

Nalderun Aboriginal Services

Pay The Rent scheme

Background Information

Phone: 5472 4842 9am – 3pm Mon-Fri (leave your details and we will get back to you!)

Email: nalderun@cch.org.au

Location of office: 30 Templeton St, Castlemaine VIC 3450

Introduction

Nalderun is a local **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** community-controlled organisation, on Dja Dja Wurrung country. Nalderun is led by local Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners and supported by other notable **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** leaders from the local community. Nalderun provides services that support the local **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** Community on many levels. Nalderun operates under the auspices of Castlemaine Community House (CCH) Inc.

This Pay the Rent (PTR) model was developed by the Nalderun Events Group, who work alongside Nalderun. We acknowledge the process may evolve, and we are committed to an on-going process of learning and adapting under the guidance of local Elders and **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** peoples.

This document outlines the rationale for the Scheme and how it will work in practice (see FAQ section). In short, the Scheme will educate and encourage other Australians to set up auto-recurring bank transfers to Nalderun. One-off payments are also possible. This payment is in recognition of the 'rent' we, as individuals and a community, owe to **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** peoples for living on land that was unlawfully taken from them.

The PTR concept transfers funds from grassroots to grassroots; it doesn't involve politicians or bureaucrats. The funds go directly from other Australians to local **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** Peoples via Nalderun, a local **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** -controlled organisation.

Terms

Rent: a tenant's regular payment to a landlord for the use of property or land.

Reparation: the action of making amends for a wrong that has been done, by providing payment or other assistance to those who have been wronged.

Rationale

The Pay the Rent (PTR) scheme acknowledges that all Australians live on **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** land and that land was taken from **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** peoples without consent, payment or treaty. The scheme is a way that other Australians can contribute 'rent' directly to **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander**-led groups and

organisations, in this case Nalderun. Paying the rent is an act of reparation, of reciprocity, of restorative justice, of recompense, of taking responsibility and acknowledging benefits accrued to other Australians through occupying stolen land.

Paying the rent acknowledges that other Australians have benefited from and continue to benefit from policies and practices that have been part of the colonisation of this nation, including the act of stolen land. We all benefit from the occupation and use of this land. Whether we were born here or arrived here as recent migrants, we cannot avoid sharing the government's responsibility for the perpetuation of this injustice. While governments have been very slow to act, individuals can decide to 'pay the rent' directly to **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** peoples until such time as the Government fulfils its obligation and begins to 'pay the rent' on our behalf.

