



Ballarat and District
Aboriginal
Co-operative Ltd

Platypus Tracks Autumn Edition 2025



In this Issue

Page

From our Chairperson	3
From our CEO	4
Christmas Carnival	6
17th National Apology to Stolen Generations	7
Perridak Burron Early Learning	8
Yirram Burron & Yaluk Burron Early Learning	9
Connected Beginnings	10
Bengadak Babab Playgroup	12
Family Violence	14
Uncle Paul's Garden	15
Good News Stories	16
Upcoming Event	18
Community Information	20
Community Information	22
BADAC Closures	24
BADAC Closures	26
BADAC Information	27
Important Numbers	28

We wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land of Ballaarat, The Wadawurrung people.

We acknowledge their Elders, Past, Present and emerging and also acknowledge those people from other nations who after being part of the Stolen Generations, chose to make Ballaarat their home.

FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON—LARRY KANOA

I would like to start by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, live, work and play.

I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

I hope everyone has had a great start to the New Year and enjoyed some of the sunny days we've been lucky enough to have. We certainly needed to stay inside and keep cool a few of those days!

What a great night the Christmas Carnival was for community and their families. Seeing everyone catch up, kids running around having a ball, and everyone just enjoying the night. I thank Karen and all staff that were involved in organising such a great event for community.

The Board will be completing their Mandatory training this month. I thank them all for giving up their time on a Saturday to get this done.

If you are travelling over the Easter period, stay safe. Enjoy time with family and friends.

Regards,

Larry Kanoa

Chairperson



FROM OUR CEO—KAREN HEAP

Hi everyone,

I hope everyone had a great festive season break and is now feeling refreshed and enjoying 2025.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the sad passing of several much-loved community members who have gone to the Dreamtime. We offer thanks for their wonderful lifetime contributions to cultural knowledge and community. Sincere condolences to family and friends. They will be much missed.

The BADAC Christmas carnival, held this year at Ballarat High, was a huge success. It was wonderful to see community together and our children and youth having such a great time. Thanks for everyone who turned up and all those who helped.

BADAC voluntary redundancies

I want to clear up some rumours and misconceptions currently circulating in the community. BADAC is currently running a voluntary redundancy process among our 237 staff. This is part of being a large, high-functioning organisation.

BADAC is a strong operator, with advanced HR, Governance, and Finance teams and processes. We have long-term, talented executives and staff who bring considerable expertise to their jobs. BADAC remains in a strong financial position with an impressive asset base, which continues to grow.

The voluntary redundancy process enables BADAC to exercise mindful economy and make significant savings. This is also a terrific opportunity for our valued staff to choose a move to retirement or new careers. We are known for being both reliable and innovative. The redundancy program assists BADAC to ensure we have the right staff for the right jobs, now and into the future.

Please don't feel unsettled, this is a large ACCO ensuring we can evolve with the needs of our Aboriginal community, so we will continue to provide culturally safe, quality services to you all.

Funding news!

New Funding for Crisis and Transitional Housing for Aboriginal women

In February, government announced significant funding for BADAC: the federal government is funding us to build culturally safe housing for Aboriginal women and children needing crisis and transitional housing.

This is a much-needed and vital project for our community. We are absolutely delighted and look forward to delivering this project over the next few years.

New funding for playground at Perridak Burron

Thanks to the Victorian government Building Blocks program, Perridak Burron will have a new culturally rich play space in the 'babies' play area. We have been seeking funding for this playground for a few years, so the whole team is overjoyed to receive this great news.

Main Rd Planning for the future

BADAC was lucky to receive a Planning grant from Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program in 2024. This has enabled us to contract an architect and explore three options to improve the current buildings for better community experience. This is a longer-term project, with the next steps to apply for funding to deliver the new vision for the site.

Visit by Westpac Board

BADAC was honoured to host a visit from the Westpac Board on Thursday 6 Feb. The event started with a smoking ceremony at our Wada Warr Borrela Elders Village, followed by a presentation in the Tree Room and a visit to Perridak Arts. The Board were happy to praise BADAC, saying we do "really good work in the community."



Key Events

Other key events during this first quarter of 2025 included:

- Western District ACCO Collective meeting.
- Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People Alliance (VACYPA): BADAC and other ACCOs are working as a sector to access funding to improve the lives of Aboriginal children and youth.
- Aboriginal Children's Forum meeting.
- VACCHO: ACCO CEO members meeting.

Progress on exciting BADAC Projects

BADAC continues to deliver on important community projects which are close to the hearts of BADAC and our Aboriginal community. These projects help to drive Aboriginal health and self-determination in our region.

Highlights include:

- Perridak Arts, our new Aboriginal Art gallery is thriving. Two local artists, Adrian Rigney and Donna Blackall, exhibited artworks in the Victorian First Peoples Art and Design Fair Showcase 2025 which was held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 20 to 23 February. From all reports it was a great success!
- Five residents have moved in to Wada Warr Borrela Elders Village.
- Preparing for NAIDOC 2025

Perridak Arts – a thriving art community, authentic local Aboriginal Art

Perridak Arts is thriving. Huge thanks to everyone who is supporting our artists by buying art and craft items from Perridak Arts. Feel free also to simply visit and immerse yourself in a refreshing, warm, colourful, cultural space. We opened in April 2023 and I am thrilled to tell you that we have already returned \$130,000+ back to our Aboriginal community artists.

We currently have 74 Aboriginal artists on our books. If you are Aboriginal and would like to exhibit and sell painting, weaving, or other cultural arts, please do drop into the gallery and talk to our staff. New, experimenting, and established artists are all welcome.

Wada Warr Borrela Elders Village – delivering on the vision

I'm excited to inform you that we have had five residents move into our Elders Village and they are loving it! Aboriginal people wishing to find out more about Wada Warr Borrela Elders Village can contact site manager Michael Hetherington for more information.

NAIDOC 2025: The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy

What a fantastic theme for 2025! All NAIDOC messages are close to our hearts, yet this theme has a special connection for BADAC: 54% of BADAC Aboriginal community is aged under 25 years, and 37% are aged 0-14. It's wonderful to see our population growing so strongly.

Preparations for NAIDOC 2025 are already underway. We are applying for funding to help support our popular Family Fun Day. Please keep an eye on BADAC Facebook and our newsletters for more information closer to the date.

News and Media

BADAC continues to collaborate with 3BA, Ballarat Courier, ABC radio, WIN TV, Ballarat Times and others. Thanks to all the local journalists who partner with us to portray the Ballarat Aboriginal community in strong and positive ways.

Easter

Have a wonderful Easter with family and friends. Please do keep yourselves and your families and friends safe over this busy period.

I look forward to seeing you all visiting BADAC or enjoying BADAC community events during 2025.

Kind regards and take care,
Karen Heap



CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL



NATIONAL APOLOGY TO STOLEN GENERATIONS

On Thursday 13th February, the 17th Anniversary of the National Apology to Stolen Generations was held at BADAC in conjunction with the City of Ballarat.

The anniversary reflects on a time when our then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd made a formal apology to Australia's Stolen Generations, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who had been removed from their families and their culture.

Thank you to all who attended the event.



PERRIDAK BURRON EARLY LEARNING

After a quiet but fun Christmas period, Perridak Burron Early Learning & Kinder is back in full swing. Our kindergarten graduates from 2024 left us to join their new school in Prep as of term 1, we miss our little learners already but are very confident they have had a great start to formal schooling. All age groups have confidently orientated and transitioned into their new rooms, getting to know their Educators for 2025 but still mostly surrounded by their familiar friends, taking the journey together.

Educational programs are in full force, with the focus on building trusting relationships and trust between new friendship groups and Educators, whilst we also welcome new families and their children to Perridak over the month of February. Our learning on country program – Ngarra Dja for our Kindergarten groups will commence early Term 1, whilst walk about excursions have already begun for our little ones. We start each morning with our Acknowledgements, discussing the day's schedule and setting options for learning and play.

Perridak's 4th Birthday was on Friday 7th where we celebrated our milestone with an incursion, balloons, games and of course birthday cake! We look forward to continuing to provide Culturally responsive and safe high-quality care for the children of Ballarat and surrounds.



YIRRAM BURRON EARLY LEARNING

We are so excited to back to kick off the 2025 Kindergarten year! Term 1 is an exciting time at Yirram Burron, this term we are concentrating on building connections and trusting relationships with our Teachers, friends, families and wider community. We continue to discover together what kinder looks and feels like, and of course what we can learn at Yirram within our environment, from our friends and through intentional teaching from our dearly Educators.

Week 1 we have introduced our Parrwang (magpie) puppet to help facilitate our group times, he loves asking questions and getting to know our little learners. We also gather to collaborate on our floor book, a book that documents our voices, learnings and experiences. This has been very popular and the children are loving helping to document our thoughts, ideas and aspirations.

We are looking forward to inviting our families into our service in March to help create a collaborative artwork to celebrate our group of children for 2025. Stay tuned for more information.



YALUK BURRON EARLY LEARNING

Yaluk Burron's Fantastic First Year: A Year of Growth, Fun, and Community!

Wow, what a year it's been! Yaluk Burron is kicking off 2025 with big smiles and full hearts as we celebrate our very first birthday. A whole year since we opened our doors, time flies when you're surrounded by such an amazing community and incredible Educators. We couldn't have made it this far without the support and love from all of you.

To celebrate our milestone, we went all out with a birthday bash, from cake that we shared together, bright balloons filling the air, and a special wildlife expo that's become a favourite tradition, a celebration full of joy and excitement!

Over the past few months, we're even more excited to continue growing and enriching the lives of our little ones with a strong focus on Cultural richness. As an Aboriginal Early Learning service, we are committed to creating an environment that celebrates, welcomes and supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture. Our programs this year will highlight the importance of Cultural connection, respect, and storytelling, offering the children opportunities to explore and learn about the rich history and traditions of our First Nations peoples. We're thrilled to weave these elements into our everyday learning experiences.

We're also rolling out separate Educational programs for our 3 and 4-year-olds. Creating a more tailored experience to help each age group grow, learn, and thrive in their own unique way. We can't wait to see all the fun and learning unfold throughout the year.

Here's to another amazing year ahead, thank you for being part of the Yaluk Burron community, together, we'll keep making magic happen!



CONNECTED BEGINNINGS

FREE EVENT

For Aboriginal and Torres strait Islander families with children 0-5 years

MARCH 21ST

11AM - 2PM

CONNECTED BEGINNINGS OPEN DAY

Variety of Stalls

- NDIS
- Services Aus
- Best Start & More

Dilly bag & Other Goodies

sausage sizzle

Native seedling workshop

1pm

Music by Uncle Paul and the Moogies

Face Painting

11.15am

Wildlife Xposure - animal experience

For more information:
call Yirram burron Hub - 5332 6321

111 Rubicon Street, Sebastopol, 3356

Meet the
Connected Beginnings Team

CONNECTED BEGINNINGS

Connected Beginnings Ballaarat

Located in Sebastopol at the Yirram Burron Early Years Hub. We are a team of three - Sarah, Danielle and Ashleigh; helping engage and connect children, and their families from birth, to be ready to thrive at big school.



How we support community:

Toy Library

Kindergarten
Support

Maternal
Child Health
Nurse

Big School
transition
support

Playgroup

Health
Connections

Safe Yarning
Space

Cultural
Connection

Community
Events

Early Years
Support

Community
Open Space

Connection
to Services

Connected Beginnings (CB) draws upon the strength and knowledge of First Nations communities to increase children and families' engagement with early childhood education, care and health services.

CB aims to improve access to existing early childhood, maternal and child health and family support services to ensure that children are safe, healthy and ready to thrive at school by the age of five.

While CB looks different in each place, the core grounding principle is that the work is driven by the local First Nations community

Yirram Burron Early Years Hub
111 Rubicon Street, Sebastopol, 3356

BENGADAK BABAB

Bengadak Babab playgroup



Bengadak Babab - Celebrating our children

Come be a part of a solid community of little ones and their parents and carers. At playgroup, we are excited to learn about our strong Culture, a safe space for children to be themselves, to play, sing, dance, laugh, explore and build relationships with others.

Healthy morning tea is provided whether we are indoors at the Yirram Hub (111 Rubicon Street, Sebastopol) or out on dja (Wadawurrung country), so come see what's going on and be a part of something deadly!

If you would like to join us, please

contact Yirram Burron:

Phone: 5331 5344

Email: amoore@badac.net.au

10.30am - 12.30pm

Monday - At Yirram Burron Early Learning
Friday - On Country location varying
depending on school term

ASHLEIGH MOORE



Hello everyone, I am a proud Wamba Wamba, Muthi Muthi, Jerrinja (Yuin nation) Woman from up Swan Hill way, on the Murray River.

A mum to two bubs, choosing to raise them with my husband on Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung countries.

You might have seen me around in other jobs at BADAC, but I am very passionate to work with children, they are our next generation and I am so glad I get to be a part of their lives; watching them grow into strong people. I want to share my knowledge, experience and creativity with you mob.

BENGADAK BABAB

**Culturally safe space
to build
connections**



bengagdak babab **Playgroup** **celebrating our children**

Fun and engaging activities for children aged 18 months – 5 years.

Monday and Friday
10:30am – 12:30pm

(excluding school and public holidays)

Activities Include:

- Personalised acknowledgement of Wadawurrung Country
- Storytime and singing
- Arts and crafts
- Outdoor play
- Back to nature each Friday – Term 1 location at Lake Esmond

What to bring:
Hat and drink bottle



Contact Us:

admin@yirramburronel.net.au
5335 6231

Term 1 each Friday
at lake Esmond

111 Rubicon Street, Sebastopol, VIC 3356

FAMILY VIOLENCE

**The Family Violence Team would like to
wish you all a
Happy & Safe New Year**

**We would like to Welcome some new
staff to the team -
Maddy & Kristen to The Orange Door**



**And we would like to Welcome Jo-Anne
Morrow into the AFWITH role**



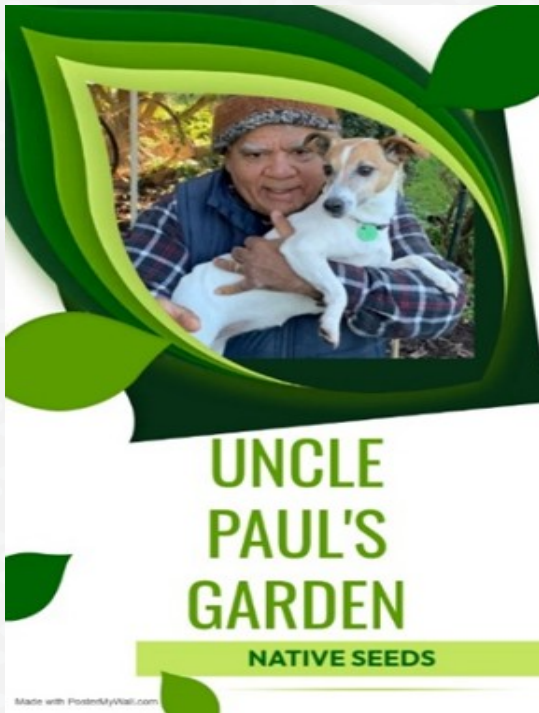
**For any questions regarding this role
please contact Jo on 0447078099 or jmorrow@badac.net.au**

**The Women's Community Connections Program enjoyed some
different programs over the holidays, photos are our
visit to Bird World in Ballarat**

**For any information on WCC program contact
Reb on 0477782948**



UNCLE PAUL'S GARDEN



Hi I'm Christine, I'm working in the SASS role at Main Road. I really enjoy my role and working out of the Main Road office as it gives me the opportunity to include Uncle Paul's Garden while working with community in a cultural space.



The Women's Group potted up Native Flower Seeds and painted up pots



Georgie planting Spring Onions during the Holiday Program



I have been harvesting seeds from the garden that include Dwarf Golden Everlast, Yam Daisies, and Old Man Weed to sell. All proceeds from these seeds will go to BADAC's Youth Programs.

We have also Introduced some new plants including Storks Bill, Native Basil and Salt Bush.

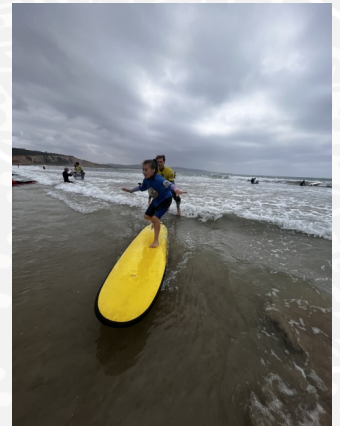


GOOD NEWS STORIES

On Saturday 8th February, the 27th Woorangalook Victorian Koori Surfing Titles were held.

It was great to see some of the Ballarat Youth head down and do such a deadly job, all confident standing up on the boards and catching plenty of waves.

Makes sure you keep an eye out for next years event—it's always such a great day.



GOOD NEWS STORIES

Frankie meets the Prime Minister



On January 26th, at the National flag raising, Hayden Walker and his son Frankie had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

Whilst on holidays, it was a chance meeting with a lot of dignitaries in attendance.

They were able to have some photos taken and have a yarn.

After Hours Clinic

Every Tuesday 5pm-8pm

Congratulations to the BADAC Medical team who late last year begun a new journey of an After Hours clinic.

Since the inception of the after hours appointments on 3rd December 2024, 55 additional appointments have been created with a 94% attendance rate.

These appointments are available every Tuesday between 5pm-8pm and are for general medical needs including scripts. Emergency appointments are not available. Please call the Medical team on 5331 5344 opt #2 to make an appointment.



L-R: Medical manager Paul Kochskamper, Practise nurse Melissa Sewell, Reception manager Kristen Cassells and Dr. Ramakrishna on the first night of the after hours appointments.

UPCOMING EVENT



VICTORIAN
INDIGENOUS
SURFING PROGRAM

BALLARAT

ABORIGINAL AND
TORRE STRAIT ISLANDERS
COMMUNITY

SUP PROGRAMS

What: Come join us for a feed and a Stand Up Paddle board session. Free for the entire family, everyone welcome. All equipment and life jackets supplied on request.

Where: Lake Esmond

When: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Thursday 20th February 2025

Thursday 6th March 2025

Thursday 20th March 2025

Thursday 3rd April 2025



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XQR8WSB>

please bring bathers and towel

**For more information and to register use the QR
code/Link or contact**

joe@surfingvic.com - 0409 441 820



VicHealth™

UPCOMING EVENT

CALLING OUT FOR ALL FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS!!!

- Deadline for Artwork will be Friday 28th March

. Are you a young First Nations Artists with passion of expressing yourself and stories through Art?

. We invite you to showcase your creativity at the BADAC Youth Art Expo.

. A chance to show your talents to the community, connect with other young mob and celebrate our amazing culture together.

. Artwork can be dropped off to 403 Main Rd.

Art Expo will be held 30th April - More info to come.



Carers Circle

Are you providing care to a young person?

**Come along and join us at our Carers Circle
Every Monday 10am-12pm
115 Beverin st. Sebastopol**

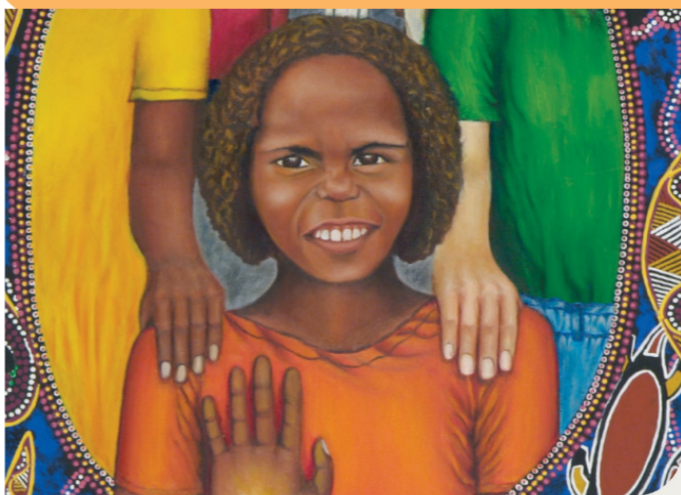
**For more information, please contact
Caitlin Thompson- Carer Facilitator 5331 5344**





Nikara's Journey

Caring for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Children



Nikara's Journey



Date: 25 & 26 March 2025

Time: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Location: BADAC

106–108 Armstrong St Nth | Ballarat



CARING FOR ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

Follow the story of Nikara and her non-Aboriginal foster parents as they learn how to provide the right support, respect her identity, and keep her safe and connected to her family, culture, and community.

This program provides both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Carers with the knowledge to care for and support Aboriginal children. Priority for this training will go to carers with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children or young people in their care.

For enquiries and to register, please contact Caitlin Thompson, Gobata Burron / Carer Facilitator, BADAC. at cthompson@badac.net.au or (03) 53315344.

As lunch will be provided, please advise Caitlin of any dietary restrictions.



Carer Kafe acknowledges the support
of the Victorian Government.



carerkafe.org.au

NAIDOC POSTER COMPETITION

BADAC YOUTH

2025 NAIDOC THEME
THE NEXT GENERATION

YOUTH NAIDOC POSTER COMPETITION

AGES - 5 - 17

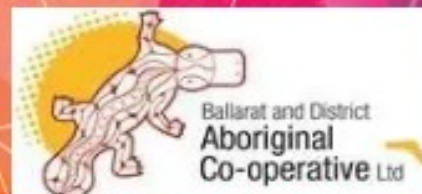
Please come up with your own
design that represents this
years NAIDOC Theme.

Closing date Thursday 15th of
May.

Artworks to be delivered to 403
Main Rd Golden point



Made with PosterMyWall.com



BADAC CAMPS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

WE'RE ASKING FOR
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FROM FAMILIES FOR CAMPS.

IF YOU THINK YOUR
CHILDREN WOULD LOVE TO
ATTEND BADAC CAMPS
PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM.



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hQZiM0ySBikhp_Pd7glmCVhRUNWzcrG1wZM4PqGjbfs/edit



Made with PosterMyWall.com



BADAC CLOSURES

NOTICE

BADAC be closed Monday 10th
March for the Labour Day long
weekend.

We will open again gam Tuesday
11th March.

We apologise for any
inconvenience.

BADAC CLOSURES

NOTICE

BADAC will be closed Friday 25th April
for the Anzac Day public holiday.

We will open again 9am Monday 28th
April.

We apologise for any inconvenience.



ANZAC DAY

Lest We Forget

— 25 APRIL —



BADAC CLOSURES



H A P P Y *Easter*

BADAC will be closed Friday 18th April and Monday 21st April for the public holidays.

Management & Staff wish everyone an enjoyable break and if you are travelling, please stay safe.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

BADAC supports the health and wellbeing of the Ballarat and District Aboriginal community with a range of holistic services, including:

BADAC Services

- BADAC Medical Clinic
- Koorie Family Services
- Stronger Families
- Integrated Family Services
- Kinship Care
- Aboriginal Family Lead Decision Making (AFLDM)
- Early Years Learning
- Home and Community Support
- Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Support
- Social & Emotional Wellbeing Program
- Justice Support
- Family Violence Support
- Social Worker
- Youth Groups
- Cultural Outings and Camps
- Stolen Generations Support
- Playgroup

BALLARAT AND DISTRICT ABORIGINAL
CO-OPERATIVE

P.O. Box 643

Ballarat VIC 3350

106-108 Armstrong St North

Ballarat VIC 3350

T: (03) 5331 5344

E: reception@badac.net.au



Have you changed your Address

OR

want your newsletter delivered via email?

**If so please let reception know either by dropping in or
giving us a call (03) 5331 5344.**

**You can also email Reception at:
reception@badac.net.au**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

SERVICE	CONTACT
Triple Zero—For help in an emergency, contact Fire, Police or Ambulance	000
Kids Helpline—Offers 24/7 mental health support for young people aged 5-25	1800 551 800
SuicideLine Victoria—24/7 counselling service for those effected by suicide	1300 651 251
Parentline—Counselling, information & referral service for parents and carers of children aged 0-18yrs	13 22 89
Grampians Health Mental Health Services—24/7 support for advice, access and triage	1300 247 647
Yarning Safe 'N' Strong—Culturally safe and confidential help line available 24/7	1800 959 563
Direct Line—Drug & Alcohol counselling, information & referral service available 24/7	1800 888 236
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service—Provides community justice and legal practice services	1800 064 865
Nurse-On-Call—24/7 service that provides expert health advice from a registered nurse	1300 606 024
Maternal and Child Health Line—Information, advice and referrals for families with young children available 24/7	13 22 29
Gambler's Help—Support service for people affected by gambling	1800 858 858
National Debt Hotline—A confidential & independent financial information service	1800 007 007
Lifeline—24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention service	13 11 14
The Orange Door— Provides family violence support 9am-5pm Monday-Friday. Outside of these hours, contact Safe Steps for support and referrals 24/7	1800 219 819 1800 015 188

BADAC SERVICES (BUSINESS HOURS ONLY)	CONTACT
Main Reception	5331 5344, opt #9
Medical Reception including Maternal Child Health	5331 5344, opt #2
Family Violence	5331 5344, opt #9
Social & Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB)	5331 5344, opt #3
Cultural & Therapeutic Support including Youth Services	5331 5344, opt #9
Koorie Family Services	5331 5344, opt #9
Home & Community Care including NDIS	5331 5344, opt #9
Gobata Burron	5331 5344, opt #9

If you wish to speak to someone specifically, please let reception know so that they can direct your call appropriately. If the staff member is not available, a message will be taken for them to return your call.