



# Annual Report 2024

Strengthening our media, connecting our people



**First Nations Media Australia (FNMA) acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.**

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# ABOUT FIRST NATIONS MEDIA AUSTRALIA

First Nations Media Australia (FNMA) is the peak body for Indigenous media and communications, dedicated to empowering First Nations people through a culturally connected media industry. Our work is guided by our 10 Calls for Action, which focus on advancing the objectives of the First Nations media sector.

Established in 2001 to support remote Indigenous media, FNMA expanded in 2016/17 to become the national peak body, representing First Nations broadcasters and media producers across Australia.

Our membership includes both First Nations and non-First Nations organisations and individuals, including broadcasters, journalists, filmmakers, photographers, and allies who contribute to the community-controlled media sector.

FNMA plays a vital role in supporting and amplifying the work of First Nations media. Our activities span advocacy, policy development, national skills training, networking, promotion, annual awards, and research.

We also serve as a voice for the sector, ensuring that First Nations communities have access to the information and public resources they need to make informed decisions about their work in the media and communications sectors.

Through our leadership, we aim to celebrate and share the diversity of First Nations cultures, languages, and perspectives—both within First Nations communities and with the broader Australian public.

Our primary duty is to serve and represent our members.

## CO-CHAIRS REPORT



We are delighted to present the 2024 Annual Report to all our valued members.

This year has been one of remarkable transformation for First Nations Media Australia (FNMA). We have refined our focus on the organisation's core objectives, addressed longstanding challenges, and realigned our

team structure to enhance our service to members. Each of these efforts underscores our commitment to ensuring FNMA's long-term sustainability and its essential role in supporting and advancing the First Nations media sector.

A cornerstone of our work has been the "10 Calls for Action," which since 2018 has guided our policy and program priorities. This year, we introduced a new and timely addition — "Closing the Gap: Digital Inclusion." These Calls for Action provide a robust framework for our sector's goals and underscore the importance of collaboration between FNMA, government, and members. Each of us has a pivotal role in realising these shared ambitions.

Our current priorities include a major initiative to preserve and digitise our media archives, an effort that is vital to safeguarding the diverse cultures and languages represented across our community. Working with Rio Tinto, we are building partnerships to carry forward this essential project. As part of this effort, we are engaging our members to assess their collections, evaluate conditions, and establish prioritisation for this critical work.

In addition, this year the FNMA Board conducted a comprehensive review of our internal operations, creating a more focused and agile team aligned with FNMA's strategic objectives. Our active role as members of the Coalition of Peaks has also allowed us to shape national Closing the Gap policies, advocating for the First Nations media sector at the highest levels and reinforcing our mission and impact.

We extend our deepest appreciation to FNMA staff, who have been instrumental in these achievements. Acknowledging the high staff turnover this year, we thank those who have left for their contributions and warmly thank those who remain. Your dedication and hard work have been invaluable to FNMA's progress.

Importantly, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Wally Tallis for his invaluable contributions as CEO of First Nations Media Australia. Throughout his tenure, Wally has been a passionate advocate for the First Nations media sector, bringing unwavering dedication, strategic vision, and a deep respect for community voices to his leadership. Under his guidance, FNMA has grown stronger, navigating complex challenges while fostering essential partnerships and enhancing the visibility and impact of Indigenous media on a national scale. His commitment to empowering First Nations storytellers is the leadership that our sector needs and we are hoping this is just the beginning of Wally's tenure at FNMA.

We are proud to present this report and sincerely thank you, our members, for your steadfast support. As we continue to strengthen FNMA's capacity to address the sector's unique challenges, we are confident that our ongoing efforts will bring lasting benefits and opportunities to you and our entire community.

Naomi Moran and Adam Manovic  
Co-chairs, First Nations Media Australia

## CEO REPORT



It is a privilege to bring you my first CEO Report for First Nations Media Australia (FNMA).

What a challenging year we have ahead of us, with the key priority being major sector funding to reflect real growth through an immediate \$20M injection. This, in addition to ensuring our sector has a long-term government strategy and partnership in place that reflects our key strategic priorities and the FNMA Calls for Action developed by our members.

In my first seven months in this role, it's been wonderful to meet online, face-to-face and through written correspondence with so many members. This connection was not only part of my initial introduction to the sector but an opportunity to hear from, listen to and gain an understanding of the sector's challenges and opportunities. Although I haven't met everyone yet, my intention is for FNMA to be open in our communication and advocacy, and to put our members front and center.

From those I have spoken to directly and those who contributed to our member survey, it is clear what you seek from the FNMA: to be the advocate for our sector and deliver on the Calls for Action.

Thank you for this feedback and clarity.

FNMA has already commenced reshaping our service offerings to reflect your feedback, to be the advocacy peak organisation that engages with government and corporate agencies to convey the realities of our sector and our needs and strengths we play.

In this essential engagement with key stakeholders, we will showcase our sector's vision and priorities, demonstrating our vital role within the broader Australian media landscape and highlighting the investment opportunities that can contribute to our sector's skills development and job creation.

First Nations media across Australia plays a vital role in promoting transparency, celebrating, and documenting our artists and storytellers, preserving Indigenous languages, and providing essential media services across Australia, in particular the remote areas of our country.

Looking back on achievements over the past year, our advocacy has included submissions and participation in the broader Community Broadcasting Roadmap, the Sustainability Review and regular Coalition of Peaks representation and advocacy. FNMA continued to bring the sector together through the Converge Conference, and keep the sector connected and informed in our Industry Huddles and regular newsletters. Through our partnership projects we delivered digital connectivity workshops across multiple remote sites and provided training opportunities to bring the next generation through our sector.

Looking ahead, FNMA has commenced significant work around Archiving; the need to preserve our history and records. This will be a strong focus in 2024/25. FNMA will continue to advocate for funding to support training programs that build skills and capabilities, along with essential capital infrastructure, to ensure our First Nations Media sector grows in step with mainstream and digital media industry.

As a sector we must take the opportunity to learn from each other and we will be looking at ways to nurture this relationship because it's the strength we have as a sector, through collaboration and collective action, that will bring best results.

It's been 12 months since the Voice referendum and our environment has changed significantly. First Nations media will continue to be at the forefront of celebrating our cultures, entertaining,

hearing from our communities and campaigning for justice and equality. Our sector has the uniqueness of the grass roots and community-based involvement and reach that no other mainstream media has. We play a crucial role not only in reconnecting and informing our communities at a local level, but also in supporting effective messaging. We will ensure our communities are informed, aware, and heard, as we work together to address the goals of Closing the Gap.

I want to thank the staff at FNMA who continue to reshape the organisation and connect with our members, as this is our priority: to represent you, the members.

I look forward to the next 12 months working with all of you to bring about the necessary changes that we all so eagerly desire.

Wally Tallis  
Chief Executive Officer, First Nations Media Australia



## **CALLS FOR ACTION**

The FNMA is driven by 10 Calls for Action, initially established in 2018.

These Calls for Action guide our efforts and reflect a collaborative approach between FNMA, the government, and our members, each playing a key role in achieving our shared goals.

Here are the 10 Calls for Action:

- Broadcasting Act Reform for First Nations Broadcasting
- Increase in Operational and Employment Funding
- Live and Local Radio Expansion Program
- Strengthening of First Nations News Services
- Expanding Training and Career Pathway Programs
- Upgrading Infrastructure and Digital Networks
- Recognising First Nations Broadcasters as the Preferred Channel for Government Messaging
- Preserving First Nations Media Archives
- Establishing an Annual Content Production Fund
- Closing the Gap: Digital Inclusion

Initially, there were 9 Calls for Action, but in 2024 FNMA added a tenth to reflect the Closing the Gap strategy on Digital Inclusion. FNMA plays a vital role in addressing the Closing the Gap (CTG) initiative especially in relation to Target 17.

However, our media sector's impact extends across all CTG targets, thanks to our unique national reach, deep connections with grassroots communities, and our ability to deliver culturally significant messaging.



## **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Five priorities are essential in continuing our important work in supporting CTG outcomes. We look forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively on these initiatives:

- Immediate funding boost: We request an injection of \$20 million into the First Nations broadcasting sector. This is necessary to restore parity in funding, which has not kept pace with indexation and has diminished over time.
- Extend the First Nations media broadcasting footprint across Australia, to incorporate Adelaide, Canberra and Tasmania.
- Develop a First Nations Media Broadcasting Strategy: We urge the Australian Government to work with FNMA to create a comprehensive strategy that supports and strengthens First Nations media.

- Incorporate Calls for Action: We ask that the 10 Calls for Action be embedded into the Government strategy, with clear funding and actions allocated to each.
- Consultation and resourcing: As the peak body for First Nations Broadcasting, FNMA seeks to be a key partner in the co-design process for our sector, with appropriate resourcing to ensure meaningful participation.

## **AGENDA 2024-2025**

To set our priorities for 2024-2025, we engaged deeply with our members through personal conversations and an online survey.

Based on these consultations, we are focusing our efforts on four key objectives:

- Increasing Operational and Employment Funding
- Recognising First Nations Broadcasters as the Preferred Channel for Government Messaging
- Expanding Training and Career Pathway Programs
- Upgrading Infrastructure and Digital Networks

The critical employment gaps identified by member respondents was in the organisational leadership and 'middle management' areas: management, editors and producers, IT and broadcast support technicians, financial management, human relations and marketing. We will seek funding to provide formal national training in these areas.

## **ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY**

At FNMA, our members told us their key expectation of their peak is that of Advocacy for the sector to drive our priorities foremost the 10 Calls for Action.

### **ENGAGEMENT**

A key element of FNMA's function is the multitude of engagement platforms we undertake with our members, to stay connected, be informed, inform and bring knowledge to the sector on our Calls for Actions and be responsive to their needs. This engagement includes:

- Newsletters x 9
- Media Releases
- Industry Huddles (Online) x 3
- Member Surveys x 3
- Events (Face-to-Face) - Annual Converge Conference & Digital Inclusion Forum
- Online Channels – Website, Facebook & Facebook First Nations Media Industry Group, Instagram, LinkedIn, Flickr and private groups.
- Member Visits (Face-to-Face) x 9
- Project Meets

FNMA also developed two steering committees that focused on:

- Pilot Training Program for IT Broadcast Technicians: to lead and work out the details of an approach for the program.
- Archiving Steering Committee: consisting of members to discuss the scope of the work across the sector, provide advice and seek guidance on how to move forward considering the various stages of archiving.

### **CONVERGE**

We conducted Converge 2024, again in Canberra, where this was an opportunity for our sector to not only stay connected but hear firsthand from key stakeholders around the future of our sector, and for our membership base to clearly articulate further needs within the Calls for Action, so government can consider this as part of a new Strategy.

Converge continues to provide the opportunity for our members to showcase the wonderful work they do and as a sector we learn and build capacity from each other. Approximately 80 delegates

from 21 FNMA Ordinary members, 5 member showcases and a very talented young person's panel. It was apparent that the delegates were clearly impressed by the productive and collaborative atmosphere that defined the Conference.

This year we held the first of three First Nations Digital Inclusion Forums where we heard from Government and industry leaders in telecommunications about what is happening in digital inclusion within remote Australia. This forum also gave our delegates an opportunity to provide feedback on their experiences as it relates to digital inclusion.

### **FIRST NATIONS MEDIA AUSTRALIA AWARDS**

The FNMA Awards are an important platform to share and celebrate the success of our sector, it's a great opportunity to network, gives everyone a sense of achievement and pride and inspires others. This year we awarded 5 Major and Development Awards to the following recipients:

- Organisation Excellence Award - Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA)
- Young Leaders Award – Orlando Rubuntja, Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA)
- First Nations Outstanding Contributor Award (Organisation) - Mid North Coast Indigenous Broadcast Association
- Community Leadership Award (Individual) - Dre Ngatokorua, Umeewarra Aboriginal Media Association
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Vince Coulthard, Umeewarra Aboriginal Media Association





## ADVOCACY

FNMA undertook several submissions and consultations with government to ensure our sector was heard, outlining their needs barriers and opportunities to improve our sector.

- **Pre-Budget 2024/25 Submission to the Australian Treasury:** This was a substation submission arguing that the real grants contribution to the First Nations media sector had declined by about \$12 million, and therefore the contribution this financial year should be \$42 million.
- **Community Broadcasting Roadmap 2033:** We worked in partnership with the broader community broadcasting sector to develop the community broadcast road map.
- **Community Broadcasting Sustainability Review:** FNMA put in a submission on behalf of the sector calling for key priorities to be actioned. These actions related to an increase in funding; capital and infrastructure investment; commitment to capability through training investment and employment; First Nations media service in every capital city across Australia and for government to develop a strategy for our sector.
- **First Nations Digital Inclusion Roadmap Submission to the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group (FNDIAG)** and we will continue to support and advocate for digital inclusion.
  - FNMA was a member on the First Nations Digital Inclusion Measures Steering Committee and continued to work in partnership with Telstra to provide digital literacy skills and advocate for digital inclusion across Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory, particularly in remote areas.

## Coalition of Peaks

The Coalition of Peaks and the Australian Governments have an agreement to share responsibility for the design, policy principles, priorities, implementation principles, oversight, and monitoring of Closing the Gap (Partnership Agreement). The Partnership Agreement recognises that shared decision making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, through their representative organisations, is essential to improving life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Partnership Agreement provides for a Joint Council on Closing the Gap (Joint Council). The Joint Council is the senior decision-making body for the Partnership and National Agreements.

**Partnership Working Group:** The Partnership Working Group (PWG) was established by the Joint Council to drive implementation of the Partnership and National Agreements and support the Joint Council's work plan. PWG's role is to consider matters before they are considered by the Joint Council and to progress work at an official level. The Joint Working Group (JWG) focuses on the Priority Reforms and have oversight of the socio [1] economic targets and cross-cutting areas.

The FNMA CEO is a member of the JWG on behalf of our sector.

## PARTNERSHIPS

FNMA continued working with partners ABC, Rio Tinto and Telstra.

- **ABC** – ongoing partnership up to 2026 to encourage two-way learning while supporting pathways Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in media. Services provided by ABC that were accessed by FNMA members include:
  - Pro-bono legal advice and pro-bono digital product advice.
  - Decommissioned Property and Equipment
  - Secondment Program
  - Online Training – Media Law Fundamentals
- **Rio Tinto** – refer to the Archiving project on page 20.
- **Telstra** – refer to the inDigiMOB project on page 19.

## FNMA MEMBERSHIP 2024/2025

FNMA members include remote, regional, and urban First Nations media organisations, individual broadcasters, producers, filmmakers and freelance journalists, partner organisations and supportive friends.

Over the last year, FNMA welcomed 5 organisations as members.

Listed in the Table below is the number of members for each category:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NUMBER
Ordinary members – First Nations media organisations	26
Associate Members – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals	5
Associate Members – First Nations not-for-profit organisations working alongside the First Nations media industry	1
Affiliate Members – Non-Indigenous individuals working within the First Nations media industry	2
Affiliate Members – Non-Indigenous not-for-profit organisations working alongside the First Nations media industry	4
Friends of FNMA – other organisations	4
Friends of FNMA – Individual supporters	2
<b>Total members</b>	<b>44</b>

*\* Note that 7 of our ordinary members service 106 Remote Indigenous Broadcasters (RIBS)*

## MEET OUR ORDINARY MEMBERS

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

#### **Pilbara & Kimberley Aboriginal Media (PAKAM)**

**Location:** Broome, WA

Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media supports twelve Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services (RIBS) in the north of Western Australia with employment, training, local media production and broadcast operations, licensing and distribution.

The PAKAM Satellite Radio Network enables the sharing of news, information, special broadcast events, music and stories by all the indigenous radio stations in the region and is transmitted full time on local FM Radio services in the 12 remote communities.

PAKAM supports video production in the communities and are the biggest contributor of community television programming to Indigenous Community Television (ICTV). Over 1,000 productions can be viewed online on demand on ICTV Play ([ictv.com.au](http://ictv.com.au)).

PAKAM also records Indigenous musicians in remote communities who do not otherwise have easy access to professional recording opportunities, publishing over 200 music tracks recorded with more than 50 artists from 20 remote communities.

The PAKAM Music Truck carries a custom-built mobile recording studio and opens out as a live performance stage for events in remote communities and towns in the region.

PAKAM cover music festivals, traditional dance and community events throughout the region with multicamera video recordings and live broadcast on the PAKAM Radio Network, ICTV and Facebook.

#### **Derby Media Aboriginal Corporation (6DBY)**

**Location:** Derby, WA

6DBY, also known as Derby Media Aboriginal Corporation, is a not-for-profit Indigenous community radio station based in Derby, West Kimberley. With over 20 years of service, we provide a platform for the local community to share their stories and experiences.

Our team includes 4 full-time staff, 1 part-time, 2 casual, and 3 volunteer broadcasters, with about 70% of our staff being Indigenous. We produce radio programs with local content and community

service announcements focused on Aboriginal and broader community issues. We also offer advertising spots for local and national businesses and government agencies

6DBY covers local events through live outside broadcasts and promotes them on social media. We also collaborate with local schools to offer basic radio broadcasting training.

In addition to radio services, we have a music recording studio dedicated to supporting local Indigenous musicians, which also serves as a rehearsal space for local bands. Our goal is to continue serving the Derby community by providing access to media, culture, and local news.

### **Ngaarda Media Aboriginal Corporation (Ngaarda Radio)**

**Location:** Roebourne, WA

Ngaarda Media is the only media hub in the Pilbara, with 12 transmission areas, and the sole Aboriginal media outlet delivering statewide news in Western Australia.

As the licensed Aboriginal broadcaster for the Pilbara, we represent the voices of 30 Traditional Owner language groups. We connect 60,000 people across 500,000 km<sup>2</sup>, sharing language, culture, news, sport, and community messages. Our services also create opportunities for employment, training, health, and business in the region.

Ngaarda Media highlights local events and activities through our award-winning film and photography services, which include corporate videos, TV commercials, social media content, drone footage, and professional photography.

We also offer a range of additional services such as video editing, TV and commercial production, live web streaming, event MCing, and freelance journalism for mainstream media. Our expertise extends to media release script writing, professional voice overs (including in Aboriginal languages), and translation services.

Ngaarda Media ensures the voices and stories of the Pilbara are heard, both locally and across Australia.

### **Midwest Aboriginal Media Association (Radio MAMA)**

**Location:** Geraldton, WA

Midwest Aboriginal Media Association (Radio MAMA) is an Indigenous media service dedicated to improving positive outcomes for First Nations people, focusing on health, local language, culture, employment, and training. We provide 24-hour broadcasting to Geraldton, Mullewa, Mount Magnet, Carnarvon in Western Australia and provide programming and support to Meekatharra and Wiluna in Western Australia.

Radio MAMA operates with a vibrant team of staff and volunteers, offering a community voice for Aboriginal people in the Midwest, Murchison, and Gascoyne regions. We actively support Aboriginal culture, language, music, and the arts while prioritising health and wellbeing through educational messaging.

Our programming includes local shows featuring interviews, community service announcements, and music requests, as well as live outside broadcasts at local events.

MAMA offers radio broadcasting, live streaming, media production, and advertising services. We proudly serve Geraldton, Mullewa, Mount Magnet, and Carnarvon while also supporting Meekatharra and Wiluna.

### **Wangki Yupurnanupurru Radio**

**Location:** Fitzroy Crossing, WA

Wangki Yupurnanupurru Radio is the only radio station broadcasting into Fitzroy Crossing and the Fitzroy Valley. Established in the late 1980s, the station was created by local Elders and community members who recognised the need for a platform to share culture, maintain language, and broadcast news and music relevant to the community.

Initially, Wangki Radio aired as a segment on ABC Kimberley, but it later secured its own AM license to broadcast full-time on 936 AM. Today, over 35 years later, Wangki Yupurnanupurru Radio thrives, reaching more than 40 communities in the Fitzroy Valley and attracting over 10,000 listeners weekly.

Operated by local staff, Wangki Radio truly reflects the voices of the Fitzroy Valley community. We offer a diverse music selection, including country, rock, reggae, and local tracks. Our award-winning team delivers the latest news, weather updates, including emergency broadcasting and sports information, ensuring that we serve our community with pride. Wangki was a key source of communication and stability during the devastating floods that rocked the Valley in 2023.

### **Goolarri Media Enterprises (6GME)**

#### **Broome Aboriginal Media Association Aboriginal Corporation (BAMA)**

**Location:** Broome, WA

Goolarri Media Enterprises (GME) is a dynamic media and production company based in Broome, offering a range of services including Radio Goolarri (6GME), a narrowcast television channel (GTV), event production, and film creation.

As a Registered Training Organisation, we provide accredited training in Creative Industries (Certificates I-IV) and run skill development programs such as the Goolarri Writers program and music business development. We are also proud to host Western Australia's only First Nations Film Festival, CinefestOZ Broome.

GME supports both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communications in the Kimberley region, enhancing the careers of local musicians and organising events that benefit the entire community. With a commitment to education and capacity building, we aim to close the gap for Indigenous peoples across the Kimberley.

As a fully owned subsidiary of the Broome Aboriginal Media Association (BAMA), established in 1991, GME has evolved from traditional media services to a comprehensive training and development organisation.

Our goal is to foster social cohesion and invest in the community through education, training, and employment pathways.

## **QUEENSLAND**

### **Bumma Bipperra Media Cairns 98.7FM (4CIM)**

**Location:** Cairns, QLD

Bumma Bipperra Media (BBM) 98.7FM is the first and only Indigenous radio service in Gimuy (Cairns), broadcasting from our studios at 1/143 Buchan Street. We serve the Cairns region and surrounding areas, with the potential to reach over 150,000 listeners daily.

Our broadcast covers Gimuy (Cairns) and surrounding districts. BBM also reaches listeners nationwide through our talkback show "TALK BLACK," and globally via online streaming and program sharing through the National Indigenous Radio Service.

Our mission is to be the leading community radio station in Cairns, actively involving a diverse cross-section of the community. We are proud to have Indigenous and non-Indigenous volunteers, staff, and members working together to deliver engaging content. Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council (Cherbourg Radio)



Location: Cherbourg, Queensland

Cherbourg Radio – Us Mob FM – operates with a 2000-watt temporary community license, reaching up to 100km from Cherbourg, which includes parts of the South Burnett and Gympie Regional Council areas. You can also listen to Us Mob through Radio Garden or via the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council website.

Our mission is to provide culturally relevant radio and raise awareness about Indigenous issues. Broadcasting from Wakka Wakka Country in Southeast Queensland, Us Mob FM is funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and operates under the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council umbrella.

We provide a 24-hour radio service, streamed online and with scheduled content shared with the National Indigenous Radio Service. We also offer sponsored messaging and limited production services for community education projects.

### **Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media (QRAM)**

**Location:** Cairns North, QLD

"Black Star Radio Network is a high quality and reliable radio service with one of the largest radio broadcasting footprints in Australia.

It delivers programming support to remote and regional local radio sites to enable each site to tailor their local contents with relevance to their regions and supplements an automated 24/7 program, which includes live breakfast show, essential messages, local news, weather, government information, community service announcements, sponsorship, emergency alerts and mainstream music from a wide range of genres for all ages.

Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media's (QRAM) Black Star Radio Network provides 18 remote and rural community audiences with "a voice" for their community with an all-digital integrated network in Qld connecting majority regions of Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria, Atherton Tablelands, Yarrabah and Woorabinda.

The coverage includes: Atherton Tablelands (Atherton, Malanda, Mareeba, Tolga, Kuranda, etc) 96.7fm, Amrun 94.1fm, Aurukun 107.7fm, Coen 102.7fm, Cooktown 96.9fm, Doomadgee 105.3fm, Kowanyama 107.7fm, Lakeland 100.5fm, Lockhart River 107.7fm, Mapoon 101.3fm, Mornington Island 107.7fm, Pormpuraaw 106.1fm, Napranum/Weipa 94.5fm, Normanton 98.5fm, Northern Peninsula Area (Bamaga, Seisia, New Mapoon, Umagico, Injinoo) 91.9fm, Woorabinda 99.7fm, Wujal Wujal 107.7fm and Yarrabah 92.9fm.

### **Triple A**

**Location:** Brisbane, QLD

Triple A is a not-for-profit community-controlled multimedia organisation located in West End, Brisbane, and is one of the largest Indigenous community-controlled media organisations in Australia. Established in the late 1980s, Triple A began as a radio station to share Indigenous stories and perspectives.

Since 1993, Triple A has been broadcasting on 98.9 FM, offering over 10 programs per week that reach audiences in South-East Queensland and beyond through digital streaming.

Today, Triple A has expanded into video production with an internal production house and TV studio, specialising in multimedia campaign development. The organisation also provides accredited training in media, alongside various non-accredited short courses in radio.

Additionally, Triple A's events division organises community events, festivals, and conferences, fostering community connections and engagement.

## **Mackay District Aboriginal and Islander Media Association LTD (MY 105.9FM)**

**Location:** Mackay, QLD

My105.9FM is owned and operated by the Mackay District Aboriginal & Islander Media Association Ltd (MDAIMA), guided by a community-elected advisory board that ensures compliance and governance.

As a community radio station, we encourage participation through membership and welcome input on program ideas and station development. Volunteerism is crucial to our success, with most of our staff composed of dedicated volunteers, including presenters and technical support. The community is invited to engage with the station on programming, administration, and board elections at our annual general meeting.

Founded to provide a professional, engaging radio service primarily for the Indigenous community, My105.9FM has grown to be embraced by diverse groups, including Australian South Sea Islanders and the wider mainstream community.

Our programming features a mix of country music alongside classic hits from the 60s and 70s, as well as music from the Pacific Islands and Torres Strait Islands, all recorded in our Mackay studios. We are committed to reconciliation through broadcasting and offer local programming 24/7.

Our initiatives are supported by the Australian Government through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy and various partners, including the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

## **National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS)**

**Location:** Brisbane, QLD

The National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) provides a free and informed news service and 24-hour radio programming to all Indigenous Australians with the aim to be the “Voice of Our People” and to ensure that Indigenous perspectives are represented in the media.

Today NIRS continues to provide a platform for Indigenous Australians, reporting on issues that are relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and to share their perspectives on global, national and local issues outside of Indigenous affairs.

NIRS is designed as a news sharing hub between Indigenous and non-Indigenous community radio stations around Australia. NIRS works closely with radio stations and Indigenous broadcasters to ensure local and regional input into NIRS bulletins to meet our motto “Voice of Our People”.

## **Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA)**

**Location:** Thursday Island, QLD

The Torres Strait Islanders Media Association (TSIMA), established in 1984, serves the media needs of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people. TSIMA operates Radio 4MW 1260AM, a 24-hour radio station, along with TSIMA Films, TSIMA Music, and TSIMA Events. TSIMA also owns Torres News Pty Ltd, a regional newspaper.

Radio 4MW's mission is to connect and amplify the voices and culture of the Torres Strait. The station offers local news, interviews, and coverage of cultural, sporting, and historical events. It plays a mix of traditional and contemporary Torres Strait Islander music, along with Reggae, Pacific beats, PNG rhythms, and popular hits.

Radio 4MW broadcasts across the Torres Strait, Northern Peninsula Area, and parts of Papua New Guinea, and is available online and via app. TSIMA holds seven Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services (RIBS) licenses for stations on outer islands, allowing local broadcasters to live stream and operate their own radio services.

## **Bidjara Media & Broadcasting Company (4RRFM)**

**Location:** Charleville, QLD

Bidjara Media & Broadcasting Company Ltd was incorporated in 1999 and have been broadcasting full time since March 2000 offering a blend of live-to-air locally transmitted programs, and programs offered by the National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) via satellite.

We pride ourselves on providing a service to the local communities in Charleville, Cunnamulla, Morven and Augathella.

We keep our listeners informed of local and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander news: entertainment: and do live weekday weather reports. Our music is carefully selected offering a blend of Murri, Country, Contemporary and new music.

## **VICTORIA**

### **First Australians Media Enterprises (3KND)**

**Location:** Melbourne, VIC

3KND 1503AM Kool N Deadly is Victoria's first and only Indigenous-owned and managed radio station, broadcasting since June 2003.

Proudly serving as Melbourne's sole Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander radio station, we are an independent, not-for-profit media service dedicated to promoting Indigenous music, community programs, and live broadcasts.

Operating 24/7, 3KND is known as the "Voice of Indigenous Victoria," providing a platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to share their experiences, perspectives, and concerns. Our programming connects the wider community with the rich cultural narratives of Indigenous peoples in Melbourne and across Victoria.

Through our airwaves and online streaming, we ensure that Indigenous voices are heard, fostering community engagement and cultural exchange.

## **NORTHERN TERRITORY**

### **Warlpiri Media Aboriginal Corporation (PAW Media & Communications)**

**Location:** Yuendumu, NT

Warlpiri Media Aboriginal Corporation, operating as PAW Media & Communications, is a not-for-profit Indigenous media organization based in Yuendumu, serving the Pintubi, Anmatjere, and Warlpiri communities across the Tanami Desert.

For over 40 years, PAW Media has been dedicated to creating unique Aboriginal media in local languages, adhering to cultural protocols while preserving history and culture in both digital and physical archives for future generations.

Our 8PAW Radio Department broadcasts to 13 remote Indigenous communities, with community members producing shows, creating content, and sharing local music through radio, streaming, and podcasts. We deliver relevant national, regional, and local news, critical health information, and culturally appropriate content, ensuring that community voices are heard and their languages are affirmed.

The PAW Music Studio is a vibrant hub where local and visiting musicians can record, mix, and master their albums, supported by a permanent audio technician. Notable bands like Rising Wind Band and Eju have recorded their work here.

Additionally, our Video Department trains local staff in film production, photography, and editing, with the resulting content stored in the Warlpiri Archives and accessible through our online platform, Keeping Culture.

### **Ngaanyatjarra (NG) Media**

**Location:** Wingellina, NT

NG Media, based in Irrunytju (Wingellina), brings the voices of Yarnangu people to the airwaves on 107.7FM and through 6 Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services (RIBS) across remote Western Australia. Guided by 7 Yarnangu board members, our mission is to empower the community to share their stories and culture.

We're committed to training, employing, and collaborating with local Yarnangu people in all areas of media production. With over 60 local workers and plans to grow, our team includes skilled producers, coordinators, and directors who bring every project to life. Our non-Indigenous staff contribute by sharing their expertise and passion for media, helping to strengthen the community's storytelling capabilities.

While our primary funding focuses on radio, our support for local talent goes beyond the airwaves. We organise concerts, festivals, storytelling through film, and music recordings, giving a platform to the vibrant sounds and stories of the desert. Translation is another key strength, with local staff translating important bulletins into Ngaanyatjarra and Pitjantjatjara, ensuring vital information is accessible to everyone.

In addition to our media work, we manage the Community Resource Centre in Irrunytju, which serves as a hub for connection and creativity. At NG Media, we're not just about broadcasting; we're about building community and celebrating the rich culture of the Yarnangu people.

### **Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA)**

**Location:** Darwin, NT

The Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA) was established in 1989 to support local broadcasting in remote Aboriginal communities across the Top End. Formed by community members, TEABBA aimed to assist with the development of local radio and information services using equipment provided under the BRACS (now known as Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services or RIBS) project.

TEABBA is a non-profit organisation providing operational support and training to 29 remote Indigenous broadcasting units. These RIBS units are equipped with radio equipment and often have local operators who broadcast community news, weather, and announcements in their local language. They also interview government representatives and involve school children in their programs.

TEABBA's network allows these RIBS operators to broadcast across all 29 communities, with programs delivered in both English and local languages. Some of these shows are even distributed nationally and internationally. TEABBA also provides essential government messages on health, housing, and education.

With over 35 years of service, TEABBA continues to broadcast daily radio programs, both locally and via online streaming, offering relevant content to remote communities in the Top End. TEABBA Radio is proudly known as "Your Voice in the Bush."

### **Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA)**



**Location:** Alice Springs, NT

Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) is the oldest Indigenous media association in country. Owned and operated by the Aboriginal people of Central Australia, the corporation was founded on the principles of the social, cultural, and economic advancement of Indigenous Australians.

Since 1980, when CAAMA secured its first community radio license, the network has expanded to cover the largest Indigenous broadcast footprint in Australia.

As we approach our 45th anniversary in 2025, CAAMA is embracing digital transformation to meet the changing information needs of remote and rural Aboriginal communities. We are passionate about championing and empowering our next generation to shape their own narratives in a digital landscape.

CAAMA in remote communities:

With a production hub at 8KIN-FM in Mparntwe, CAAMA Radio can broadcast across the network from any remote community, deliver curated content to specific communities or broadcast across the whole network.

We have studios in Utju/Areyonga, Kaltukatjara/Docker River, Alpururulam/Lake Nash, Elliott, Ntaria/Hermannsberg, Imanpa, Mutitjulu, Nyanganjatjara College-Yulara, Aputula/Finke, Warumpi/Papunya, Titjikala, Ltyentye Apurte/Santa Teresa and Tennant Creek. CAAMA Radio can be heard in further communities through retransmission. Our social media platforms are experiencing exponential growth especially in the remote youth demographic. In-language content receives the highest engagement, to local, domestic and global audiences.

Our mission and mandate is to advance cultural and linguistic expression and retention, and we are seeking formal partnerships to help deliver high quality content with these objectives in mind.

### **Indigenous Community Television (ICTV)**

**Location:** Alice Springs, NT

ICTV is a television service dedicated to sharing cultural and community video content with remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia. ICTV content is created by and for Indigenous Australians living in remote areas. Our in-house productions, live broadcasts, and additional resources, such as in Language, help us further connect and serve Indigenous communities.

With the rollout of digital television in 2012-2013, traditional analogue systems were replaced by satellite-delivered services through Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST). This gave remote Indigenous communities access to many more channels, including ICTV. Since then, we have operated as a full-time satellite service, thanks to funding from the Australian Federal Government.

We broadcast stories, songs, dance, language, and essential information through our television channel and on-demand platform and will soon be available via our ICTV Play App.

ICTV is proudly supported by the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy, through the National Indigenous Australians Agency, CBF and other sources.

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Umeewarra Aboriginal Media Association (5UMA)**

**Location:** Port Augusta, SA

Umeewarra Aboriginal Media Association, founded in 1986 in Port Augusta, South Australia, is a vibrant and community-focused organisation dedicated to empowering the local Aboriginal population through media. Originally established to provide a voice for the community, Umeewarra Media has grown into a dynamic platform that broadcasts cultural programs, news, and music through its radio station, Umeewarra Radio 89.1 FM. The organisation champions the preservation of Aboriginal language and culture, offering a space for storytelling, leadership, and youth development.

Over the years, Umeewarra Media has expanded its impact by nurturing young talent through training programs in radio broadcasting, social media, and event management. It has also become known for hosting key community events, including the annual Umeewarra Downtown Aboriginal Music Festival and extensive NAIDOC Week celebrations. Through projects like Elders Speak and Umee TV, the organisation fosters intergenerational knowledge sharing, helping to preserve cultural traditions and histories for future generations.

A Federal Government Social Return on Investment (SROI) report highlighted Umeewarra Media's significant value, finding that for every \$1 spent on the organisation, there is a \$4.30 return in social, cultural, and economic impact. Umeewarra Media continues to serve as a cornerstone of the Port Augusta community, strengthening cultural pride and unity through its diverse media offerings.

### **Nunga Wangga Aboriginal Corporation**

**Location:** Adelaide, SA

Nunga Wangga Media Aboriginal Corporation produces 2 radio shows from Kaurna Country Adelaide.

Nunga Wangga is a 2hour weekly show where we play 100% Australian First Nations music. The show discusses local cultural and community events, national and international issues while showcasing Blak Excellence.

Deadly Beats a 2hour weekly show highlighting Australian First Nations Hip Hop and RnB.

Both shows are broadcast through community station Radio Adelaide 101.5fm. Radio Adelaide live streams as well as providing previous shows online.

Nunga Wangga and Deadly Beats are rebroadcast through CAAMA Radio Mbantua, Koori Radio on Gadigal County and the National Indigenous News Service platform from Meanjin. Deadly Beats is also rebroadcast through the CRN.

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### **Gadigal Information Service (2LND) (Koori Radio)**

**Location:** Sydney, NSW

Gadigal Information Service (GIS), established in 1993 and based in Redfern, Sydney, is a leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and media hub.

It operates Koori Radio, a 24/7 Indigenous community radio station broadcasting on 93.7FM across Greater Sydney and streaming live worldwide. Koori Radio features a dynamic mix of Indigenous and black music from Australia and abroad, as well as talkback, news, current affairs, and community information.

GIS plays a vital role in promoting Indigenous culture and supporting the careers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musicians, broadcasters, and performers. Its Young, Black & Deadly workshops nurture the talents of under-18s in performance and radio broadcasting.

GIS also hosts the annual Yabun Festival, Australia's largest one-day celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and organizes Klub Koori events at various venues in Sydney. These events showcase Indigenous talent and engage with the community.

## **Mid North Coast Indigenous Broadcasters Association (2TLP Ngarralinyi)**

**Location:** Taree, NSW

Founded in the late 1990s, Ngarralinyi Radio, also known as 2TLP or "The Listenin' Place," is an Indigenous community station for Biripi and Worimi country. In 1997-98, a committee, with members from across the Mid North Coast, aimed to establish an Indigenous broadcasting hub. After extensive campaigning, a community broadcasting license was secured in 1999 for 103.3FM.

"Ngarralinyi" means "The Listening Place" in Gathang, the language of the Birrbay, Guringay, and Warrimay people.

Our mission is to provide a full broadcasting and information service to the community.

Ngarralinyi radio host community events regularly to involve community into the radio station, Ngarralinyi radio host, community BBQs to discuss surveys, let community know about events coming up. We host Cultural workshops (Dance, Art and Language) Cultural markets, which showcase local indigenous businesses. Ngarralinyi participates in fundraising for local sporting clubs, schools, and charities. Ngarralinyi radio in our community isn't just known for being a radio station, we are known for our leadership within our community. We bring our mob together, we have seen over many years that Ngarralinyi radio promotes effective reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people, we believe that is empowering.

We broadcast local announcements, a daily Gathang Word of the Day, and a variety of shows. Our weekday programming includes the Brekkie Show (8am) with birthday shoutouts, Soundwave (9am-12pm), Hits of the Ages (12pm-3pm), and the Afternoon Mix (3pm-5pm). On Saturdays, we feature "Wolfman's Request Line," Australia's longest-running request show, starting at 3pm.

We also provide PA systems and DJ services for events such as NAIDOC, Sorry Day, and ATSI Children's Day.

## FNMA PROJECTS

### INDIGIMOB

The inDigiMOB project was established to improve digital inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in remote and regional communities across the Northern Territory (NT), Western Australia (WA) and South Australia (SA). This work further contributes to Target 17 of the Closing the Gap outcome which states, 'By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion'.

Throughout 2024 inDigiMOB continued working with project partner Telstra on the inDigiMOB Core Digital Skills project, delivered Telstra's Community Services Program and finalised work with the Online Safety Grant Program around online safety for children and young people within NT, WA & SA. The engagement with regional and remote communities included 27 communities visited and 2750 individual participations.

One of the highlights for 2024 was a partnership with Aboriginal Interpreting WA Aboriginal Corporate (AIWAAC) & Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEAABA) where we collaborated on an Online Safety Grant Program to translate 4 e-Safety videos into 2 WA languages, Martu & Ngaanyatjarra.

At the end of June 2024, this Project was completed, however we look forward to reestablishing further work within the Digital Inclusion space.



### INDIGITUBE

indigiTUBE is the digital meeting place for First Nations languages and stories; creating a unified space to share our evolving and living culture.

The national online media platform by and for First Nations people connects everyone across the country, supporting the preservation of language and culture for future generations through music, radio, oral histories, videos, podcasts and 27 live radio streams.

IndigiTUBE is both a website and app developed in conjunction with InyerPocket.



The statistics on indigiTUBE usage from January 2024 are provided in the table below.

	AUDIO	VIDEO
<b>Mobile Download</b> - the number of times the song/video was downloaded in the app for a user to listen offline.	107	65
<b>Mobile Play</b> - how many times users played the song/video in the mobile app by actively choosing to play it.	854	1437
<b>Web Play</b> - how many times users played the song/video on the website by actively selecting it. (This includes users who load the website on their phone rather than the native mobile app.)	3849	3919
<b>Web Random Play</b> - the number of times the song/video was played on the website because the user was just listening to random songs and that song was randomly selected.	143	476

## ARCHIVING

Funded initially by NIAA in 2021, the Archiving Project in 2024 saw the tail end of a very large project that set out to digitally archive the audio-visual collections of a number of First Nations media organisations. An archivist, Dennis Charles, was employed to complete the tasks left over for the Archiving Project using the equipment that had been purchased through the Project.

This Archiving Project was very important in establishing the learnings necessary to digitise audio visual items that are in danger of being lost because of degradation of the analogue formats (tape) and the insecurity of the spaces in which some collections are stored.

In this respect, the Project was formative in exploring and investigating the challenges and models that can be effective in digitising the enormous analogue archives of media organisations. Many other archiving organisations, such as AIATSIS and NFSA, have been connected with and learned from the processes involved in this digital archiving process. A working arrangement with them has since evolved from this.

There are several First Nations organisations throughout Australia now venturing down similar pathways that have connected with the FNMA Archive Project to seek advice and knowledge.

In 2023, FNMA received funding from RIO Tinto to continue this work, and discussions are considerably underway to facilitate this process in 2025. This includes discussions with AITSIS and NFSA about training and facilitation, a survey to members as a first stage to gather information about their preservations needs, several meetings with members to take the process further and establishing a priority list of organisations who will be the group in 2025 to be involved directly in the preparation, auditing, cataloguing and digitisation phases of the process.

## NEWS INITIATIVE

The News Initiative was first implemented in 2020, funded by ACMA. Its purpose was to enable the Call to Action 4, which entailed training First Nations people into multi-media journalism and setting up a distribution network for the stories that they produced.

Since that time, there have been four cohorts that have been taken on in the project, numbering about 40 participants across Australia.

In 2024, 10 trainees were selected from the 29 applicants. In early May, the group spent a week at Batchelor Institute learning the techniques involved in media journalism - photography, audio recording and editing and video audio and editing. Each of the training received a mobile kit of equipment that they could use in their story-making: microphones, tripod, smartphone podcast frame and podcast lights. It was a very intensive week with the trainees accomplishing most of the skills they needed to go out and create stories for their communities.

The trainees were from Kunanurra, Roebourne, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Gold Coast, Cairns and the Torres Strait, some working in media organisations and others who were freelancers.

Every week they met online using Zoom for an hour MasterClass on various news gathering related topics: research, media law, photojournalism, voice presentation, AI and career opportunities with the ABC and NITV. These MasterClasses were recorded so that those trainees that could not attend, could view them at a later stage. In this, we were ably supported by the ABC's Miriam Corowa, who sourced relevant practitioners from the ABC to present the MasterClasses.

We acknowledge the funding support for this program in 2024 from NIAA and the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

The FNMA has decided not to continue delivering this training in the future. We are now turning our attention to training national middle management roles, such as project management, financial management, bookkeeping and Broadcasting / IT support technology.



# FINANCIALS

Indigenous Remote Communications Association Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation  
ABN 73 413 550 324

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	2	3,421,469	2,530,895
Other income	2	333,785	165,117
Employee benefits expense	3	(1,209,995)	(1,405,204)
Other expenses	4	(2,099,347)	(1,532,873)
Depreciation expense		(16,780)	(17,806)
<b>PROFIT/(LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAX</b>		<b>429,132</b>	<b>(259,871)</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>429,132</b>	<b>(259,871)</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS)</b>		<b>429,132</b>	<b>(259,871)</b>

Indigenous Remote Communications Association Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation  
ABN 73 413 550 324

## Statement of Financial Position

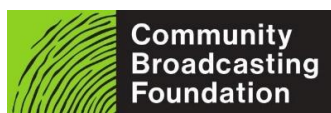
As at 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	3,475,598	3,064,731
Trade and other receivables	6	154,057	879,570
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>3,629,655</b>	<b>3,944,301</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	35,664	52,444
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>35,664</b>	<b>52,444</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>3,665,319</b>	<b>3,996,745</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	219,559	455,599
Accrued and deferred items	9	2,460,589	2,921,447
Provisions	10	78,815	142,475
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,758,963</b>	<b>3,519,521</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,758,963</b>	<b>3,519,521</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>906,356</b>	<b>477,224</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings	11	906,356	477,224
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>906,356</b>	<b>477,224</b>

Find out more about FNMA by visiting our webpage at <https://firstnationsmedia.org.au/>.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First Nations Media Australia acknowledges the support of:



**RioTinto**

Plus, our numerous project and event sponsors.