

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 | January 2022

Njernda

Aboriginal Corporation

ICN 1274—under special administration

Dear members and other interested people,

Our names are Jack James and Paula Smith and we are from Rodgers Reidy in Perth. On 15 November 2021, the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations appointed us as **special administrators** of Njernda Aboriginal Corporation (Njernda).

During this administration, we will keep you informed of progress through regular newsletters and information meetings.

These newsletters and all meeting notices will be available on the public Register of Indigenous Corporations at oric.gov.au. Use the 'Find a corporation' tool—search using 'Njernda' and follow the link to 'documents'.

Information meeting cancelled

The health and safety of community members, employees and stakeholders is of paramount importance.

Due to the rise in the number of Covid-19 cases across Victoria, we have canceled the information meeting that was to be held on Tuesday 18 January 2022.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

At this stage, we are unable to advise when an information meeting will be held. It will depend on Covid case numbers, government restrictions and the risks to members, staff and stakeholders.

Operations

Like many businesses in Australia and around the world, Njernda's operations have been impacted by Covid, as staff either test positive to the virus or isolate as a close contact.

Despite shortages, steps have been taken to maintain services and minimise further disruption. The situation is ever-changing and further adaptations may be required.

Operational updates are being announced through Njernda's social media.

An update on current key operations follows.

Clinic

The clinic is running on skeleton staff. Doctors are seeing patients via technology. If they need to see someone in person, the patient is offered an appointment later in the day. Clinic staff who have contact with patients wear full personal protective equipment (PPE). Arrangements are also being made to enable to doctors to work from home if need be.

Vaccination clinics

- Vaccinations for children aged 5-11 is running weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays Wednesdays
- Booster vaccination clinics are every Thursday

Home testing

Home PCR testing is available daily through Njernda—however, the results are currently taking up to 10 days.

Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits are available from Njernda for clients and community members—although current supplies are very limited. Further supplies of RAT kits are coming, but exactly when is unknown.

Emergency relief

Emergency food relief for Covid-positive clients in isolation is running 7 days per week. This service provides clients with essential emergency supplies to assist with isolation requirements.

Wellbeing and mental health

Wherever possible, consultations are occurring over the phone. Meetings that must be in-person are held outdoors.

Berrimba childcare

Berrimba remains open for business, with measures in place to ensure physical distancing and other Covid-safe practices.

In the event that staff contract Covid or need to isolate, Njernda may have to limit childcare access to working parents only, and reduce school holiday programs.

Families are being updated through text messages and/or phone calls.

Family services

To mitigate the risk of Covid transmission, at any one time half the family services team is in the office and the other half is working from home. Home visits are being conducted—but each one occurs only after a risk assessment has been undertaken to ensure the safety of staff and the client.

Youth services

Youth services are continuing, and holiday packs have been arranged for clients.

Baroona Healing Centre

As previously advised, for the time being Baroona is accepting no clients. Staff have been redeployed to assist in other Njernda services, including delivery of emergency relief packages.

We are reviewing nominations for membership of the Baroona Community Consultation Committee. We are also continuing to seek nominations from the community—see the attached form.

We hope to provide an update in the coming weeks.

NYINI health

NYINI health is continuing to operate (subject to capacity limits). Group activities and training are happening outdoors. All indoor group activities have been postponed.

HACC/CHSP

Staff are continuing to support elders through the delivery of food packs etc. The aim is to reduce the need for elders to leave their homes and therefore reduce their risk of exposure to Covid.

Chief executive officer

As previously advised, at the time of our appointment, the role of chief executive officer (CEO) was vacant. We are now recruiting, and advertisements will go out in the coming weeks. The closing date for applications is 7 February 2022.

Advisory group emerging

We have received nominations from prospective members of the advisory group and are reviewing them. We expect to announce the membership in the coming weeks.

Mainly, the advisory group will help us to:

- recruit a new CEO
- review the rule book to strengthen governance at Njernda

Ordinarily we would discuss the rule book at information meetings but as noted, those meetings are on hold due to Covid. Instead we will provide details and seek feedback on any proposed changes to the rule book in these newsletters.

Audited financial reports

The audit of the 2020–21 financial statements was completed before the Christmas/new year break.

They reports have been lodged with ORIC and are available on the Njernda website—follow the link to ‘about us’ and then ‘resources’.

What will happen next?

Our next steps will include:

- recruit a new CEO
- review the executive staff structure (once the new CEO is appointed)
- review operations and finances
- review the budget for the remainder of this financial year
- with the help of the advisory group, review the governance structure and the rule book.

Thank you, Njernda staff

We wish to acknowledge and thank all Njernda staff members for their ongoing hard work in very difficult and trying times. Your efforts and support have helped Njernda continue to provide vital services to clients and the community.

Thank you.

Special administrators



Jack James



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More information

The Registrar has a fact sheet, Special administrations: what members and directors need to know.

See oric.gov.au/special-admins or free call **1800 622 431**.

BAROONA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NOMINATION



ICN 1274—under special administration

84–86 Hare Street, Echuca Vic 3564 | (03) 5480 6116



To know our living culture

I, _____

(insert name)

nominate myself for the Baroona community consultation committee.

Relevant background and experience:

Contact details:

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

To nominate, email your completed form to Sally Ollie at sallyo@njernda.com.au by **17 December 2021**.

For further information contact Sally on 0490 346 984 or Krystal Henderson on 0428 834 809.