

Lionel Dukakis Managing Director of Indigenous Affairs First Nations Traffic Management & First Nations Labour Hire Pty Ltd.



I was born Lionel John Dukakis on the 19th February 1962 to Evelyn Rose at the Orbost Hospital in Far East Gippsland Victoria under the Flora and Fauna Act, not even recognised as a human being. This reason might explain why my mother did not have a birth certificate for me. I know this may take in a little time to comprehend the impacts of the above sentences. I had two older sisters and two older brothers of which an older brother and older sister are deceased. I have three younger sisters and a younger brother.

I am a Proud Gunditjmara Man, who has strong ties to Framlingham Mission through my Grandmother Vera Austin, and Lake Condah Mission through my Grandfather John Sutton Rose. I am also a Proud Father of four adult kids and a grandfather of six beautiful grandchildren.

As a Member of the Stolen Generation myself, taken from my mother when I was 18 months old, I know what it is like to start life behind the eight ball. I have witnessed first-hand the trauma and devastation which has impacted numerous families, some who have masked their trauma through addictions. I have buried far too many of my family and relatives and friends because of this.

I am proud to say that I have been working in the Indigenous space for 30 years, 20 years of that working in building and civil construction. As a former CEO and Program Manager, who has worked for several Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations (ACCHO) and Government departments. I have also worked in mining in remote Western Australia.

I am very enthusiastic about creating change through employment and Empowering Our Mob and their families to be the best versions of themselves, my extensive career history in the Indigenous sector has allowed me to make an impact and place a handprint in change.

Social Procurement is so important to me and my work at both First Nations Traffic Management and First Nations Labour Hire. It must be driven from the top of governments down to the people writing the tender documents and those sitting on panels making decisions.

Governments and heads of government departments who are creating Social Procurement Framework strategies and targets need to ensure contractors are complying with government mandates with appointed contractors held accountable and monitored by government for the term of the contract.

If governments are serious about engaging Authentic Indigenous Businesses, they need to make sure that there is weighting towards Social Procurement targets that are measurable.

Otherwise, our children, their grandchildren and their great grandchildren will be having this same conversation way into the future and that is Unacceptable to Me.

My story mirrors those of my fellow Brothers and Sisters right across this land, many who are not as privileged as me to be able to share their stories today.

It is Called a Hand Up Not Hand Out. Please see our Instagram and website stories below.

Website <http://www.fntm.com.au> follow us on Instagram **firstnationstraffic**