



# Keedac



*Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation  
Northam & Narrogin  
Annual Report 2023*



# Keedac Annual Report 2023

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We acknowledge the Wilman and Ballardong people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work in the Wheatbelt and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here on our land today.



# Highlights of the past year

## Grant Income

Keedac the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation continues to grow and is preparing to expand its services into Northam and across the Wheatbelt.

Keedac received funding of \$1,760,000 in the 2022/23 year, and \$1,770,000 for the current 2023/24 year.

Most grant income is only contracted for a year or two so we continually have to apply for new grants or renewals so it is not possible to predict future income. Having said that, we appreciate the ongoing support we receive from many grant providers.

## Standards and Qualifications

Keedac aims to be a best practice service provider.

We follow government policies for Child Safety.

Our Board is composed of members who have received their Director ID as is legally required

Our Board members have completed the Foundations of Governance (AIMWA) course.

Our management and staff are encouraged to gain qualifications to enhance the quality of our services, which have included studying Cert IV Leadership & Management, Cert IV Mental Health and Cert III Community Support.

In conjunction with TAFE we are running Cert II and Cert III Community Support in Narrogin, for members of our community to study, creating a pool of trained students with potential to work for Keedac and others.

## Service Programs

Our major programs are the Thrive (Department of Communities) public housing program, with our partner Wanslea, and the Commonwealth Psychosocial Support program, funded by WAPHA.

With Wanslea we also support the EIFS program in the Wheatbelt.

This year our services have also included:

- Strong Women, Strong Families (a SARC (Safe & Resilient Communities) program funded by DSS (Department of Social Security)
- Community Centre arts and crafts events (funded by ILA (Indigenous Language & Arts) These have included classes teaching Aboriginal painting skills, and a Mens Bush Craft course where men learn to create burnt bush crafts from their Elders
- Youth programs and events (funded by MHC and YACWA)
- Wilman language sessions (funded by ILA Language & Arts, and Newmont Mining)

In addition, we are investing in our capital works programs and continuing to enhance our planning, with:

- Development of a long-term Strategy Plan for Keedac, aiming to provide services across the whole Wheatbelt. The independent company IPS is assisting us in developing this plan, funded by the Department of Communities and Lotterywest
- Redevelopment of the rear garden at our offices in Northam to provide a Healing Garden and yarning circle for our community, funded by Lotterywest
- Improvements to our Child Safety policies and protection of client records through employment of a new CRM system, funded by the Department of Communities

We look forward to our services expanded under the Closing The Gap provisions with the long-term goal of being the central connection between our communities and government-led programs.



**Leanne Kickett**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
*Keedac*

**It is the mission of Keedac to improve the lives of our Aboriginal families in the Wheatbelt, situated between Perth and Kalgoorlie.**

**Keedac is expanding and we aim to provide a holistic, comprehensive service, that lifts people out of poverty, provides mental health support, improves community engagement and teaches work-related skills and qualifications.**

**We provide support and training to our community through programs delivering mental health and family support, yarning circles for community engagement, and, with TAFE and job providers, supporting Aboriginal people in studying and getting job-ready.**

**Even though our Wilman and Ballardong Wheatbelt people are immediately to the east of the Perth metro area, there are challenges shared with more remote areas in supporting the community.**

**We are grateful to the many bodies that support our work, and appreciate our own skills and knowledge which we put to good use, and look forward to making a difference, improving the life of the Wheatbelt community.**

**Leanne Kickett**

# Senior Management



Chief Operations Officer  
Janine Terry  
Management of staff and programs  
Janine has been with Keedac since 2022



Team Leader  
Kerry Hobbs  
Program lead  
Kerry has been with Keedac since 2015



Chief Financial Officer  
Linda Phillips  
Grant applications,  
Budgets and accounts  
Strategy  
Linda has been with Keedac  
since 2018



Lorraine Redhead  
Leadership & Development  
Manager  
Strategy for new projects and  
programs  
Developing new services  
Lorraine joined Keedac  
in 2022



Accounts bookkeeping  
Managing account systems  
Payroll and invoice  
management  
Natalie has been with Keedac  
since its inception in 1998

# The Board of Directors



## The Board of Directors 2022/23 Keedac



Vernon Bolton and Vennessa McGuire  
Co-Chairs  
Keedac Board  
2022/23

**The Board continues with the strategy of enhancing the reputation of Keedac as a preferred and reliable supplier of funded services.**

**Board strategy is to extend the services provided by Keedac, with eight funded services now provided to clients, and reach, as we look to expand our services in the region.**

**Board members have completed the Foundations of Governance training. They have supported our staff to obtain relevant qualifications, including studying Cert IV Mental Health and Cert III Community Support, demonstrating our commitment to being a best practice ACCO.**

**The Board is proud of the Keedac team, led by our CEO Leanne Kickett who, in her 5 years in the role, has grown to become a recognised leader in the field.**

**Most Board members have been with Keedac since the beginning and, thanks to their guidance, it has grown into one of the most active ACCOs in the Wheatbelt.**

**The Board of Directors:**

**Narrogin members:**

**Vernon Bolton**

**Vennessa McGuire**

**Chad Kickett**

**Francis Bolton**

**Northam member:**

**Kathy Davis**

**Keedac was set up in 1998 as an Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisation (ACCO) and has marked its 25<sup>th</sup> year serving the Wheatbelt Aboriginal community.**

# Keedac Offices

NORTHAM

NARROGIN



99 Wellington Street East, Northam



129 Federal Street, Narrogin



329-331 Fitzgerald Street, Northam



2 Grant Street, Narrogin



### **Keedac Head Office**

#### **129 Federal Street Narrogin WA 6312**

This is our administration office.

Our CEO and management team are based here.

In the past year the building has been renovated. Rising damp in the walls has been treated. New air-con units have been installed. A security system has been added. The building has been repainted both inside and out to lift the space up to modern standards.

Keedac runs a fleet of cars for use by our support staff. We utilise Smartfleet as our vehicle provider so we have a fleet of new or young vehicles.

To further help our clients with team visits, we have a 12-seater bus leased from Smartfleet which is used for community transport relevant to our programs.

### **Northam Office**

#### **99 Wellington Street East, Northam WA 6401**

This building was purchased in February 2023. We are in the process of organising renovations and fit out ready for use for staff who will be based in Northam in 2024.

## Aboriginal Community Centre, Narrogin

### **2 Grant Street Narrogin WA 6312**

This comprises two areas, the “Cottage” and the “Hub”

Our support workers are based here, providing services to clients and running communal groups and events.

## Keedac Northam

### **329-331 Fitzgerald Street WA 6401**

The Northam office hosts three teams run in partnership with Wanslea, the leading family care organization. Services provided from the Northam office are:

- Thrive, which supports Aboriginal public housing tenants
- EIFS, the intensive family support service, and

An initiative we’ve been working on, with Wanslea, is to make use of the rear garden of the offices to provide a yarnning circle for client groups to meet, talk and get support.

In addition, the garden will be landscaped to provide a relaxing garden area, plus new carports for vehicle parking, a rear patio for staff and other improvements. This work is funded through a grant provided by Lotterywest for completion in 2024.

# Keedac Community Centre, Narrogin



## 2 Grant Street Narrogin WA 6312

The Narrogin Aboriginal Community Centre is an initiative by Keedac, providing a meeting space for the community, events and training for clients of programs, and support.

It's the place to find our support staff who are onsite 5 days a week ready to help.

The Centre has two spaces:

### The “Cottage”

- Staff offices, kitchen and facilities
- Ancillary lunch and meeting space with clients



### The “Community Hub”

a large enclosed multi-purpose space:

- Yarning
- Morning teas
- Group meetings
- Client support
- Exercise
- Safe space
- Onscreen programs and video meetings
- Presentations
- Training for qualifications, for jobs

It's not just about helping people deal with their problems.  
At Keedac, we want to stop problems happening in the first place!

The days at the Community Centre will be filled with community events, presentations and activities designed to steer clients towards positive lifestyles and helping them take control of their lives for the better!



# Keedac Services in Northam

Services currently based in Northam are operated by Wanslea Family Services in conjunction with Keedac, Wanslea is the lead agency. These services are funded by the State Department of Communities.



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Communities**



## “Thrive” program

“Thrive” is a program to assist public housing tenants to look after and retain their housing accommodation. This program is funded by the State Department of Communities. In Northam and also in Narrogin, the program is run jointly by Keedac with Wanslea Family Services.

This program services the whole Wheatbelt region, with our staff visiting clients as far away as Moora, Southern Cross and Merredin.

## Earlier Intervention & Family Support Service

This service (EIFS) is the merger of two services previously referred to as IFSS and FCS and works with families whose children are at imminent risk of going into care. Keedac is the ACCO providing cultural support for the program, which provides practical parenting, education and skills development for parents and/or birth families, focusing on living skills, child mental health, education, safety and protective skills.

Keedac is the ACCO providing cultural support for the program.



# Keedac services in Narrogin

## The Mental Health Support Program

Keedac provides mental health support to Aboriginal people from our Narrogin Community Hub. This program is called the Commonwealth Psychosocial Support program (CPS) and is funded by the Commonwealth via the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA).

The CPS is designed to:

Support people with severe mental illness and associated psychosocial functional impairment who are not more appropriately supported through the NDIS; and

Reduce the avoidable need for high intensity, acute health services and promote the effective use of the health system.

Our team aims to help people overcome mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety, so they can improve their life. Ways we do this include:

- Home visits and phone support
- Assisting clients with referrals to GPs or other health specialists as needed
- Communal support groups held weekly in our Community Hub, including Men's' Groups and Women's' Groups, where people can talk in yarning circles
- Events at our Community Hub designed to help clients develop a positive attitude and focus on the future, through visiting speakers, online presentations and training courses
- Arts and crafts events designed to encourage positive activities and group interaction.

## Thrive

The Thrive public housing program is described on the "Northam" page. This service is also provided from our Narrogin office, servicing Narrogin and nearby towns.

## Indigenous Language & Arts program


The funding from this program, along with a contribution by Lotterywest, is enabling us to plan a Cultural Arts Program aims to enhance and promote the artistic and cultural expression of the Wilmun people of Narrogin. The Program will do this through delivery of a series of training sessions in various artistic and performance forms as well as through promoting public exposure for artists through exhibitions.

## SARC Strong Women, Strong Families program

This program runs workshops several times a year, plus regular support meetings, to help and educate young mothers, to lead in managing and improving their family life, their relationships with partners, children and extended families.

It is funded by the Federal Department of Social Services.



 **Department of Social Services, Australian Government**

 **WA Primary Health Alliance**  
Better health, together

**phn**  
PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,  
COUNTRY WA  
An Australian Government Initiative

# And our thanks go to...

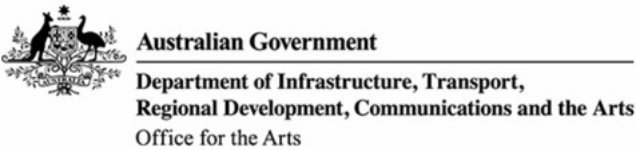
As Keedac continues to grow this year, our thanks go to the funding bodies who have provided support to us. We look forward to continuing these partnerships as we grow.



Shelley Payne MLC is on the Western Australian Legislative Council as the member for Agricultural region and visited our head office to present a Lotterywest grant.



Our standards have been lifted through training provided by AIMWA and TAFE



Through the Office for the Arts, we've received funding with the Indigenous Language & Arts program, which has funded arts, crafts and painting programs for our community



# Keedac

**Keedac Head Office**  
**129 Federal Street Narrogin WA**  
**6312**

**Keedac Northam Offices**  
**329 Fitzgerald Street**  
**Northam WA 6401**

**99 Wellington Street East**  
**Northam WA 6401**

**Keedac Community Hub**  
**2 Grant Street Narrogin WA 6312**

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