

Thank you for your interest in the **Linkz Odyssey** program. This application package has been designed to provide you with an overview of the program and to address many of the questions that you may have.

How to Apply

All applications need to be submitted by email to Shivani Sehgal at shivani@linkz.net.au

Applications close at 5pm on Monday 15th March.

You need to ensure that your application includes the following information:

- a current resume or curriculum vitae
- a brief response to the skills required section
- two referees with contact details (these can be of a personal or professional nature)

The Application Process

All applicants will be notified of their progress by Friday 19th March and applicants need to be available for interview during the week starting 22nd March. The Linkz Odyssey program will formally commence in April.

If you have any further questions please contact:

Shivani Sehgal
HR Manager
shivani@linkz.net.au



ABOUT LINKZ

Linkz Incorporated is a not for profit organisation that has been set up to establish connections and partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians at both a local community level and also on a broader scale. Our identity is firmly based on the notion that individual humanity is inextricably bound to others and so in order to be effective we must join together.

By establishing Linkz between communities we aim to build a widespread sense of pride in the strength, diversity and value of Indigenous culture for all Australians.

Linkz believes that this can be achieved by:

- Providing opportunities for personal development through volunteering
- Creating more Australian-based volunteer opportunities for young people
- Increasing the frequency and quality of positive interactions and learning's between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians
- Utilising the 'ripple effect' to encourage and support volunteers to share their experiences with the broader community
- Providing opportunities for cross-cultural exchange
- Building shared pride in Aboriginal culture and knowledge amongst Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians - by acknowledging it and promoting it as part of the broader Australian identity.
- Providing communities, and in particular young people, with the opportunities they need to build the skills to identify and create localised solutions
- Offering resources to address the lack of available services in regional and remote Aboriginal communities

THE LINKZ ODYSSEY

In this section you will find the basic information you need to know about the *Linkz Odyssey*, a volunteer program offered through Linkz Incorporated.

The word "Odyssey" refers to an extended adventurous voyage; a spiritual or intellectual quest which encapsulates the aim of the program. The Linkz Odyssey is an 8 month long volunteer program which aims to provide a unique experience that will aid professional development, build knowledge and skills and create greater awareness of Indigenous Australian culture.

The Linkz Odyssey has been specifically designed to cater to individual needs, skills and areas of interest and as such no two journeys will be the same. There are however a number of central elements including:

- Participation in practical, hands on engagement through a community placement
- Training and skill development
- Advocacy and awareness raising
- Engagement with and exploration of Indigenous affairs including a range of contemporary issues

While there is no set target group the Linkz Odyssey program has been designed around the University timetable. Intake 1 runs from April through to November with the Northern Territory placement running for 3-4 weeks over the mid semester break. Intake 2 runs from September through to April with the placement running for between 5 and 6 weeks over December and January.

During the 8 month program volunteers will work with their Team Leader to develop an individualised action plan that will ensure that training and development can be adapted to suit their location, schedule and goals. The Linkz Odyssey has been designed to compliment and build on a volunteers existing occupation or university course and to ensure that they are able to develop skills which can be utilised on an ongoing basis.

Please note that all program participants will be required to have a Working with Children check completed prior to commencement.

COMMUNITY PLACEMENT

The Linkz Odyssey Program seeks to address a critical, but often overlooked service gap within the majority of remote Indigenous communities. While the Northern Territory school year is split into four terms the two key break periods are the 4-5 week holiday over June and July and also the 8 week Christmas break starting in mid-December. During these two periods most of the services including childcare, women's centre, local council and school shut down with many of the staff leaving the community for extended holidays. This creates a significant gap whereby children and young people have very little to do and consequently are more inclined to engage in petty crime and other "at risk" behaviours. Some communities are fortunate to have a Sport and Recreation Officer or Youth Worker however these individuals are often faced with ratios in excess of 1 staff member: 200 children.

The premise behind the Linkz Odyssey is to address this service gap, by providing teams to facilitate sport and recreation programs on short-term placements. It is envisaged that these teams will be sourced on a volunteer basis and all individuals will be selected via a competitive selection process.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I get involved?

All volunteers involved in the Linkz Odyssey are selected during the twice yearly recruitment rounds. During this time potential volunteers are asked to submit applications and undergo a competitive selection process in order to build the best teams possible.

How much does it cost?

There is a participation fee of \$300 that covers the full duration of the program including the community placement and associated travel. It is important to note that this by no means covers the full cost of your involvement in the Linkz Odyssey Program and you are able to undertake fundraising activities to help cover this cost.

What do I get out of it?

The Linkz Odyssey program provides an opportunity to build your skills in a fun and engaging way. Through completion of the program you will be able to develop a range of transferable skills and test yourself through immersion in Indigenous Australian culture. Additionally you will also get the opportunity to visit some of the most remote parts of Australia and experience Indigenous community life first hand which is a once in a lifetime experience!

What sort of experience and skills do I have to have?

In most cases there are no set skills or experience requirements. The Linkz Odyssey program has been set up to provide you with all the skills you will need!

From time to time though specified positions such as team leader roles or program specialists will be available. In these cases the skills and/or experience requirements will be clearly stated.

What if I can't attend the community placement?

The community placement is an integral part of the program and offers the chance for you to put all of your hard earned skills into practice. If for whatever reason you cannot commit to the full program, including the community placement, you will be asked to reconsider applying at an alternative time.



INTAKE 1 - 2010

We are currently looking to recruit Linkz Odyssey team members based in New South Wales and the ACT.

These team members will be placed in small teams of between 3 and 4, with all teams being assigned a Team Leader to help support participants throughout the Linkz Odyssey program and specifically the remote community placement.

It is important to acknowledge that this program represents a significant commitment and you are asked to carefully consider your ability to fully engage with the program across the 8 month duration.

The program schedule has been set up around the University timetable and as such all placements will occur during university holidays and you will be given downtime during exam periods.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

April 2010	May 2010	June 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program formally commences on 8th April - Induction - 2 x fortnightly face to face group sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x fortnightly face to face group sessions - Completing training requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exams - 1 x fortnightly face to face group session - Final Preparation and briefings for placement <p style="text-align: center;">COMMUNITY PLACEMENT - NT*</p>
July 2010	August 2010	September 2010
<p style="text-align: center;">COMMUNITY PLACEMENT - NT*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 x fortnightly face to face group session - Debriefing - Program Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x fortnightly face to face group sessions - Finalisation of follow up plans - Developing media and engagement plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow activities - Group sessions as required
October 2010	November 2010	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow up activities - Group sessions as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow up activities finalised - Program formally ends 	

*Exact dates are yet to be confirmed however the community placement is likely to commence on Saturday 26th June – Saturday 17th July



POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE	Linkz Odyssey Team Member
Job Outline	<p>Linkz Odyssey participants are key members of the organisation and carry out a range of roles and functions including advocacy work, front-line service delivery and community based education.</p> <p>As a Team Member you will be supported to develop an individualised program that utilises your skills and areas of interest to achieve the broader Linkz goal of increased understanding and awareness of Indigenous Australian culture.</p> <p>Key areas of responsibility and tasks will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging in a variety of training including both practical and theoretical elements • Working as part of a team to deliver sport and recreation activities in a remote Indigenous community • Project managing an event or activity of your choosing during the follow up phase of the program
Skills Required	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flexible attitude 2. Good written and verbal communication skills 3. Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team 4. A strong willingness to learn 5. Demonstrated ability to facilitate and lead activities for children and young people 6. Willingness to travel to remote areas
What you get out of it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to visit some of the most remote regions of Australia • Opportunity to develop workplace experience and transferable skills • Opportunity to be involved in Linkz community-based programs and projects and gain valuable first-hand knowledge of Indigenous culture and issues affecting some of Australia's most disadvantaged communities • A chance to make a real difference and be part of a dynamic and innovative team!
Time Commitment	<p>The commitment for this program is approximately 3-4 hours per week including a 2 hour face to face group session held on a fortnightly basis.</p> <p>There may also be a small number of full day training opportunities however the dates for these are flexible and will be negotiated on an individual basis.</p> <p>NB: It is critical that you are available for a 3-4 week block over June/July to undertake the remote community placement in the Northern Territory.</p>

