

TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL CENTRE

Always was... Always will be...
Call us on 1800 132 260.

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

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Tasmanian
Aboriginal Centre



TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL CENTRE



The major voice of the Aboriginal community in Tasmania

What is the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC)?

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre was set up in the early nineteen seventies to provide a voice, and hope, for Tasmanian Aborigines. It remains the largest Aboriginal community organisation in Tasmania.

What was life like for many Aborigines before we united together with our own organisation?

Aborigines faced high levels of homelessness or substandard accommodation; we had no lawyers to represent us if we had to go to court and we often faced discrimination at school, when we tried to use health services, get jobs or training.

In those days there was even a denial by most white people that we existed at all. Over time things have become better for Aborigines in Tasmania.

How has the community used the TAC to make things better today?

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre united the Aboriginal community in fighting for our people's rights. It ensured that the government recognised our needs for appropriate services as well as our need to maintain and strengthen our culture and our separate identity as Aboriginal people.

How is the TAC run?

The TAC is governed by an elected committee which meets monthly to set policies and make major decisions on behalf of the community. Branch meetings in regional areas provide opportunities for Aborigines at the local level to have a say, become involved and set the direction for the future.

What does the TAC do today?

As well as being a major provider of services to the Aboriginal community, the TAC leads the way in protecting and promoting Aboriginal rights.

Our campaign for Aboriginal rights includes fighting for the return of land, protecting our rights to practice and protect our culture, seeking the return of our ancestors' remains from museums within Australia and overseas and seeking reforms to the judicial system.

Major programs that the TAC delivers:

- Aboriginal Health Service
- Aboriginal Legal Service
- Aboriginal Children's Services
- Aboriginal Language Program
- Land Management Program

The TAC also organises major community events such as celebrating the return of land at the putalina festival, holding the annual Irapuna and Risdon Cove festivals, organising state-wide activities to celebrate National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration (NAIDOC) and National Aboriginal Children's Day.