



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

*"IT WAS THE BEST DECISION I HAVE EVER  
MADE TO COME TO NAMATJIRA HAVEN."*

**- MATTHEW, FORMER RESIDENT, 2021**

**UNCLE PHIL ROBERTS**

# A WORD FROM THE BOARD



**As Board Chair, I am pleased to be able to speak to you after a good 2022-2023. This year has been one filled with some challenges, but also growth, & more Aboriginal men supported through our work.**

Throughout the year, we got through some staff shortages, having filled all our available positions so the team can now focus without interruptions such as covid, on helping our residents find Gulgiwhen.

And I would like to thank the Board for their engagement, direction and insight over this last year. We have come out the other side of Covid with Namatjira Haven in great shape. And a thanks to all the service and support staff at Namatjira Haven with a special thanks to Service manager Dian Edwards and our project officer Dez Hoy for their commitment throughout the year.

A special mention and thanks to Aunty Gwen Williams who left the board this year after a number of year's service. She will be missed by everyone. Gwen has been involved in many of the important decisions taken by the board over the last few years and we are thankful for her support and input.

I would like to wish the residents, staff and board members a fruitful 23/24 and good wishes for the future and all are welcome to our 45th anniversary open day we are planning to hold later in 2024.

**UNCLE PHIL ROBERTS**

One of our major accomplishments this year was the creation of a new strategic plan through to 2027 – with a special thanks to Jacqui Pearce who helped us put that together.

As part of the strategic plan, we have created a new fundraising program with a view to helping us bring the vision of Aunty Sandra's place into reality. We realise the need for a holistic approach to healing the family unit which is the motivation to create Aunty Sandra's Place. We are now ready to move with the next steps in realising Aunty Sandra's dream by moving to the initial stages of project management and convening an Aboriginal women's circle to advise on the design of the new service.

We have also purchased a new electric bus on our continuing journey to more sustainability and with new funding to upgrade our solar and battery storage – Thanks to NADA and also AANSW for the funds to purchase the bus and infrastructure.

DIAN EDWARDS

# SERVICE MANAGER



**It is with great pride and gratitude that I reflect on the accomplishments and progress we have achieved together during this past year.**

Firstly, I would like to thank the staff for coming together and the effort it has taken to put a new and refreshed team together full of new energy and fresh ideas to bring Namatjira Haven forward. And a warm welcome to the new recruits in the wider team. It took time and many adjustments, but we can be proud of the new look to our staff here.

We welcome a new team leader in Colin Marsh who has had an immediate impact. Thanks to Annette Urquhart and Luke Halvorsen for both their quality and professionalism handling and managing Namatjira Haven's finances and administration burdens. Also, Luke again stepped into an enhanced management role with good success. And not least a special mention to Dez Hoy, for his tireless approach and ability to handle anything and everything that comes across his desk.

And thank you to the Board of Namatjira Haven for their insight and direction. With our board chair uncle Phil Roberts who is always available for us and the men who are using our service.

Looking forward we are moving with positive steps to begin the initial phases of our projected new women and children's service 'Aunty Sandra's Place'. And also, with the creation of new fundraising initiatives, we are looking for new and improved opportunities to support the sustainability of Namatjira Haven. And moving forward, with new research initiatives so we can continue to evaluate and improve our program.

As we approach our 45th year my hope is to be able to bring all these elements together to be able to build even greater strength and sustainability to support community healing.

Warm regards,

DIAN EDWARDS

Be Strong Nama Brothers

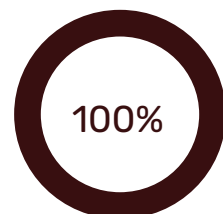
# THE GULGIHWEN PROGRAM

GULGIHWEN MEANS "CHANGE" IN THE TRADITIONAL LOCAL LANGUAGE.

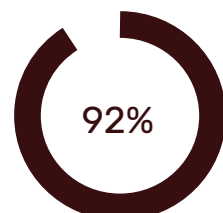
Our Program is designed for Aboriginal men aged 18 years + and is intended to provide education and support towards addressing the issues of substance use disorders and related harms, and to improve health and well-being.

## KEY STATISTICS

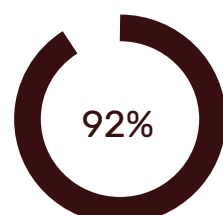
With the support of our experienced Staff we continue to offer a compassionate and culturally focused professional program of change, centered on self responsibility to achieve our residents goals in healing. 75% of our workforce are Aboriginal and we pay over \$1,000,000 annually in wages and benefits to our Aboriginal Staff.



of residents were very satisfied or satisfied with our facilities



would recommend the service to others



were confident about managing their life on exiting the program



About Our

# YEARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

**This year has been a year of change, growth with positive happenings at Namatjira Haven.**

The board confirmed the creation of a new strategic plan to see us move forward with confidence towards the rest of the decade with the aim of reaching and healing more of the community

We also embarked on a major recruitment drive to fill our needs and now have a full complement of frontline staff welcoming a new look team and team leader.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

With our continued focus on sustainable development for the organisation we saw the addition of a new electric bus and are exploring further development of our solar grid.

This year also saw a new fundraising initiative to realise the creation of Aunty Sandras Place – a safe haven for Aboriginal women and children. And to diversify our funding sources over the next few years to help secure Namatjira Haven's ability to be a place of healing for years to come.

# FUNDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The majority of our funding comes from the Commonwealth and NSW State Governments who provide recurrent grants through various programs intended to address the impact drug and alcohol use disorders have on individuals and the community. **We thank them for their ongoing support.**

## THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AGENCY

---

Provides funding under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy's Community Safety and Wellbeing and Indigenous Employment Streams.

## THE COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

---

Provides funding under its National Treatment Activities Program to deliver interventions to individuals requiring drug and alcohol treatment and support.

## HEALTHY NORTH COAST PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK

---

Provides funding under its Alcohol and Other Drugs Programs to enable us to offer withdrawal (detox) services and support residents with more complex mental health needs (dual diagnosis).

## NSW HEALTH NORTHERN NSW LHD

---

Provides funding for 2 beds for residents diverted to us through the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) Program.

## CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW

---

Provides funding under its Transitional Supported Accommodation Program to provide 2 beds for residents referred to us through the Corrective Services system.



# OUR NEWEST SUPPORTERS

With the creation of a new fundraising program during this twelve months we would like to thank our newest supporters. Creating new and diverse streams of funding will help us grow and move forward with confidence in new directions.



## THE CAGES FOUNDATION

---

The Cages Foundation provides funding to help us support the facilitation of an Aboriginal womens circle which will have direct input to the design of our planned new Aboriginal women and children's 'Aunty Sandras Place'



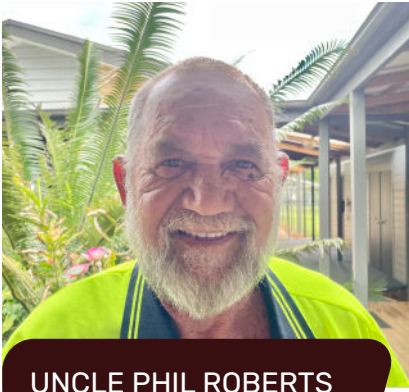
## ABORIGINAL BENEFITS FOUNDATION

---

Aboriginal Benefits Foundation provides funding for the creation of a new formalised Aboriginal Arts and Cultural program in the 'Gulgiwhen men's service.'



# MEET THE BOARD



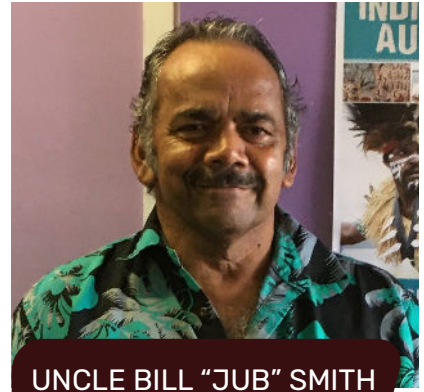
**UNCLE PHIL ROBERTS**  
Board Chair

Uncle Phil is passionate about Namatjira Haven. The Haven was founded by his father, Pastor Frank Roberts, and Uncle Phil has his father's vision always in heart and mind. Phil joined the Board as Chairperson in 2013.



**AUNTY JENNY SMITH**  
Deputy Chair & Treasurer

Aunty Jenny is our longest serving current Director having joined the Board in 2010. Jenny held management positions in NSW Health for many years and now works for a local Aboriginal organisation supporting Aboriginal families and children.



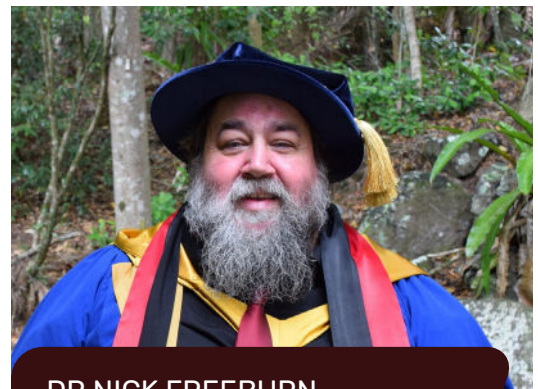
**UNCLE BILL "JUB" SMITH**  
Director

Uncle Bill joined the Board in 2015. His own lived experience of being a resident here some years ago means we have an authentic voice speaking to what is effective in supporting men through our Gulgiwhen Program. Bill is a renowned local musician, regularly busking around Lismore and Byron Bay performing his original songs about life, love and healing.



**AUNTY SANDRA BOLT**  
Director

Aunty Sandra joined the Board in 2014. Aunty Sandra worked for decades as a social worker supporting Aboriginal women and children. Although now retired, Sandra remains as passionate as ever about the need for more services for local Aboriginal women and their children.



**DR NICK FREEBURN**  
Director

Dr. Nick Freeburn is our newest addition to the board having previously worked in government, community organisations, services and businesses for nearly 4 decades. Nick holds degrees in Indigenous Studies, Research Methods, Indigenous Research and Leadership, Social Science, Adult Education and Indigenous Philosophies. He is passionate about the implementation and the evaluation of a culturally safe healing program that supports Aboriginal people from within a therapeutic practice.



# MEET THE SENIOR TEAM



**DIAN EDWARDS**

Service Manager

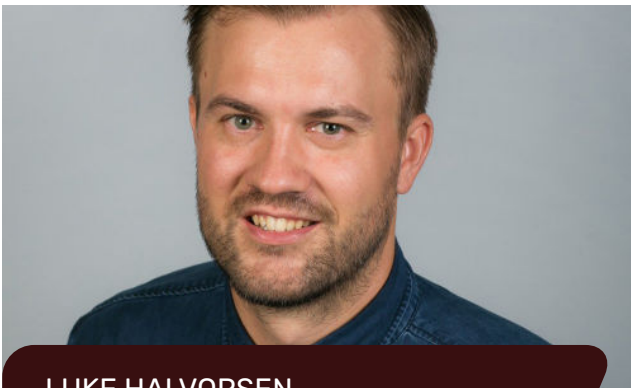
Dian is proud of her Wiradjuri heritage settled in Bundjalung country 35 years ago with a then young family. Dian has an experienced background in project management and business ownership. And also a long history of learning and studying in a wide variety of human endeavors. Dian has worked at Namatjira Haven for almost 25 years, in various roles over that period from living skills to finance and since 2008 service management and direction. Under Dian's Leadership, Namatjira Haven has gained a strong sustainable position for the future to ensure the service is available for Aboriginal people going forward.



**DEZ HOY**

Project Officer

Dez has been with Namatjira Haven since 2012 and has over 20 years' experience in the AOD sector various roles. He wears a number of hats relating to Quality Management, IT, funding submissions and working with the Board. He is a staunch supporter of Aboriginal self-determination and sees reconciliation as vital to healing the injustices Aboriginal people have experienced since colonisation began.



**LUKE HALVORSEN**

Finance Officer

Luke Halvorsen is a qualified accountant and has been part of the team for over 10 years. Prior to joining Namatjira Haven Luke qualified in Business, Tourism and Hospitality, and held management positions in the Hotel sector and consulting in accounting and other business systems. Luke is passionate not only about numbers, but also loves music, cooking and sports. He especially loves seeing the healing that takes place at Namatjira which "creates self-belief to build a positive future".



**COLIN MARSH**

Team leader

Colin is a proud Monaro Ngarigo man from the Southeast of NSW. Well traveled and a people person he has over 30 years experience in the retail and social services sectors. Colin has previously specialised in Homelessness, community services, Indigenous mentoring, case management, counseling and project management, holding several senior positions over this time. His approach is holistic and client centered "I am passionate about helping others and will always put our residents at the center of our work".

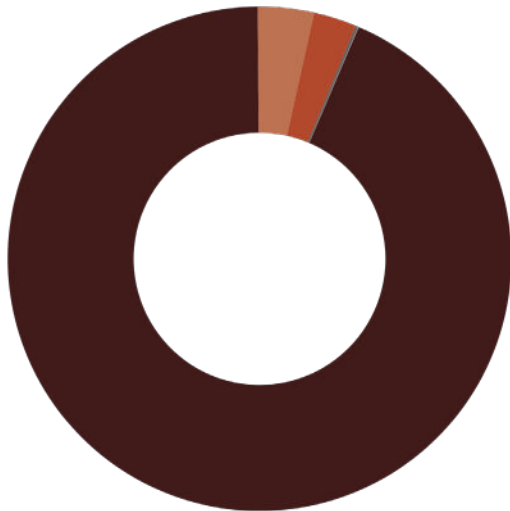
## Financials

# SUMMARY

Since we became an independent entity in 2007 we have consistently demonstrated financial competence with modest surpluses generated to help ensure service continuity. We have a yearly independent financial audit to keep us in the best health.

### REVENUE

**\$2,007,858**



- 93.65% Government
- 3.34% Goods or Services
- 1.81% Donations and Bequests
- 1% Investments
- 0.2% Other

### EXPENSES

**\$1,887,582**



- 74% Employee Expenses
- 26% All Other Expenses

## Financials

# DETAILED DATA

Description	2023	2022
Grant Income	1,880,278	1,698,158
Other income	127,580	239,721
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(117,061)	(97,560)
Client Program Services	(29,442)	(22,152)
Employee Benefits Expense	(1,396,992)	(1,327,890)
Client Support Consumables	(15,505)	(43,751)
Accounting	(4,229)	(5,692)
Consultants	-	-
Insurance	(40,545)	(36,116)
Rates & Rent	(9,540)	(7,711)
Training and Development	(13,531)	(2,984)
Utilities	(12,633)	(17,294)
Other	(256,304)	(277,781)
Unexpended Grants	8,200	6,037
<b>Surplus before income tax</b>	<b>120,276</b>	<b>104,985</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>120,276</b>	<b>104,985</b>

<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>		
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Surplus attributable to members of the entity	120,276	104,985
---	---------	---------

<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity</b>	<b>120,276</b>	<b>104,985</b>
---	----------------	----------------



# Namatjira Haven



*"Namatjira Haven was a real turning point for me, your approach is unique, you provided a no-nonsense SAFE place to heal, talk & take the time that emotionally traumatised people need to heal in a beautiful setting, with commitment, and well-chosen staff."*

**Angus, resident in 2021.**