

Message to All Gumala Members, from GAC EO Jahna Cedar



Firstly, I would like to take a moment to recognise the Gumala Family—the Yinhawangka, Bunjima and Nyiyaparli peoples—our Elders both past and present, our present day leaders and our youth.... Our future.

Gumala’s reason for existence is based on the needs of the Membership pursuant to the long held objectives to improve the lives of the membership. During my time, at Gumala, there have been many highlights on the corporation's road to success, including significant structural changes to the Gumala Foundation, in order to successfully deliver benefits and transfer management back to GAC.

Given your involvement and support to Gumala, it is important that Members hear directly from me on the eve of new change within the corporation. Specifically, I write to inform you that I am resigning from my position as Executive Officer of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC), with my last day being 21 December 2018.

This message comes to you after first notifying and consulting with the current board of directors and with the staff who remain the key assets to Gumala's success now and into the future. The changes that we have worked together to achieve have given GAC the ability to directly control its own strategic and corporate vision, in a cost-effective and efficient manner. I am proud of these changes and that they have been made to better serve the needs of our families, whilst also building the capacity of our people.

One of the highlights of my time with GAC has been the implementation of the “Gumala Way” consultation strategy. This strategy, which relates directly to GAC’s continued commitment to actively consult with our Members, resulted in numerous outstanding community development projects being completed, and the introduction of the flexible program model. I am proud that GAC’s consultation approach was recognised by being named winner of the 2018 ‘Outstanding Contribution to Improving Life in Communities by an Aboriginal Organisation’ award in the 2018 WA Council of Social Services (WACOSS) Community Services Excellence Awards.

Other highlights include:

- Development and implementation of corporate vision & goals and imbedding those strategies into the operations
- Developing and continuing the strategic pillar of increased Traditional Owner employment
- Diversified funding by increasing external income by 20%
- Completion of outstanding legacy projects in recognised Gumala communities
- Completed organisation restructure and policy review
- Return of operating surplus and implementation of arrears based accounting of funds received from the trust
- Maximising operational efficiencies representing reduced costs throughout the corporation i.e. 64% reduction of administrative costs in 2015/16

Delivering outcomes, building momentum and positioning for purpose has been important to my success to date. I have been fortunate to have the trust and guidance of a passionate board, working hard to achieve true self determination of our members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the GAC Board and Staff for their support and hard work during my time as Executive Officer - I am proud of what we have achieved together and I am confident that GAC will continue to improve and pursue successful outcomes for our Traditional Owners in the future.

It has been a privilege to serve you over the last four years, first as a Director and then as the Executive Officer. It has also been a great honour to serve as the first Gumala Member EO and be the first female to lead our organisation. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at GAC and the resilience and confidence it has taught me. I urge the business to continue in its endeavours of recruiting traditional owners, in particular for my future vacancy. We have a focused, passionate and extremely intelligent membership base that, given the right opportunity and support, can continue the prosperous journey that GAC is currently on.

The time is right for new leadership and I look forward to working with the board in their search for the next leader of Gumala.

Yours Sincerely,



Jahna Cedar