



# The Pyjama Foundation First Nations Advisory Body



The Pyjama Foundation's First Nations Advisory Body was formed in 2021, with the goal of supporting the cultural needs of the children in our program. **39% of the children** in our program are from a First Nations heritage. Therefore, best practice is essential for The Pyjama Foundation. Incorporating the wisdom and guidance of the First Nations Advisory Body, allows The Pyjama Foundation to support First Nations children in a way that is meaningful, respectful, and aligned with their cultural and community contexts.

The Pyjama Foundation's First Nations Advisory Body provides invaluable, independent guidance to help the Foundation better support all children, with special attention to those in foster care who are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent or who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The Advisory Body strengthens the Foundation's approach, ensuring culturally informed and respectful support for these young people.

Creating positive relationships for every Australian child in care;  
empowering them with **learning**, **life skills**, and **confidence**.





## Acknowledgement of Country

On these lands where we learn, play, and grow together, The Pyjama Foundation respects and Honors the Traditional Custodians who have cared for Country for thousands of years. We listen to the voices of Elders, past and present, and recognise the special wisdom they share with all of us. We celebrate First Nations children as the strong and bright voices of tomorrow, knowing they will carry forward the stories, dreams, and knowledge of their cultures. We thank all First Nations families for sharing their kindness, courage, and strength with us every day.

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## Cultural Insights:

The Advisory Body provides deep insights into the cultural values, traditions, and needs of First Nations communities. This understanding is crucial for creating programs and resources that are respectful, relevant, and effective in supporting First Nations children.

## Guidance on Best Practices

The Body offers advice on best practices for working with First Nations children and families, ensuring that The Pyjama Foundation's initiatives are culturally sensitive and align with the needs of these communities.

## Building Trust and Relationships

Having a First Nations Advisory Body helps in building trust and fostering strong relationships with First Nations communities. Their involvement signals a commitment to genuine collaboration and respect, which is essential for the success of any initiative aimed at supporting First Nations children.

## Tailored Support

The Advisory Body can help The Pyjama Foundation tailor its programs to address the specific needs of First Nations children, such as issues related to education, identity, and connection to culture.

## Ensuring Relevance and Effectiveness

By engaging the Advisory Body, The Pyjama Foundation ensures its efforts go beyond good intentions to achieve real, practical impact. Guided by the Advisory Body's insights, the Foundation can refine and adapt its programs to more fully meet the needs of First Nations children, creating deeper, more meaningful outcomes. The Advisory Body also embraces feedback from Elders and the community, strengthening connections and building a future grounded in respect and understanding.





# Meet the First Nations Advisory Body



The group is made up of Indigenous leaders and consultants who advise the Foundation in meetings that are hosted quarterly. Providing advice and strategies, as well as resources and recommendations of Indigenous owned businesses to engage with, the First Nations Advisory Body is an integral part of the organisation.



## Chair

### Deborah Hoger

Meet Deborah Hoger, chair of our First Nations Advisory Body, and a proud Dunghutti Mother and Business Owner. Debbie is the founder of Riley Callie Resources, a business focused on providing educators with authentic Indigenous resources which bring Indigenous perspectives into the education space. With a background in anthropology, and as a mother herself, Debbie feels there is a great need to ensure that Indigenous culture is taught and shared all throughout a child's education, but especially in the early years.

Debbie is passionate about showcasing the ingenuity and innovation of First Nations Australia, and breaking stereotypes so kids grow up appreciating our cultures. Riley Callie Resources makes it accessible for educators across the country to engage with community, learn about their local First Nations culture, and bring these perspectives back into their classroom through the inclusion of authentic resources which celebrate and showcase Indigenous Australia. Debbie's experience is so important, and we're incredibly grateful to have her guidance and knowledge.



### Charlie Chambers

Charlie is an alumni of the Foundation's Love of Learning Program and was child ambassador for The Pyjama Foundation from age 5. Charlie's experience within the program provides valuable insights and advice on how best to support the First Nations children who are involved with the Foundation. Charlie's experience is in media, having trained at the Brisbane Indigenous Media Association and working as social media manager at Team Racing Together. His qualifications include a Certificate III in Business and a Certificate III in Screen and Media.



# Meet the First Nations Advisory Body



## Tammy Baart

As a proud Boorooberongal Dharug woman Tammy educates, advocates for and enables all individuals to be empowered to exceed their own expectations. Over two decades of executive educational leadership experience has led to an ignited passion and drive to find the gaps in systems so all individuals are provided with the access and opportunity to succeed. Through honouring her culture to decolonise ways of being, doing and knowing, Tammy works to create human-centred and sustainable solutions that leave a legacy everyone can be proud of.

Working across various industries, Tammy brings people together through connection, collaboration and capitalising upon collective wisdom to create transformative workplace cultures through custom learning, development and training needs and building Cultural Intelligence.



## Corey Tutt

Corey is the proud founder of Deadly Science, a not-for-profit organisation that provides STEM resources and learning experiences to regional and remote schools in Australia to connect young Indigenous people with STEM professionals.

As a board member of Seed mob, Corey has been leading the fight for climate justice for Indigenous peoples across Australia. Corey's passion for Indigenous education has also been recognised through various awards including the CSIRO Indigenous STEM Champion 2019; AMP Tomorrow Maker 2019 and ABC Trailblazer 2019, 2021 Eureka Prize winner for STEM inclusion. Corey was recently appointed an Associate Professor of Indigenous Sciences at the University of Western Sydney.

Outside of his work in STEM, Corey has become a highly successful author, publishing the bestselling and multi-award-winning book 'The First Scientists' and his latest book, 'This Book Thinks Ya Deadly', which celebrates over 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



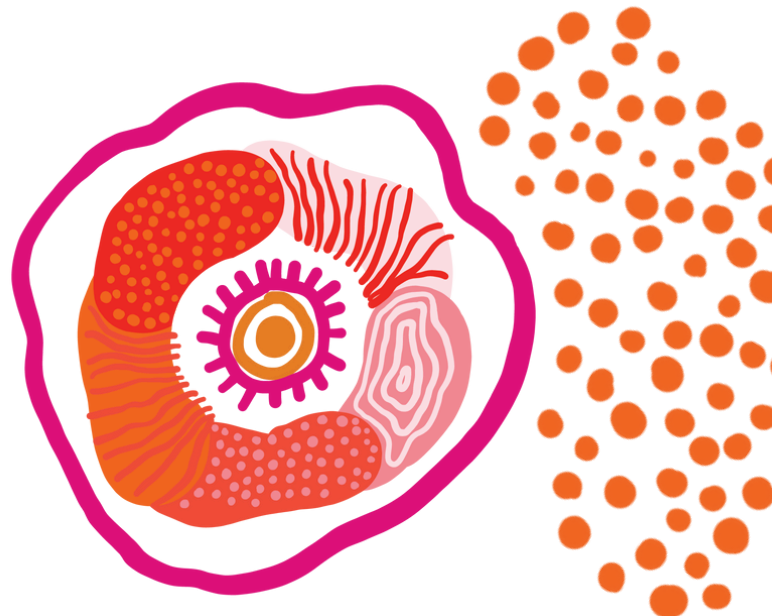
# Meet the First Nations Advisory Body



## Ann-Maree Long

Ann-Maree Long is a proud First Nations yeeran (woman) with connections to Badtjala Country, Woppaburra Country, and Zenadh Kes (Badu Island). Ann-Maree is a Creative Industries graduate of QUT and Yanalangami graduate of Tranby. As the Program Manager for the Career Trackers High School Program and the National Coordinator of the Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy, in collaboration with CSIRO, Ann-Maree channels her passion for education and diversity to empower the leaders of tomorrow. Simultaneously serving as a Board Member for Digi Youth Arts and contributing to the First Nations Advisory Group within the Committee for Brisbane, Ann-Maree, as the first in her family to graduate high school, approaches her work with immense gratitude, recognising the transformative potential of nurturing young First Nations voices in STEM and beyond.

Ann-Maree has been a Pyjama Angel mentor for over four years, her first-hand experience with the Foundation gives her a unique perspective to advise best practices to support First Nations children who are enrolled in the Program.





# “The child at the centre”



This artwork, by Goreng Goreng artist Rachael Sarra, is an encouragement through empowerment and self-determination for our children, so they can feel supported and reflected in the environment and community around them.

The Pyjama Foundation is proud to have implemented their first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, and are currently engaging in the next step: Innovate.



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