



Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative

June Newsletter 2024

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this publication may contain images and names of deceased persons in photographs.

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June Dates

- 1st - 30th Pride Month
- 8th Mabo Day
- 12th Public Holiday*

July Dates

- 7th - 14th NAIDOC Week
- 7th NAIDOC March - Melbourne
- 8th Opening Ceremony / NAIDOC Awards
- 12th Family Day

***Please note on public holidays all Gunditjmara sites will be closed**

Do you or someone you know want to receive our newsletter?
You can update your information or sign up on our website! Visit www.gunditjmara.org.au/newsletter



Follow our Socials:



Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative



gunditjmaracoop

Wow, what a month it's been! May 2024 has marked a significant milestone in the history of Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative Ltd. The dreams and ideas our Community, Board of Directors and staff envisioned have now become a reality for our organisation. The new future home of GAC will be 24 Hopkins Road, Warrnambool.

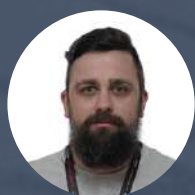
I hope you have had the opportunity to read the media release that was issued on Tuesday 21st May. If not, I have attached it below in its entirety.

The media release covers the reasons we decided this was the best path for our organisation. Finally, all our services will soon be under the one roof.

With this exciting announcement there will be change and a transition period to come. We don't have all the details and logistics on how the 'move' will work yet, but we are working hard in the background to make the relocation of services as quickly and streamline as possible. Once again, I will share details and updates as they become available and ask for your patience in the coming months whilst we navigate the next chapter.

With all the excitement surrounding the acquisition of 24 Hopkins Road we shouldn't forget that it's business as usual for all our sites. Our groups and events will still be running as usual unless we advise otherwise, so keep an eye on our social pages for the most current information. I know we're now coming into the colder months however it would be great to have increased participation in the group activities. If you or someone you know would like to participate in any of the group activities, we encourage you to please reach out.

Another friendly reminder that the clinic at Banyan street still has Flu Vaccines available. If you missed the last Flu Vaccination clinic, please call 03 5564 3344 and have a chat to one of our friendly staff to book an appointment.



Beau Maclean
Local Justice Worker



**Ngatanwaar to our
new staff!**



Ebony Gruar
Medical Receptionist



Nyteisha Bushell
Alcohol & Other Drugs
Trainee



Barbra Brown (Bee)
Alcohol & Other Drugs
Clinician



Kara Graham
Alcohol & Other Drugs
Trainee

Check out page xx to keep up-to-date with our current vacancies or visit
www.gunditjmara.org.au/current-vacancies

MEDIA RELEASE

Date of issue: 21st May 2024

Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative Announces Strategic Acquisition of the Lyndoch Primary Health Centre.

Warrnambool, Victoria — 21st May 2024 — The Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative is excited and proud to announce the strategic acquisition of the Lyndoch Primary Health Centre, marking a historic milestone in the evolution of our organisation.

Strategic, Future-Proofed Facility Ready for Immediate Expansion of Services

Gunditjmara strategically shifted from the initial plan to retrofit and revamp the older building at Kepler Street after weighing the two options side by side, in a process that was informed and agreed upon by Gunditjmara members. The decision to move forward with the Lyndoch Primary Health Centre emerged as far superior. "The decision to purchase the Lyndoch Primary Health Centre came just at the right moment, presenting an ideal alternative when opportunity knocked. We jumped at it," stated Danny Chatfield, CEO of Gunditjmara. This brand new, state-of-the-art facility, encompassing 3,973 square meters and situated on a significant landholding of 6,491 square meters, perfectly aligns with our vision to consolidate and enhance healthcare provision in a single, ready-to-operate location and caters for the anticipated growth of our organisation for the next 25 years. Focusing our efforts on the Kepler Street project would have encountered formidable challenges, particularly the increased costs of materials and labour in the market due to inflation. These financial pressures would have been further intensified by industry-wide cost escalations and the impact of global geopolitical events on supply chains, significantly raising project costs at the Kepler Street site.

Idyllic Tranquil Location

"The facility, situated beside the significant Hopkins River—a site of profound cultural importance to the Maar society—came as a perfect fit. This idyllic and tranquil setting naturally aligns with Gunditjmara's holistic approach to health and social care, which encompasses a full spectrum of services from birth to elderhood. Undoubtedly, it will enhance both the physical and cultural well-being of our community members, visitors, and staff," further commented Danny Chatfield.

Looking Forward to Our Official Opening!

As we prepare for the official opening, we are filled with anticipation to share this milestone with those who have supported us and to embark on this new chapter of providing comprehensive care underpinned by our commitment to cultural integrity and community wellness. An official opening will take place shortly after we are settled in and up and running, allowing us to celebrate this significant achievement alongside our community, members, friends, and partners.



Health Clinic

ALLIED HEALTH VISITS

At our health clinic



OPTOMETRY

Friday 7th
of June



AUDIOLOGY

TBC



Each
Fortnight

DENTIST

Wednesday 12th &
26th of June



To book in please call the Gunditjmara Health
Clinic on 5564 3344

Can't make your appointment?



Please contact the Gunditjmara Health Clinic 24 hours prior to your scheduled appointment or as soon as possible as this will help us accommodate to others on the waitlist.



To gantunk!

Health Clinic

Opening Hours

Please note our medical clinic now closes at 5:00pm on Wednesdays.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9am - 5pm

Tuesday

9am - 8pm

Friday

9am - 4pm



To contact the clinic, please call 5564 3344

Aggressive Behaviour

Aggressive behaviour and language will not be tolerated at Gunditjmara at any time, this includes via phone, email and text. We understand you may feel frustrated at times, but please remember our staff are doing the very best they can to support yourself, our clients and community.

We'd like to remind community that our organisation is a ZERO TOLERANCE TO DRUG & ALCOHOL and a ZERO TOLERANCE TO VIOLENCE space. These policies are in place to protect our Community and help us keep the space we work in safe. Failure to comply with these policies may result in disciplinary action or the Police to be called. We thank you all you deadly mob out there who are already doing the right thing

GUNDITJMARA IS A ZERO TOLERANCE TO DRUG AND ALCOHOL AND ZERO TOLERANCE TO VIOLENCE SPACE

VIOLENCE





THE HEALTH CLINIC IS RELOCATING

To Our Valued Patients,

Exciting news! Gunditjmara Health Clinic is moving to a new location to serve you better. From July 1st, 2024, you can find us at our new, larger premises:

New Address:

**24 Hopkins Road (formerly Lyndoch Medical Hub)
Warrnambool VIC 3280**

Our contact details will remain the same:

Phone: 03 5564 3344

Fax: 03 5562 1452

Email: health@gunditjmara.org.au

We are committed to providing you with an accessible and comfortable environment, and our new location will help us enhance our services and facilities. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you from our new clinic.


Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions about our relocation, please feel free to contact us.

Kind regards,
Gunditjmara Health Clinic

**Needing your annual FLU
Vaccine?**

Book in today for **FREE**

 5564 3344

 3 Banyan Street
Warrnambool VIC 3280



*Please note the free FLU vaccines are only available for Aboriginal Community



The independent team commemorate the life of Uncle Jamie Clarke as a significant member of the Wata Takoort Group. He will be greatly missed by all of us. Our love and condolences go out to the family and community. Following are messages from Wata Takoort Group and Independent Living Team:

Jamie, you always had a kind word, a smile and a cuddle for anyone you met and that's what I'll miss the most. Thanks for letting me know you and thanks for being a good mate. A true gentleman - Billy

How do we find the words for such a loved one. Known by all, loved by many. Lived life to the fullest enjoying the company of all. Today we wear our head bands in honour of you. You will be sadly missed by all. Gone but never forgotten. Warrook Mel & Frog xx

Jamie, you will be missed, my bro and old mate. We had some good times together old mate. You will be in my thoughts and also my memories.

Jamie, I loved his fist bumps and high fives, his love of music - Sarnia

Sending all my love to Judy + family RIP Jamie Thanks for the good - Karen

In memory of Jamie. He was a smart, outgoing man. He was always singing, clapping his hands, giving everybody hand shakes and fist shooks. Just a handsome young man who passed away way to soon. I'm gonna miss you Jamie, how groups will never be the same. RIP condolences to the family - Glenda Austin

Jamie was a funny person, most liked by community. Thanks for the good memories. No more pain and suffering anymore for Jamie. RIP my brother - Ben Maza

Ngata Jamie - Quote! - Jamie
"My people, my land, Aboriginal people!" - Warrook Melissa James

Jamie you will be missed and remembered for your shakes, knuckle shakes.

When I came to group I was greeted by Jamie with his amazing smile and a g'day mate - Sharon Edwards

Jamie was an awesome person that will never be forgotten and he will be sadly missed. Annette & Family

Rest Easy beautiful soul. In memory of Jamie with special fist pump. Dearest sympathy to the family - Jenny

Jamie, what a true gentleman. Always got a hand shake and a beautiful hello. Gone to soon xx - Michelle



Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative

KOORNONG MARR

Young Tribe
(ages 12 - 18)

Connect To Tradition

Connect To Country

Connect To Self

Connect To Language

June Dates:

Monday 3rd

Monday 17th

For more information contact:

Coedie - 0455 309 142

Jaynaya - 0493 828 087



PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP
SEARCH "KOORNONG MAARR
(YOUTH GROUP)" ON FACEBOOK



Peeneeyt Pootngeerang

Aboriginal Womens Group

Join us for our Aboriginal Womens Group !
Participate in other activities with mob
every fortnight.

June dates:

Tuesday 4th

Tuesday 18th

Want to learn more? Contact Nikki on 5559 1234 or Cody on 0455 316 969



Worthi Karreeta

Aboriginal Men's Group

Join us for our Aboriginal Men's Group !
Participate in other activities with mob
every fortnight.

June Dates:

Wednesday 17th

Wednesday 19th

Lunch
Provided

Want to learn more? Contact
Levi on 0447 197 018



Open to all ages

Mooma is an intergenerational program that increases cooperation, interaction, or exchange between generations. It aims to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for all participants in a culturally safe appropriate manner. This increases our Elders independent living and our young mobs culture development.



For more information, please contact:

Charmaine - 0494 029 916



Kooyang Maarr Group

Thursday fortnightly 3:30pm-5:30pm

Early Years
Ages: 5-12

Connect
with mob

Make
friends

Have
some fun!

Develop new
skills and gain
independence

June Dates:

Thursday 6th
Thursday 20th

Want to learn more?

Contact:

Jess - 0493 847 408

Cody - 0455 316 969

Koorramook Playgroup

Every Friday 10:30am-12:30pm



Contact Bron or Casey at Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative on 5559 1234 for a yarn to enrol your child or find out more.



Expression of Interest for an Aboriginal Dads Group



Karpeerrngs
Deadly Dads

For enquiries please contact:



Mahni Wright
0477 902 478



Head Office Reception
5559 1234

What is involved?

- Focusing on Dads / Parenting
- Interactive
- Offering parenting Info (e.g. Guest Speakers)
- Relationship Building Activities

Criteria:

- Must be an Aboriginal Dad or
- Dad of a Aboriginal child of any age

Community Notices



Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative

NAIDOC WEEK

Sunday 7th of July
NAIDOC March

Melbourne

Monday 8th of July
Opening Ceremony

Harris St

Friday 12th of July
Family Day

Harris St

EVENT INFO COMING SOON



Lost something at one of our events?

Lost and found box now available at reception.



Join Our Respite Carer Pool Today!

Make a positive impact on a child's life by joining our respite care program. Provide short-term, temporary care in your home or other convenient location tailored to meet the child's needs.



Must obtain a Employee Working with Children Check



Pass a National Police Check



Home Environment Check by GAC

For more information, contact Kelsie Twaddle: 0493 775 287 kelsie.twaddle@gunditjmara.org.au



Yarn with Truth Receivers from the Yoorrook Justice Commission about your experiences of injustice.

Injustices can be things that happened in the past or things that are happening now.

Sharing your truth will help Yoorrook create a formal public record of injustice. It will also help Yoorrook recommend real changes to systems and laws affecting our people.

Call Joseph Saunders on 0459871852 to get more information or to make a submission on-on-one.

Find out more on the Yoorrook website:

<https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/have-your-say/make-a-submission/>

CALLING FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



If you are interested in becoming a Koori Court Elder or Respected Person, you can apply by scanning the below QR code to complete the form. Alternatively, you can contact the Koori employment team at CSV, who can provide you with more information and support throughout the application process.

email_csv-koorirecruitment@courts.vic.edu.au

TREATY NEEDS AN

Elders' VOICE.



HELP US BUILD THE ELDERS' VOICE

Call the Elders' Voice Hotline, email us, or find an in-person Elders' Voice Gathering happening near you:

- 1800 TREATY (1800 873 289)
- eldersvoice@firstpeoplesvic.org
- firstpeoplesvic.org.au/elders-voice

All Elders are paid a fee for their time and contribution.

Are you an Elder? We want to hear from you!

We're yarning with Elders across the state. We're asking questions like:

- How do you define an Elder?
- What do Elders mean to you?
- Who should sit on the Elders' Voice?



0400 838 004
APPLY HERE



GUNDITJMARA NAIDOC AWARDS



**KEEP THE FIRE BURNING!
BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD**
7-14 JULY 2024

Aboriginal Elder of the Year
Male 50+

Aboriginal Community Member
Male 25-50

Aboriginal Youth
Male 15-25

Aboriginal Elder of the Year
Female 50+

Aboriginal Community Member
Female 25-50

Aboriginal Youth
Female 15-25

Scan the QR code or go to:
www.gunditjmar.a.org.au/naidoc-awards



WANNA QUIT THE SMOKES?



THE WHICH WAY? QUIT PACK STUDY IS OFFERING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE OVER 16 YEARS OLD, WHO SMOKE AND WANT TO QUIT, FREE SUPPORT.

WE CAN POST A 12 WEEK PROGRAM WITH RANGE OF SUPPORTS TO YOUR DOOR AND YARN OVER THE PHONE TO HELP YOU ON YOUR NEXT QUIT ATTEMPT.



Come have a yarn with Neil from Aboriginal Housing Victoria



Have a question about Aboriginal Victorian Housing?

Have a question about maintenance?

Visiting each month!

STOLEN GENERATIONS REPARATIONS PACKAGE INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Who is eligible to apply

- are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
- have been removed by a government or non-government agency in Victoria prior to 31 December 1976, while under the age of 18 years
- have been first removed in Victoria
- have been separated from their family for a period of time that resulted in the experience of loss of family, community, culture, identity, and language.

You cannot apply on behalf of someone who has passed.

Find out more

- 1800 566 071
- stolen.generations@justice.vic.gov.au
- www.vic.gov.au/stolen-generations-reparations-package
- PO Box 24053 Melbourne VIC 3001



POLICE ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICERS Warrnambool Police Station - 5560 1333

Police Aboriginal Liaison Officers (PALOs) are members of Victoria Police who have PALO duties along with their operational role. The PALO program addresses Recommendation 231 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC).

PALOs focus on cultural safety and work with the Aboriginal community to:

- resolve local issues
- facilitate access to police services (including reporting crime)
- help police members become culturally conscious and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal people and communities
- provide a contact point for community members who want support to engage with police, and
- provide advice to their peers and colleagues on local Aboriginal issues.

To get in touch with a PALO, contact your local police station.

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers

The ACLO roles help police to:

- deliver effective services
- have a positive influence on Aboriginal Victorians' perceptions of personal and community safety

The ACLOs liaise between the Victorian Aboriginal Community and Victoria Police. They are community representatives within the organisation. In consultation with the community, ACLOs:

- provide advice to senior police members on local

Aboriginal issues

- encourage Aboriginal communities to engage with police members to resolve issues
- help to develop, put in place and deliver appropriate training programs.

ACLO – Michelle Ellis

Email: michelle.ellis@police.vic.gov.au

Phone: 5560 1249 Mobile: 0438 682 356

Employment



NGATANWAAR (WELCOME)

Work in an appreciative and supportive environment, that offers generous remuneration – including tax savings and additional leave, where you will achieve real and meaningful outcomes that positively affect our community.

Current
Vacancies

- Holistic Family Violence Practitioner
- Family Prevention Reunification/Intensive Family Services Practitioner
- Psychologist
- General Practitioner
- Home Care Support Worker

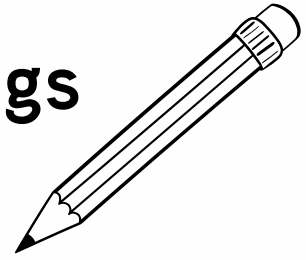
Why work with us?

We exist to provide community controlled, culturally appropriate holistic services that meet the identified needs of the Aboriginal people and the broader community. You'll work in an inclusive, flexible and supportive environment, that offers generous remuneration where you will achieve real and meaningful outcomes that positively affect our community.

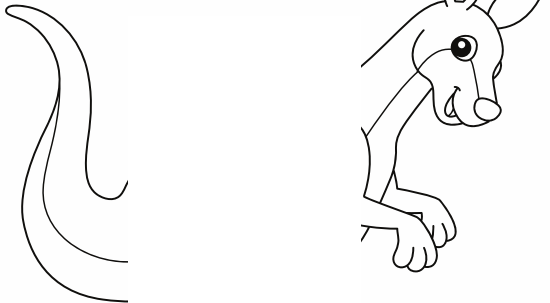


Scan me to
learn more!

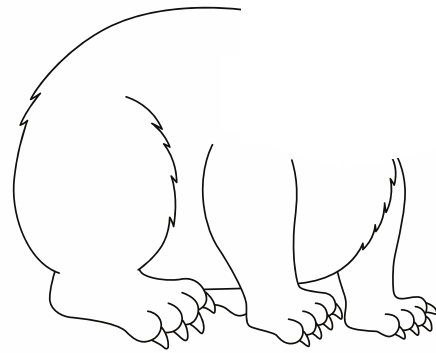
Complete the drawings



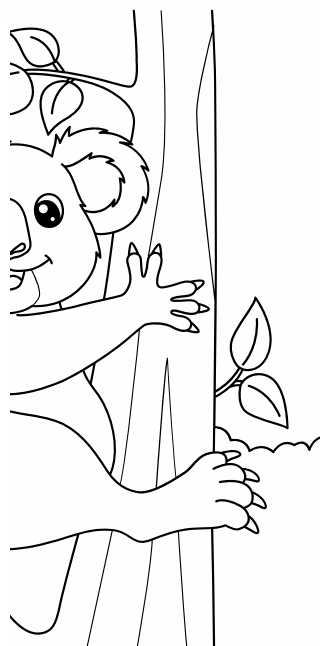
Kangaroo



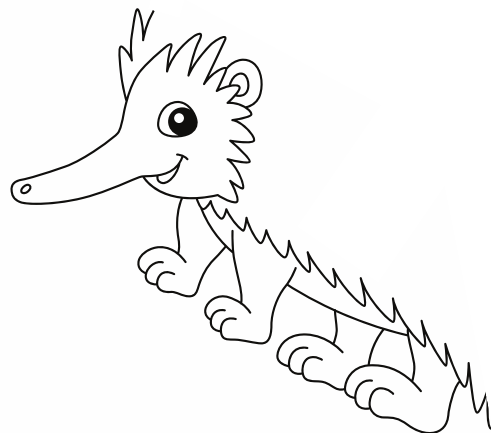
Wombat



Koala



Echinda



Emergency Contacts

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CALL 000

Mental health supports

- Mental Health crisis number: 1800 808 284
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Kids helpline: 1800 55 1800
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- Headspace (12-25yo): 9am-1am
7 days a week: 1800 650 890
- Suicide Call Back Service (24/7 support): 1300 659 1800 808 284 467

Alcohol and other drug supports

- Regional Victorian AOD Intake Line: 1300 022 760 (Mon – Fri) 9:00am - 5:00pm
- Victorian AOD counselling and referral service: 1800 888236 (24/7 support)
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- Lifeline: 13 11 14

South West Healthcare supports

Kaye Smith Aboriginal Liaison-Mental Health Services
South West Healthcare
Koroit Street Warrnambool 3280
Monday to Thursday 08.30am to 5.00pm
Mobile: 0466 862 869
Phone: 1800 808 284 and dial 1

Victorian Virtual Emergency Department

For non-life-threatening emergencies. Open 24/7

Website: ved-avhcp-enrollment.nh.org.au

Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer

South West Healthcare
Koroit Street Warrnambool 3280
Monday to Friday 08.30am to 05.00pm
Dominique - 0422 343 442

The Orange Door – Wimmera South West

571-575 Raglan Parade Warrnambool (Next To Macca's)
1800271180

For All Family Violence related Referrals and support, Child Wellbeing Support and Other Referral pathways including Mental Health AOD, Parenting Support, Men's Behavioral Change.

Family Violence supports

- Safe Steps 24/7 Family Violence Response Centre: 1800 015 188
- Emma House Domestic Violence Service Warrnambool: 5561 1934 (Mon-Fri 9-5pm)
- Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service: 9403 9400
- InTouch (CALD): 1800 755 988
- w/respect (LGBTIQ): 1800 542 847
- Mental Health crisis number:
 - Lifeline 13 11 14
 - National Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline (24 hours): 1800 737 732 (1800 Respect)

Men's Family Violence supports

- Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
- Dardi Munwurro phone support (24 hours): 1800 435 799
- Emergency Services: 000
- Mental Health crisis number: 1800 808 284
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Suicide Call Back Service (24/7 support): 1300 659 467

Child and Parenting supports

- Child Protection After Hours: 13 12 78
- Parentline: 8am-Midnight 7 days a week: 13 22 89
- Mental Health crisis number: 1800 808 284
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Kids helpline: 1800 55 1800

Housing or Homelessness supports

- Crisis/Homelessness 1800 015 188
- Brophy Family and Youth Services (12-25yo) Mon-Fri 9am-5pm: 5561 8888
- Salvo connect (25yo+) Mon-Fri 9am-5pm: 5564 9111

Health and wellbeing

- South West Health Care: Ryot St, Warrnambool VIC 3280 5563 1666 (24/7)
- South West Healthcare; Emergency Department for GP service and health needs (24/7): 5563 1666
- Nurse on-call: 1300 60 60 24

What would you like to see in our newsletter?

Share with us your feedback by handing in this page to the Gunditjmara Main Office on Kepler St or by emailing us on media@gunditjmara.org.au

Do you have feedback, suggestions or a complaint?

Complaints

Making a Complaint

A person wishing to make a complaint may do so in writing or verbally to any GAC representative including;

The staff member they were dealing with at the time

- The manger / team leader of that staff member
- An executive director

Clients also have the right to make a complaint to external organisations such as:

- The Governing body or the Commissioner
- Clients should be notified of their rights to make an external complaint to the above bodies.

Complaints can be made by:

- Submitting a completed Clients & External Stakeholders Complaints Form into the Suggestion Box located at reception at GAC's Kepler St and Banyan St work sites. The Clients & External Stakeholders Complaints Form can be accessed online here or at reception as a hardcopy upon request.
- Submitting a written complaint to the relevant manager or executive director.
- Via telephone to the relevant manager or executive director on 03 5559 1234.
- Anonymous complaints can may be made by phone, writing and or face to face meeting.

Alternatively you can fill out the complaint form via our website www.gunditjmara.org.au/feedback

Feedback

We love to hear your feedback!

Please fill out a feedback form below and leave it in the feedback box at reception.

This form can be accessed via our website at www.gunditjmara.org.au/feedback or can be supplied upon request at Head Office reception at 135 Kepler Street Warrnambool, VIC 3280

Once this form is completed, you can get it to us by:

- Send us an email with the form attached via feedback@gunditjmara.org.au
- Write to us at: Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative, PO Box 732, Warrnambool, VIC, 3280
- Dropping it off in person to the above address

Alternatively, you can:

- Call reception on 03 5559 1234

Your feedback will then be forwarded to the appropriate manager.