

INTERIM CEO APPOINTED AT NJERENDA

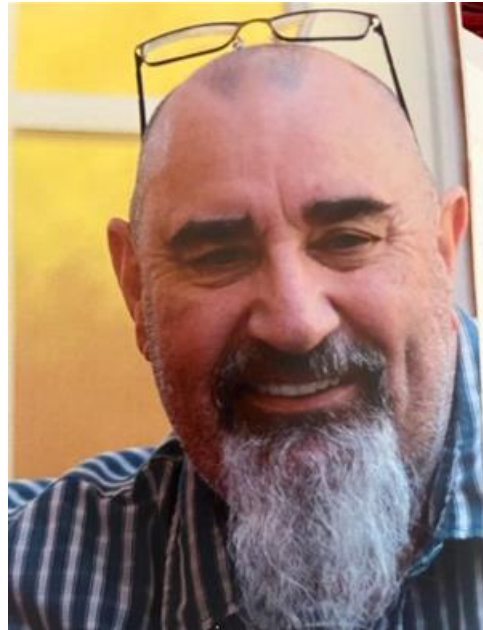
NJERENDA Aboriginal Corporation has appointed an interim Chief Executive Officer for a six-month term to enable a national recruitment campaign for a permanent CEO.

Proud Kamilaroi man Mick Coombes will take up duties as Interim CEO on September 5, after the resignation of Tracey Dillon, who resigned to pursue opportunities closer to home in Tasmania.

Njernda Chair Belinda Day said Mr Coombes brought with him extensive experience in consultation with Aboriginal community organisations and individuals.

"Mick has experience in the organisation and management of development programs and a background in Aboriginal economic development, and recruitment including establishment and monitoring of recruitment strategies and policies," Ms Day said.

Mr Coombes, who is from northern NSW, has studied at both the University of New England and Latrobe University, where he developed and implemented the University's Indigenous Employment Strategy.



Monash University also engaged Mr Coombes as the Director of Indigenous Engagement and Strategy within the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor at Monash University before taking up the role of Manager, Aboriginal Economic Development and Engagement and a role at Voyages Indigenous Tourism.

He was a scholarship recipient of the Winston Churchill Trust, where he conducted a comparative study of the provision of services to Indigenous communities.

He has worked across a number of departments within the NSW public sector, including Corrective Services, Local Government, Sport and Recreation and Education, as well as within the corporate and private sector developing and implementing Indigenous employment and enterprise development initiatives for companies including Qantas, Spotless and Broadlex Services Australia.

Until recently Mr Coombes was the Associate Director, Policy and Coordination within the Aboriginal Economic Development Group of Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR).

"We're really excited to have a person with the expertise, knowledge and drive of Mr Coombes on board with us at Njernda," Ms Day said.

"He's an excellent choice for the role, and he's someone I believe will be able to bring a lot to the table for our organisation, with the same focus on our Njernda values of respect, accountability, resilience, advocacy, and cultural sensitivity as we do."

Ms Day also thanked Ms Tracey Dillon for her work during her time as CEO at Njernda.