



FOUNDATION PROFILE





VISION

We will strive to relieve the poverty, sickness and suffering of Aboriginal and Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders living in remote communities.

MISSION

We will achieve this vision by funding projects which provide apprenticeship opportunities for Indigenous people from rural and remote communities. We will also strive to fund projects where Indigenous tradespeople provide plumbing and sanitation services to remote communities.

BACKGROUND

Our Indigenous brothers and sisters are among the most marginalised and vulnerable people in the world. In recent years significant steps have been made at the international level to better promote and protect the rights of Indigenous people.

This included the landmark adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in 2007. The Australian Government pledged its support to the Declaration in April 2009.

However, the reality is that if we judge a society by how it treats its most vulnerable, then Australia's report card is well below average. Poverty in Australia is as harsh as it is in developing countries, and it is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, over half a million Australians, who are among the most disadvantaged.

Statistics show that Indigenous Australians have lower incomes, higher rates of chronic disease, are more likely to live in overcrowded housing and are less likely to continue their education.

This is particularly evident in remote communities where people are disadvantaged by their distance from health care, education and employment opportunities.

The health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia is a major concern, with life expectancies more than ten years below those of non-Indigenous Australians.

This is largely due to the fact that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are proportionately over-represented in rural and remote Australia compared to non-Indigenous Australians. The health of Indigenous Australians declines as their remoteness increases.

This is where we believe the Foundation has an important role to play.





ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF REMOTE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Improving the health and sanitation of Indigenous Australians in remote communities has been a long-standing challenge.

Unfortunately the reality for many self-administered remote Indigenous communities is that they face acute challenges in maintaining proper sanitation and clean water. This is largely due to the lack of available and skilled tradespeople, with the end result being that basic sanitation needs suffer as a result.

We believe plumbing is the front-line of defence against disease and promoting better health in Indigenous communities.

OUR AIM

Eager to make a difference, in 2004 the Plumbing Trades Employees Union (PTEU) began working with business and the Indigenous community to establish a program which would be effective in remote areas of Australia, where plumbing standards were often of a very low standard.

The PTEU put together a ground-breaking partnership with the Victorian, Western Australian and Northern Territory Indigenous communities with the joint aims of improving sanitation standards within these communities, while at the same time offering employment and training opportunities to Indigenous Australians.

The Indigenous Apprenticeship Program was introduced through the PTEU, giving Indigenous youth the opportunity to gain plumbing trade qualifications.

The program aims to empower Aboriginal youth by teaching them genuine skills which can provide a lifelong career and earning capacity, which also can be translated back into their local community. In the long term it was envisaged that the program would have a ripple effect, with qualified plumbers returning to their regions to

impart knowledge, become mentors and ultimately effect generational change through increased opportunities.

In 2009 the first group graduated as fully qualified plumbers. Over the last ten years over 40 young Indigenous men and women have completed their apprenticeships. Many have returned to their communities as fully qualified plumbers to enrich their regions with a skill base to improve access to reliable safe water and sanitation.

Building upon the success of the Indigenous Apprenticeship Program, we are looking to expand and embrace more Indigenous apprentices from regional and remote areas, while also funding initiatives which improve water and sanitation standards within Indigenous communities.

We are committed to building productive partnerships with the community, the business sector and Government to increase the number of young Indigenous youth obtaining training and employment, by creating more plumbing apprenticeships.

THE INDIGENOUS PLUMBING AND SANITATION FOUNDATION



The Indigenous Plumbing and Sanitation Foundation has been established to provide relief from poverty, sickness and misfortune, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Indigenous communities who are living with dangerously poor sanitation, putting them at risk of disease and sickness.

The Foundation is seeking support in a number of forms. We would like you to consider how you can become involved in this important initiative.

KEY OBJECTIVES

One way the Foundation envisages offering support is by providing funds to improve sanitation standards and the water supply to outstations and small remote Indigenous communities.

The Foundation also aims to further enhance the existing Indigenous Apprenticeship Program, increasing the number of trained and qualified Indigenous Plumbers, who will return to work in their communities and provide maintenance of water, sanitation and plumbing systems.

This will also have the additional benefit of increasing Indigenous employment opportunities. Research has shown that investing in employment and education, particularly for Indigenous people, results in knowledge and skills that drive personal, cultural and economic development.

Another way we propose to achieve the Foundations' objectives is through mentoring of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. A growing body of research demonstrates that mentoring can have powerful and lasting positive effects in improving behavioural, academic and vocational outcomes for at-risk youth. In an Indigenous



context, mentoring is a particularly promising initiative because it fits well with Indigenous teaching and learning styles and can help to build strong collective ties within a community.

Young Indigenous Australians in some communities face multiple and complex challenges that can put them at high risk of disengaging from their communities, schools and positive life courses. Although mentoring is no panacea, international and Australian evidence clearly demonstrates that it can be a powerful means by which a spiral into negative behaviours and outcomes can be short-circuited.



CLOSE THE GAP CAMPAIGN

The Indigenous Plumbing and Sanitation Foundation is a strong advocate of the Close the Gap campaign, through which a coalition of Australian non-government and development organisations are calling on the Australian Government to close the disturbing 10-year gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancies and to do more to improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians.

The Close the Gap campaign asks for:

- equal access for Indigenous people to primary health care and infrastructure
- increased support for developing the Indigenous workforce
- a commitment to support and nurture Indigenous community-controlled health services
- an urgent focus on early childhood development, maternal health, chronic illness and diseases
- support for the building blocks of good health, such as good nutrition, physical activity and adequate housing.

IPSF BOARD MEMBERS



Earl Setches
Chair

Earl Setches completed his apprenticeship in 1982 and worked “on the tools” until 1999 when he was elected Victorian Assistant Secretary of the PTEU. After two years in this role he attained the positions of State and Federal Secretary, both of which he has held since 2001.

Earl has been a driving force in the consolidation of partnerships within the Plumbing Industry and he has been instrumental in the creation, construction and success of the Plumbing Joint Training Fund (PJTF) and the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC). PICAC is a unique industry collaboration providing world’s best training with a key focus on sustainable plumbing technologies.

Earl is Chair of the PJTF and PICAC Boards. He is a Member of the Victorian Building Authority Plumbing Advisory Council (VBAPAC), the Building Industry Consultative Committee, Incolink and CBus (the Construction and Building Industry Super Fund) Boards.



Carmel Coate
Deputy Chair

Carmel Coate is the Executive Director of the National Fire Industry Association. She is also a Director of Rocarm Pty Ltd; a Director of the PJTF; Board Chair of Fire Industry Training Pty Ltd, a Registered Training Organisation; and is a PICAC Director.

Carmel is currently Deputy Chair of the VBAPAC.

Carmel has been a member of the SAA/SNZ Fire Protection Joint Standards Coordinating Council since September 1999 and has represented her members’ interests on several committees.

Carmel has a passion to ensure every individual has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. For more than 30 years Carmel has worked hard to ensure resources and support are available to allow personal development in the fire industry and brings a wealth of experience from the training environment to the Foundation.



Scott Dowsett

Scott Dowsett founded his first company, Scott Dowsett Plumbing Services, in 1992 and subsequently restructured in 2008 with new Director and owner, Chadd Cooke, joining him to form Cooke & Dowsett. The result is a combined 40 years of plumbing expertise and industry knowledge.

Cooke & Dowsett holds part ownership in NUDJ plumbing, a not for profit organisation based in Broome that is committed to the training and development of Indigenous youth in the Pilbara region.

Scott spreads his expertise across a number of different businesses as a Director of Cooke & Dowsett, Central Plumbing & Hardware Supplies, Riddells Creek Business Centre, DJT Concrete Cutting, NUDJ Plumbing, FDS Plumbing Australia and the Prince Alfred Hotel. He is also the President of the Master Plumbers' and Mechanical Services Association of Australia.



Ken Gardner

Ken Gardner graduated from Melbourne University in 1978 with a Law Degree and an Arts Degree (Major in Economics). He completed his Articles in 1980 and was admitted as a Solicitor.

In 1985, Ken joined the Victorian Government Department of Minerals and Energy, and in 1997, was appointed the Director of Gas Safety and Chief Executive Officer of a new statutory authority.

In 2004, Ken became the Chief Electrical Inspector and in 2005 established Energy Safe Victoria. Ken held that position for four years before moving to the Master Plumbers' and Mechanical Services Association of Australia in 2009 as Chief Executive Officer.

Ken is Chair of the VBAPAC, Hon Secretary/Treasurer for the World Plumbing Council and is on the Boards of the Construction and Property Services – Industry Skills Council and the PJTF.

IPSF BOARD MEMBERS



Joe Grande

Joe Grande is currently the Administrator of Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation and has over twenty years of experience in Community Development with Indigenous Communities and Corporations in the West Kimberley Region of Western Australia.

As a qualified accountant he also brings sound financial management and corporate governance knowledge in the non-for-profit sector.

Joe is passionate about working with Indigenous Australians in delivering real outcomes including long term sustainable employment and improved personal well-being.

Joe is a current Director of Kimberley Employment Services Pty Ltd; Kullarri Building Pty Ltd; Broome Electrical Services Limited; and NUDJ Plumbing Services Pty Ltd.



Michael Long

Michael Long was one of the most talented footballers to have played in the Australian Football League (AFL). Recruited in 1989 by Essendon from St Mary's Football Club in the Northern Territory, Michael's skills earned him the Best First Year Player Award. He played 190 games for Essendon, was Co-Captain in 1999 and played in two premierships.

Michael's parents were removed from their families as children and raised in the Tiwi Islands. His parents' experiences shaped Michael's determination to fight racial discrimination.

In 1995, following an ANZAC Day game against Collingwood, Michael became the first Indigenous player to highlight racial abuse when he reported offensive language used by an opposition player. As a result of Michael's actions, the AFL adopted a new rule aimed at stopping racial and religious vilification. In 2001 he retired as a professional footballer to focus on working with Indigenous Australians.

In November 2004, Michael left his Melbourne home to walk to Canberra to meet the then Prime Minister John Howard. His aim was to discuss the plight of Indigenous Australians and raise public awareness of the issues facing Indigenous communities. Thousands of people joined the walk which became known as 'The Long Walk'. By 2006 the Long Walk became part of the AFL's 'Dreamtime at the G', a week of football which is dedicated to the role Indigenous footballers play in Australian Rules Football.

Michael Long is Essendon Football Club's first Indigenous Ambassador.



Paddy McCrudden

Paddy McCrudden is the State Assistant Secretary and Federal President of the PTEU.

He completed his plumbing apprenticeship in Ireland in the early 1980's before immigrating to Australia. He has worked in the trade in the Middle East, Ireland and Australia.

Paddy became an elected official of the PTEU in 1999 and has previously served as an Organiser, CBus Coordinator and as an Industrial Officer.

Paddy is a Director of the PJTF and PICAC.

Paddy holds his Australian Financial Services Licence.



Shayne La Combre
Secretariat

Shayne La Combre is the Chief Executive Officer of the PICAC which is a unique facility offering world class training – in many cases with facilities without equal anywhere else in the world.

In 2011 Shayne was elected to the Board of the World Plumbing Council (WPC) and is the Deputy Chair for the 2013 – 2016 term. The WPC is committed to improving the standards of plumbing around the world to give better access to safe drinking water and sanitation to all.

Prior to this Shayne was Director of Plumbing at Victoria's plumbing industry regulator, the Plumbing Industry Commission (now the VBA), a role he held for 7 years.

FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors'
Association of Victoria Ltd

Australian Duct Manufacturers Alliance

Essendon Football Club

Heating and Cooling Association of Australia Inc

Hon Bill Shorten MP, Leader of the Opposition

Kelvin Thomson MP, Federal Minister for Wills

Kevin Sheedy

Korin Gamadji Institute

Master Plumbers' and Mechanical Services
Association of Australia

National Fire Industry Association

Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation

Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre

Plumbing Joint Training Fund

Plumbing Trades Employees Union

Richmond Football Club

The Jarlmandangah Burru Aboriginal Corporation

The Long Walk Trust

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative







INDIGENOUS PLUMBING & SANITATION FOUNDATION

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If you would like to know more about the
Indigenous Plumbing and Sanitation Foundation visit:

www.ipsf.org.au