

Hi, my name is Meg Jordan.

In response to Jackie Lambie's question, I wanted to tell my story about how I was welcomed into and supported by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the Aboriginal community as a whole.

My mum and dad separated shortly after I was born. Dad is Aboriginal and he was raised in an overcrowded foster home (another story).

Mum made sure I was proud of being Aboriginal even though we didn't really know much about Aboriginal culture.

On formal forms Mum didn't tick boxes saying I was Aboriginal simply out of respect for my dad who chose not to tick boxes. One day when I was in grade 10, I chose to tick a box stating I was Aboriginal. The teacher approached me to say "no, you are not Aboriginal, you haven't ticked boxes before". This started me thinking that I need to find out more about who I am and who I am related to.

I started by contacting the TAC and getting in contact with a staff member who was able to help me to track down relatives. I also talked to local Aboriginal elders who remembered my dad's family.

This all happened seven years ago. Since then the TAC has offered me a huge amount of support including pregnancy support, access to a midwife, doctors, health and wellbeing sessions and playgroups.

I love being able to get together with other Aboriginal people at community events.

I also gained valuable experience when I had the opportunity to take a short term position as a receptionist at the Launceston TAC.

Most of all though, my beautiful baby boys are embraced by the Aboriginal community which gives us a true sense of belonging. My boys are being raised within a strong, resilient and caring community.

The best thing I ever did was finding out where I came from.

Thanks for listening, Meg.

