

# NAIDOC Week

7 – 14 July 2024



**KEEP THE FIRE  
BURNING!  
BLAK, LOUD  
AND PROUD**

**7-14 JULY 2024**

# Indigenous Artwork

## Koori Dreaming

The Apprenticeship Employment Network has a strong history supporting Indigenous Youth and communities into meaningful careers through apprenticeships.

The initial artwork commissioned in 1995 titled, *Koori Dreaming* illustrates how Koori communities meet with Group Training Organisations to discuss what programs are available and to then support individuals with employment and training in the workplace.

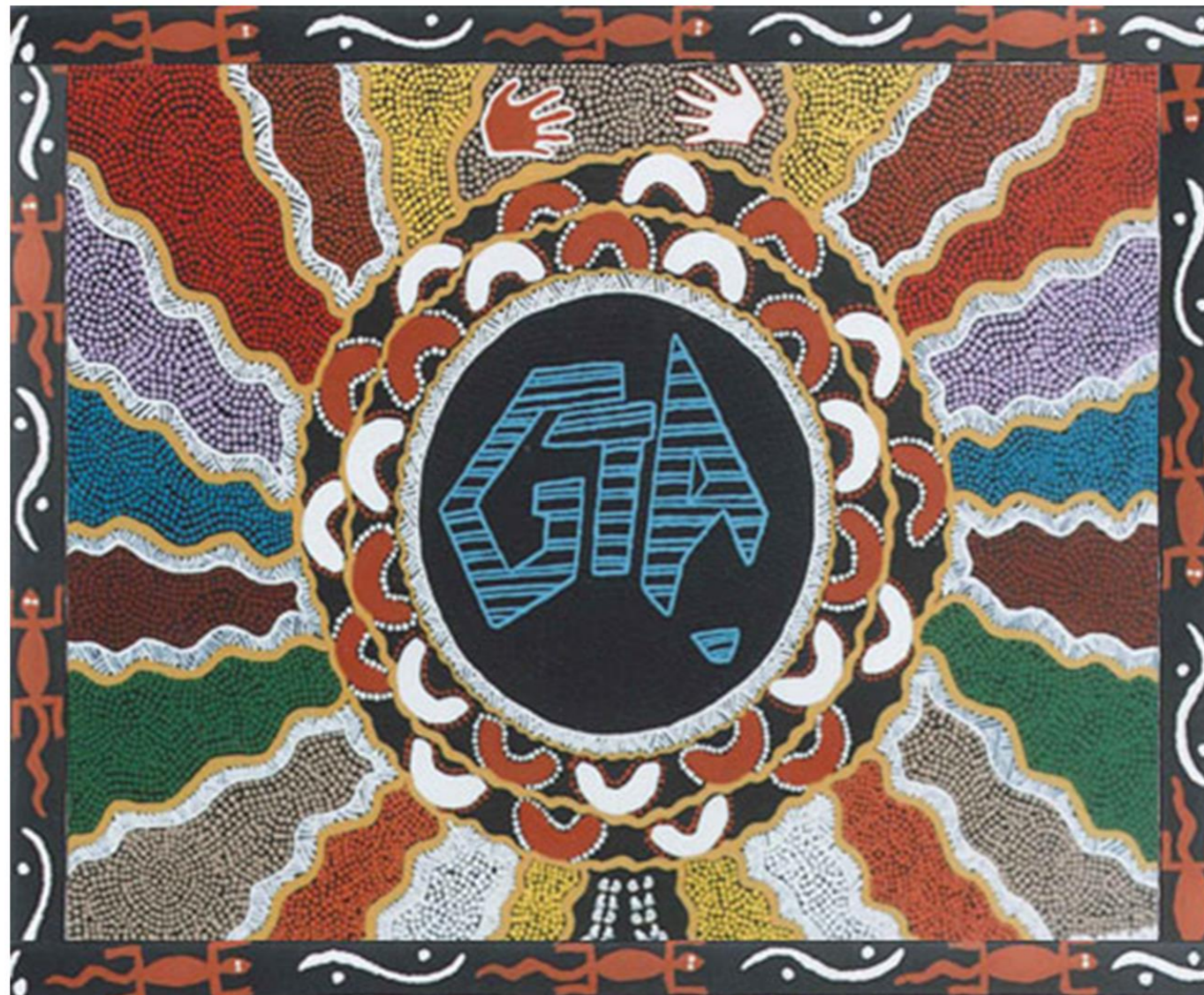


Image: *Koori Dreaming*

### PREMIER OPENS OFFICE

The Premier Mr Kennett opened Wimmera and Grampians Group Training Company's Horsham headquarters in Firebrace-st on Tuesday.

Mr Kennett opened the new-look offices during a visit to Wimmera and Western District centres this week.

The picture shows Aboriginal liaison office trainee Nola Illin showing Mr Kennett one of her artworks.

Others in the picture are, from left, company chairwoman Greer Dellar, manager John Ackland.



# Indigenous Artwork

## Circles of Commitment

In the heart of the artwork lies a central circle, embodying the mission statement of AEN & GAN: “Our mission is to support youth into apprenticeships.” This central circle acts as the foundation and driving force, representing the core of AEN and GAN’s purpose and dedication.

Four circles, each representing AEN’s core values:

1. The people within our industry are passionate about providing meaningful training and employment outcomes for the community.
2. A trusted partner with members, government and the wider VET industry.
3. Teamwork and collaboration with our members, government and the community benefit us all.
4. Integrity, honesty and reliability ensure that we will deliver what we promise.

**Our partners:** 30 circles, each connected by emu prints. These circles symbolise the 30 partners of the AEN, each contributing their unique strengths and priorities to our shared mission. The emu prints, signifying movement and progress, illustrate our collective commitment to advancing forward together.

**Male and Female figures:** Representing AEN & GAN’s commitment to gender equality and inclusion. This inclusion is a fundamental aspect of our mission, ensuring that opportunities are accessible to all, regardless of gender.

**Two boomerangs:** Symbolise the network’s dedication to employing First Nations people. These boomerangs, traditional symbols of return and continuity, represent AEN’s respect for First Nations cultures and our commitment to fostering opportunities for First Nations.

The Six Stars:

1. **Guidance and Wisdom:** Symbolise the guidance and wisdom that First Nations cultures bring to our communities. They shine as knowledge, reminding us to learn from the rich heritage and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
2. **Hope and Aspiration:** Represents hope and aspiration for the future. They inspire us to strive for greater inclusion, equity and opportunities for all, particularly First Nations.
3. **Unity and Harmony:** Illustrates the unity and harmony between all cultures within our network. Emphasising the importance of working together, respecting diversity, and fostering a cohesive and inclusive environment.
4. **Strength and Resilience:** The strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. They remind us of the enduring spirit and perseverance of First Nations culture, encouraging us to support and uplift First Nations voices.
5. **Connection to Country:** Highlight the deep connection to the land and country that is central to First Nations cultures. They remind us to honour and respect the environment, and to integrate sustainable practices within our work.
6. **Celebration of Culture:** Celebrates the rich and diverse cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Symbolising our commitment to recognizing, valuing and promoting First Nations cultures within our network and beyond.

Butterflies:

- **Growth and Transformation:** These butterflies represent the personal and professional growth that apprenticeships provide to youth. They signify the journey that individuals undergo as they acquire new skills and transition into their careers.
- **Freedom and Hope:** Represents the boundless possibilities and opportunities that come with meaningful training and employment. The butterflies reflect the hope and optimism that AEN and GAN instill in the youth we support.



Image: Artist, Tiffany Hunter standing with new AEN Indigenous Artwork titled, *Circles of Commitment*