



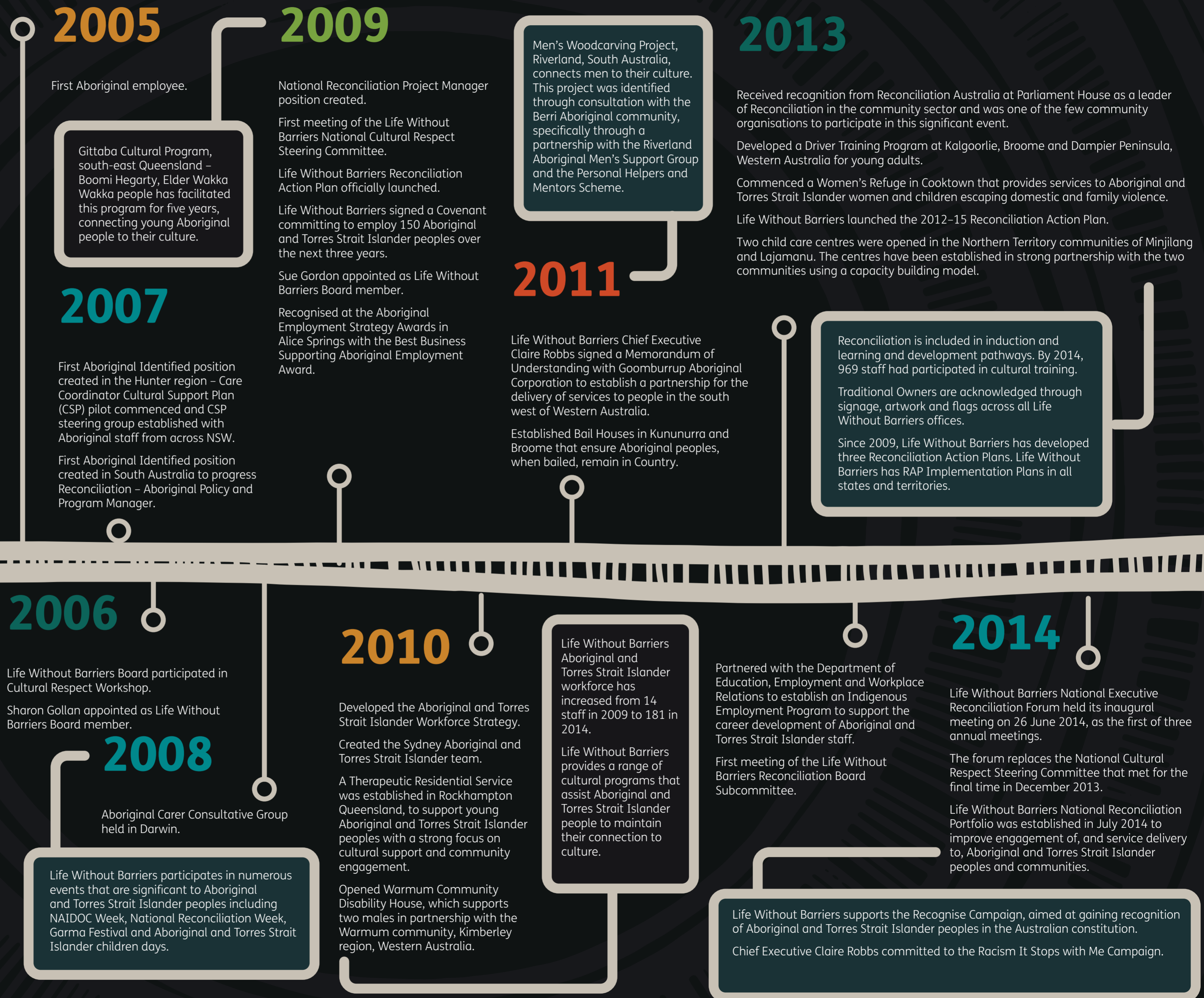
Our Reconciliation Journey

Reconciliation is part of the fabric of our organisation.

Life Without Barriers believes that Reconciliation must live in the hearts and minds of all Australians. Through our Reconciliation Action Plan we ensure the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are heard throughout our organisation, and that the work we do supports the cultural, spiritual and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS

'Empowered Voices' artwork created by Keisha Leon (Waanyi and Kalkadoon), Lisa Sorbie Martin (Moa and Murray Islands, Torres Strait Islands), and Gilimbaa.



2015

Awarded a Commonwealth contract to provide HIPPY (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters) services in two locations across Australia. HIPPY is a two-year home-based parenting and early childhood program that supports parents and carers to be their child's first teacher. Life Without Barriers's services is designed to accelerate the pre-school development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and provide training opportunities for parents.

Established partners with Ngalang Boodja-Noongar Employment Enterprise Development Aboriginal Corporation to engage new carers and Support Workers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.

Appointed the Facilitating Partner for the Stronger Community for Children (SCFC) in Lajamanu, NT. SCFC works with local Aboriginal organisations to build capacity and create employment. Enrolments at Minjilang and Lajamanu rose to over 130 children.

Life Without Barriers QLD facilitated over 100 young people, including foster carers and staff, to attend the Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival in July 2017.

2017

Life Without Barriers Cairns team arranged a Return to Country trip to the remote Community of Kowanyama, Far North Queensland, to reunite four disability clients with kin and country. One client returned home to celebrate her 21st birthday and spent a few days fishing with her family, who were very happy to see her.

Partnered with Veolia to establish a scholarship program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to commit to full-time study.

Hosted cultural camps in Gumbaynggir Country for 26 children and young people living in out of home care.

2019

Partnered with several training organisations in the NT to offer employment experiences for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainees.

Introduced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness Introduction online training for all staff and carers to complete within their first month.

Kalgoorlie Office in conjunction with the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre, produced the Our Values posters in local Ngaanyatjarra, Noongar, Pitjantjarra and Wangkatja languages.

Partnered with Orange Aboriginal Medical Service to provide medical services for all children in residential houses and Aboriginal children in foster care.

Launched a new Values & Culture Framework and Culture Statement to further nurture and embed our culture and values.

Co-sponsored a vibrant panel discussion in Newcastle on 4 July on the 2019 NAIDOC week themes: Voice, Treaty, Truth and the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Several staff and a Board member were privileged to join a crowd of around 250 and listen to panel members Dr Jackie Huggins, Professor John Maynard, and Sean Gordon, chaired by Jill Emberson, local journalist and Newcastle's Citizen of the Year for 2019.



2020

Develop targeted COVID-19 messaging for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander staff, clients, carers and communities. This included cultural and age appropriate communications around what COVID-19 means for children and messaging on topics like how to conduct Sorry Business during a pandemic.

Partnered with Kudingui Youth and Family Development to prepare families for the return to school post lockdown.

2016

Invited by Reconciliation Australia to participate as a Corporate Partner to Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation (Waltja) following their acknowledgement at the 2014 Indigenous Governance Awards.

Established the National RAP Working Group (RWG).

Launched the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2016 – 2019 (our third RAP).

2018

Teamed up with pre-eminent childhood trauma academic and practitioner, Professor Helen Milroy, to launch 'A Soft Landing', a storybook to explain the out of home care experience to young children in foster care. Storytelling is one of the earliest forms of teaching and learning for children as well as being a central part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture as well as an age-appropriate form of therapy. A Soft Landing has been made available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care within our organisation across the country.

Sponsored the Indigenous Women's Rugby League team, The Highlanders.

Partnered with Thikkabilla Vibrations to take a group of young men from across our programs to Red Bank in Gundabooka National Park, 40kms outside Bourke NSW and Coonabarabran NSW. Participants and supervisors of the camp were from the Wiradjuri, Gamilaroi, Gomeroi and Dharug Nations. This was the second camp the boys have attended, and the focus was on hunting, gathering and spirituality. Participants learned practical ways of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and heard some of the stories that are passed on from one person to another in Aboriginal culture through the animals, landscape song and dance.

2020 - now

Reconciliation Action Plan - Elevate 2022-2025.

In 2022, Reconciliation Australia affirmed Life Without Barriers with an Elevate RAP.

From 2020, Life Without Barriers invested time exploring and consulting with key stakeholders and partners on the commitments Life Without Barriers could embrace that would have the greatest impact for the future. The consultation and engagement aided in the development of the key actions and deliverables reflected in the Elevate RAP.