

MEDIA RELEASE
Tuesday 25 February, 2020

Former Olympian, Socceroo and Indigenous leader announced as GIVIT's Indigenous Ambassador

National online charity [GIVIT](http://www.givit.org.au) is proud to announce one of Australia's most decorated football players, and Indigenous advocate, **Jade North** as Ambassador for their **National Indigenous Support Program**.

GIVIT matches generosity with genuine need through its website – www.givit.org.au - ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have access to what they need, when they need it most.

From Arnhem Land to suburban Sydney, GIVIT's National Indigenous Support Program has become a vital resource providing essential items to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as items to support people to return to work and school.

Since launching the program in 2019, GIVIT have connected with 225 Indigenous support organisations across Australia and have provided linen, shoes and underwear, to mattresses, laptops, and appliances for their clients needing support.

Born in the NSW community of Taree and a proud member of the Biripi Mob, Jade North is an inspiration beyond the world's football fields.

Jade's 20 years as a professional footballer saw him compete in teams across Asia, Europe and Australia, and earn countless accolades including 2016 NAIDOC Sportsperson of the Year, the first Indigenous captain of the Socceros and competing at the Athens and Beijing Olympic Games.

Jade has been an ambassador for the Mini Roos, the Leukaemia Foundation, Mental Awareness Foundation, the Indigenous Games and the Indigenous Football Championships. Jade also founded 'Kickin with a Cuz', a football program that uses inclusion through sport to empower disadvantaged Indigenous children to make better life choices.

Jade North says growing up in a fractured family and battles with depression have motivated him to create sustainable pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to better their lives.

"I'm incredibly excited to be part of GIVIT's Indigenous program, that asks our communities across Australia exactly what our most vulnerable people need to improve their situation," Mr North said.

"I want to support and inspire as many Indigenous children and communities as possible, and there's no better platform that provides dignity and hope to each donation recipient than GIVIT and their National Indigenous Support Program."

GIVIT CEO Sarah Tennant said she was thrilled to welcome such a strong figure in the sporting and Indigenous community as the charity's Indigenous Ambassador.

PO Box 3061
Newstead, QLD 4006
Australia
ABN: 21 137 408 201

givit.org.au

“Jade’s passion to make a real difference will be life-changing for the hundreds of Indigenous charities and communities we support across the country,” Ms Tennant said.

“We can’t wait to assist even more people through our growing Indigenous program. With Jade as our Indigenous Ambassador, we hope to raise awareness of our life changing program and inspire more people to donate items or funds to better the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our cities as well as rural and remote communities.”

100% of donated funds received by GIVIT are used to purchase essential items, from local businesses and providers where possible.

Some examples of the difference GIVIT’s Indigenous program is making are;

- *A mum couldn’t leave hospital with her baby as she had no capsule to transport the newborn home. GIVIT was able to provide a pram for them at short notice before they travelled home.*
- *A single mum escaping domestic violence needed help sourcing furniture as she set up a safe new home with her three young children. GIVIT provided beds for each child as well as bedside tables, lamps, sheets and quilts to ensure they had a comfy and warm place to sleep.*
- *GIVIT provided a bed for a disadvantaged young man undergoing treatment for Leukaemia. He had been sleeping on a mattress on the floor.*

Jade North will balance his role as Ambassador alongside his responsibilities as National Client Relationship Manager for Vivid Property Services Pty Ltd.

“GIVIT is thankful to Vivid for encouraging Jade to undertake his Ambassador role while continuing in his corporate position that supports increased Indigenous employment and business ownership through Vivid’s Indigenous Services”, Ms Tennant said.

To donate items, or see what is needed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia, please visit www.givit.org.au/indigenous.

Donors can also give funds to specifically support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by visiting www.givit.org.au. 100% of funds received are spent purchasing essential items.

If you are a charity or community group working with Indigenous communities and want to access donated goods, or request specific items for the people you support, please register at www.givit.org.au/charity-registration.

**For more information or to arrange an interview please contact
E: media@givit.org.au M: 0444 503 759**



About GIVIT

GIVIT is a national online not-for-profit connecting those who need with those willing to give. Through its website givit.org.au, trusted Australian charities are supported as they request essential, quality items on behalf of their clients. GIVIT matches their needs with public and corporate generosity, facilitating quality goods to reach our most vulnerable, impoverished and marginalised individuals in a safe, easy and timely manner. Since establishment in 2009, more than 1.5 million items have been donated via GIVIT to assist Australians in need. In 2011 GIVIT established its disaster recovery service following the Queensland floods and managed the donation of more than 18,000 items.

Since then, GIVIT has become the official partner of the Queensland Government managing offers of assistance after disasters on its behalf and has already distributed more than 227,000 items after 2019 Queensland flooding and 14,563 items so far for Queensland Fires. GIVIT distributed more than 17,600 items to people in need after the 2018 Queensland fires and after 2017's Tropical Cyclone Debbie, coordinated the donation of 92,000 items. In 2015, GIVIT gained national attention with Founder and Director Juliette Wright receiving Australia's Local Hero Award by the National Australia Day Council and inducted into the Australian Businesswomen's Network Hall of Fame. In 2019, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). GIVIT also received a National Resilient Australia Award by Australia's Attorney-General for its disaster recovery service and The Australian National Innovation Challenge Award.

PO Box 3061
Newstead, QLD 4006
Australia
ABN: 21 137 408 201

givit.org.au