive of Te Mangai Paho.

NIRS compiled and submitted hourly news bulletins from the conference and covered local stories from the conference and the region.

The conference included a range of panels exploring issues within the sector, including the Truth Telling panel which NIRS took part in alongside other broadcasters.

Stories that mattered 2019-2020

375

ORIGINAL COVID-19
STORIES

163

BLACK LIVES MATTER STORIES

MY YEAR AS A CADET 2019 - 2020

The National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) periodically employs cadets to build our newsroom and to increase number of Indigenous journalists in the sector. Past cadets include current senior journalist, Merinda Ninyette and Jacob McQuire who now works at Radio Boongara in Woorabinda. Callan Murray writes about his first year as a cadet at the National Indigenous Radio Service.

Transitioning from Triple A Training into my first

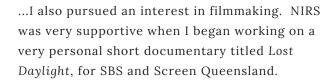
year as a National Indigenous Radio Service cadet journalist was and continues to be a hands-on experience.

I found learning on the job fast-tracked my development as a journalist, expanded my written and verbal communication skills and kept me up-to-date with Indigenous affairs.

Being among other like-minded journalists with a passion for providing essential news that is not only relevant but matters to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on a national level, helped me to see the importance of self-representation

within news and current affairs and the significance of my role in providing this crucial service.

While undertaking my first year as a cadet ...



During that process I found my newly acquired skills complimented the research and production phase of documentary making, and further cemented my interest in sharing First Nations stories.

Other highlights of the year include being part of the newsroom team that went to Mparntwe (Alice Springs) for Converge where I met more colleagues working in Indigenous media.

Being part of a mobile

newsroom was also a valuable experience.

Now as the end of my second year nears, I'm pleased to share my other achievement. My partner and I have just welcomed our newborn son Avon Daylight Murray into the world. I look forward to what next year has in store with NIRS and fatherhood.

OUR FINANCES PAGE 08

NIRS FINANCIAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

The National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) has developed strategies to become a financially sustainable First Nations enterprise in the future. Our Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Plan sets out the framework of how we intend to achieve this through increasing sponsorship, finding alternative income streams, growing our investment portfolio and reducing overheads, such as satellite transmission costs. Below we present our financial statement for the year which shows the challenges we've faced with a downtown in sponsorship income and increased employee entitlements.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS RADIO SERVICE LTD INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	\$	2019 \$
INCOME		
DOTPMC Funding	358,798.00	358,799.00
CBF Grant	30,000.00	
Other Grants	20,424.60	
Sponsorships	63,275.00	175,913.64
Interest Received	316.36	215.91
Proceeds from Investments	23,655.44	16,631.29
Appreciation/ (Impairment) of Investments	(28,635.82)	4,175.37
Rental of Office	6,000.00	
Rental of VAST Channel	23,315.44	7,899.10
Cash Flow Boost - COVID-19 Stimulus	39,472.00	
JobKeeper Wage Subsidy	24,000.00	
	560,621.02	563,634.31
EXPENSES		
Audit fees	5,000.00	
Bad Debts	6,186.51	
Bank Fees & Charges	215.55	291.00
Bookkeeping Fees	18,000.00	24,000.00
Commissions	28,409.96	68,852.34
Computer & Software Expenses	2,714.25	269.09
Contractors	3,626.85	54,845.00
Depreciation	13,852.41	9,496.33
Electricity	6,240.37	7,312.02
Fees & Subscriptions	958.30	
Insurances	7,219.15	6,776.82
Interest Expense	18.80	
Legal Fees	1,795.07	
News Gathering	5,106.94	4,908.20
Office & Studio Expenses	809.42	696.06
Promotional Expenses	423.63	
Provision for Employee Entitlements	6,724.72	2,059.22
Repairs & Maintenance	227.50	

OUR FINANCES PAGE 09

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OPERATING (DEFICIT) NON OPERATING ITEMS	29,546.58	10,043.99
	590,167.60	573,678.30
Workers Compensation	1,011.25	1,098.28
Website	5,620.50	2,988.18
Wages & Salaries	19,796.50 273,335.75	10,878.59 189,960.14
Telephone, Fax & Internet Travel & Accommodation	38,541.99	39,181.98
Technical Support	15,000.00	15,000.00
Superannuation	25,927.53	18,032.66
Satellite Delivery & Uplink Costs	33,600.00	33,600.00
Rent & Outgoings	71,618.52	71,618.52
EXPENSEScont Repairs & Maintenance	227.50	
	\$	Ş
		\$
	2020	2019

WITH THANKS PAGE 10

NIRS SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS 2019-2020

The National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) wishes to thank our sponsors and First Nations media for their valued contribution to the organisation. With their support we have been able to provide a daily news service and deliver 24-hour programming to community radio stations across the country.



Australian Government

National Indigenous Australians Agency













NIRS would also like to acknowledge and thank:

The Mary G Show
Noongar Radio
Radio Adelaide
Nunga Wanggaa
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
6DBY
Jampakt
CAAMA
Cherbourg Radio

Ngaarda Media MY105 FM Spots n Space Radio MAMA AFL Indigenous Broadcasting Radio 4MW Larrkardi Radio 4K1G