



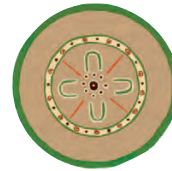
Annual Gathering

Every September an Annual Gathering is organized by a Cross Agency Working Party (CAWP) of AGEN Members.

There are usually a range of presentations/ speakers and workshops at the Gathering and recommendations are made to the Regional Managers Network. Koori workers from all agencies in the Illawarra and South East Regions are invited to attend to meet up with colleagues and participate.



“ I met six people from my area that I hadn't even met before, we spoke about the work we do and the connections. I keep in touch with them between the Gatherings. ”



The AGEN logo was designed by Patricia Margaret Maurer. Sadly Aunty Pat passed away on 15 December 2005. Her support for helping establish AGEN and her gift of the logo will always be remembered.



**AGEN is supported by
Illawarra–South East
Regional Managers Network**

Department of Premier and Cabinet
PO Box 892, Wollongong NSW 2500

Visit AGEN at : www.agen.org.au



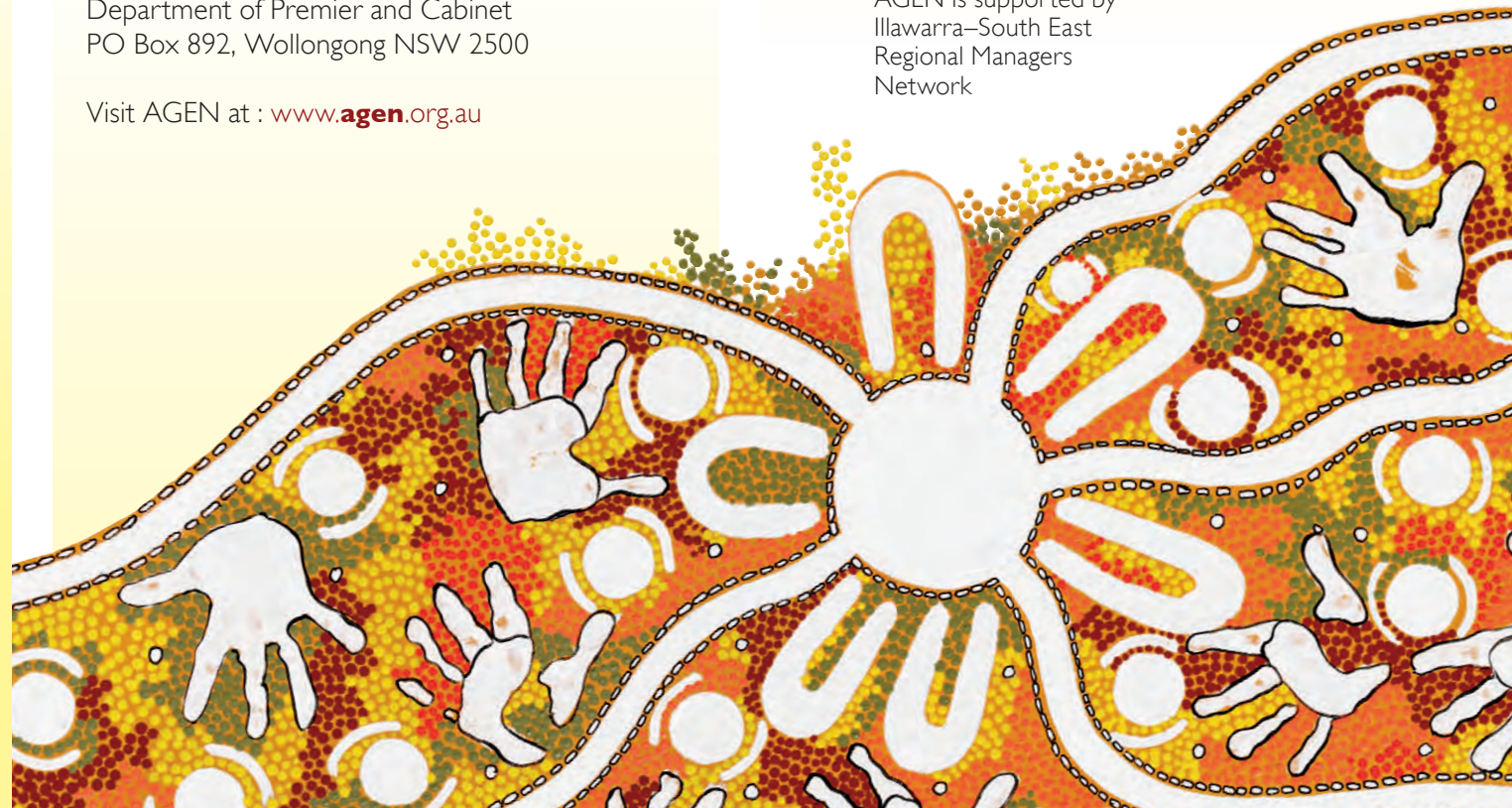
AGEN

**Aboriginal Government
Employees Network**

Information for all
new Aboriginal staff

www.agen.org.au

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Regional Managers
Network





Joining AGEN is one way that you can connect with Koori staff in other government agencies in your local community

What is AGEN ?

AGEN is a network for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander staff who work for NSW Government agencies in the Illawarra and South East Regions of NSW.

It was designed by Aboriginal workers, for Aboriginal workers.

What does AGEN aim to do?

AGEN was set up in 2004 to help connect and support Aboriginal staff from different NSW Government agencies.

By working together, AGEN aims to:

- increase opportunities for collaboration, networking and support
- identify and provide professional development opportunities
- establish a mechanism for Aboriginal workers to raise shared concerns
- create a stronger link between Aboriginal employees with the Regional Managers Network

Getting to know other Koori workers

Starting a new job can be stressful but the good news is that you are not alone. There are many Aboriginal people employed in agencies in the Illawarra & South East.

In your own agency –

- Find out whether your agency has its own Aboriginal employees network - many agencies have set up networks to support staff in their workplaces
- Ask your colleagues or your manager about whether there are other Aboriginal people in your agency locally or in the region

In other agencies –

- Visit www.agen.org.au and send an email to join up with AGEN
- AGEN can send you a contact list of other members in other agencies in your town

Find out if there is a local community network – some groups like the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group or the Shoalhaven Safe Community Aboriginal Partnership maintain email distribution lists and hold regular meetings.

How can AGEN help ?

AGEN is a network that can help connect you to other people in your workplace or town, and in other agencies. This is what some members think about the network:

'AGEN helps build support and mentoring for each other... it's an opportunity to meet up with our own mob and find out what's happening across the regions, to find out best practice models and also develop ourselves'

'Gives me information to provide to my community... and creates linkages with relevant services & helps identify gaps in services'

'time for reflection and healing with other kooris... the social side is important, it helps me to come out of myself and build confidence, to get over that shyness.'

'The Gathering is like an invitation into someone's home – it's the first step.'

Who can be involved in AGEN?

All Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who work for NSW Government agencies in the Illawarra or South East Regions can be involved. There is no cost and involvement is supported by the Regional Managers Network.