



## Important information about a cyberattack on YMAC

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### MEDIA STATEMENT: 8 December 2022

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) became aware that the Office 365 account of an employee had been compromised. Immediate action was taken to contain the attack and further examination indicated that the Office 365 accounts of three employees had been compromised, arising from a targeted spear phishing attack by overseas hackers. A third-party forensic expert has confirmed the cyberattack is confined to the email mailboxes of these three employees.

YMAC has commenced contacting individuals potentially affected by the cyberattack to explain what happened, how they were affected and what they could do to protect their personal information. YMAC pledged support to assist those individuals who may need to replace any identity documents compromised by this cyberattack.

YMAC has partnered with IDCARE, Australia's national identity and cyber support service for the community, to provide specialist case management support to those affected and host Cyber Resilience Outreach Clinics in our regions.

YMAC's review of the compromised accounts has been ongoing. The investigation has established that the data breach was the result of a malicious criminal attack and not the result of system failure or human error.

As at the date of this statement, YMAC has not received any threat or ransom from any third party to misuse any personal information.

YMAC takes privacy and data protection very seriously and remains committed to the continuous improvement of its practices, systems and security.

In an ever-increasing global environment of cyber-crime, YMAC's cybersecurity capabilities have enabled the organisation to block more than 1.58 million attacks between July and September 2022 alone. As a result of the cyberattack YMAC has further secured its information technology environment and strengthened systems across the organisation.

The cyberattack has been reported to the Australian Cyber Security Centre, the Australian Federal Police and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. YMAC continues to work with forensic and cybersecurity specialists to investigate the attack.

### For more information

- Anyone who thinks they might have been impacted by this cyberattack should contact IDCARE by completing the 'Get Help Now' form (for Individuals) at [www.idcare.org](http://www.idcare.org) or calling them on 1800 595 160.  
Visit our website: [www.ymac.org.au/cybersecurity](http://www.ymac.org.au/cybersecurity)
- Email us at [cybersecurity@ymac.org.au](mailto:cybersecurity@ymac.org.au)

*All quotes to be attributed to Mr Simon Hawkins, CEO Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.*

**Ends**



**Yamatji Marlpa**  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



## About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for what are described as the Pilbara (Marlpa) and Geraldton (Yamatji) regions of Western Australia. YMAC is run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors, representing several native title groups, each of whom has their own language, culture, traditions, and protocols. YMAC provides a range of services, including native title claim and future act representation, heritage services, executive office, community, economic development assistance, and natural resource management support.

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