

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
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Sent via email FirstNationswomenchildren.sen@aph.gov.au

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Warami,
To Whom It May Concern:

Baramadagal Clan, Dharug Nation – Submission: Missing and murdered First Nations women and children

The Baramadagal Dharug Tribal Governing Council Aboriginal Corporation is a collective of Baramadagal Traditional Owners, of the Reid / Goldspink Family. We make this submission to record our family's experience relevant to this National Inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women/dhiyin and children/gulyangarri.

We descend from our apical ancestor Margaret "Peggy" Goldspink nee Reid, who was born in Parramatta / Baramada circa 1813. The first record of Peggy's life was created in 1820 when she was 8 years old, becoming the 34th child 'admitted' into the Parramatta Native Institute where she was given her colonial name, she was later transferred to the Blacktown Native Institute before being entered into 'domestic service', an early form of slavery in the Colony.

Peggy was married at age 19, she had 13 children, and lived to the age of 85. There are numerous official records created about Peggy which both confirm her Aboriginality and her birthplace of Parramatta / Baramada. However, we have no record of Peggy's parents, on Peggy's death certificate her parents are recorded as "unknown".

In the mid-1990's our family were informed by an Aboriginal researcher at The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AITASIS) that Peggy's parents were murdered.

We maintain Peggy's Mother/Wayanga remains among many of the early cases of missing and murdered First Nations Women, and specifically both Peggy and her Mother/Wayanga were victims of the most serious forms of State-sanctioned violence. We suspect Peggy had at least one sibling who also remains missing. If not for Peggy's survival, any trace of Peggy's Mother's/Wayanga existence would have been completely erased from the memory of this place.



According to our old ways of being, we know that Peggy's Mother/Wayanga was a Baramadagal woman. However, we do not know her name, the traditional names she gave her children, or the details of her life and death. She remains missing, and from what we understand, murdered. We make this submission, as a way to speak about our old ones who walked this sacred land before us, with the care, love, respect and remembrance they deserve.

Parramatta / Baramada is the birthplace of policies and practices that saw women and children become missing, murdered, stolen, enslaved and subjected to all forms of violence. This history, and those of us whom it lives on in, are still so little understood, recognised, or in receipt of reparation or any real sense of justice.

The first violation of colonisation was against our Country / Ngurra, Mother Earth / Wayanga Bembul. The land remains unceded and subject to abuses of the Colony. This is the first injustice that must be remedied, as all wrong-doing flows from this injustice.

We know that injustices First Nations women continue to face today have threads that can be traced back in time to the early days of invasion, for what happened then continues to happen now, and is reflected in the inhumane experiences and disproportionate statistics seen within; deaths in custody, improper investigative processes by Police, inadequate healthcare systems and outcomes and the care and protection system. Our family's experience provides an early context of this shameful, abhorrent trajectory that continues to be faced by First Nations women.

Truth-telling needs to start with the earliest accounts of the violence of this place so that we can truly reckon with the extent and continuity of colonial violence, and the ways it has always, severely, been inflicted upon First Nations women. It needs to be met with Truth-listening, a deep listening, that responds with both words and adequate trauma-informed action.

We cannot heal from the atrocities inflicted on our Family / Mudjin until the perpetration of these atrocities against all First Nations Women ceases. We stand with mob; Dhiyin (Women) including those who identify as women, Wayanga (Mothers), Djuramin (Sisters) and Gulyangarri (Children) who remain missing and murdered on these unceded First Nations lands, of this continent now known as Australia.

Yanu,
Yours sincerely,



Signed by Jayne Christian, Director
on behalf of the Baramadagal Dharug Tribal Governing Council Aboriginal Corporation
ICN: 9535

