



# Aboriginal Services

Connecting with community



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Introduction

When Relationships Australia WA (RAWA) first specifically designed a service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities 14 years ago we knew we had much to learn about offering culturally appropriate support. In 2006 the Relationships Australia Indigenous Network (RAIN) was formed. In 2007 A Framework for Action: Relationships Australia's Ongoing Commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (the Framework) was developed. The Framework guides RAWA's ongoing journey in the development and delivery of services and programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Over the years, through partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and individuals, we have learned much and have grown our capacity to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This booklet is a record of our journey so far and is a resource for individuals, families, communities and organisations who may want to access the services we now offer. We look forward to continuing our connection with community.

Kaya (Hello), wanju (welcome), my name is Angela Ryder, of the Wilman and Mineng language groups of the Noongar moort (peoples) of the South West of Western Australia. I began working with Relationships Australia WA (RAWA) in 2007. My koort (heart) is djurip (happy) to be part of the bidi (journey) that RAWA has undertaken and to share some of the remarkable work that RAWA has developed and delivered with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across this boodja (land). RAWA began its cultural journey with understanding and respect more than 14 years ago and has quietly continued to provide support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. I admit that I was not aware of RAWA before a chance meeting with Jan Woodland (dec) in 2005 who became a steadfast and dear friend as well as a colleague who worked passionately with our community until her death in 2014. In 2007 I began my work in Tambellup with the development of a program that continues today called KidCare. Several years down the bidi (track) RAWA has grown its programs and is committed to culturally safe work practices. I sincerely hope that you, the reader, find our bidi (journey), through the stories in this booklet, not only interesting but of benefit to noonook (you) in finding a service that will support noonook (you) and your needs. Bordawan (later).

**Please note:**

The term *Aboriginal* used throughout this document refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

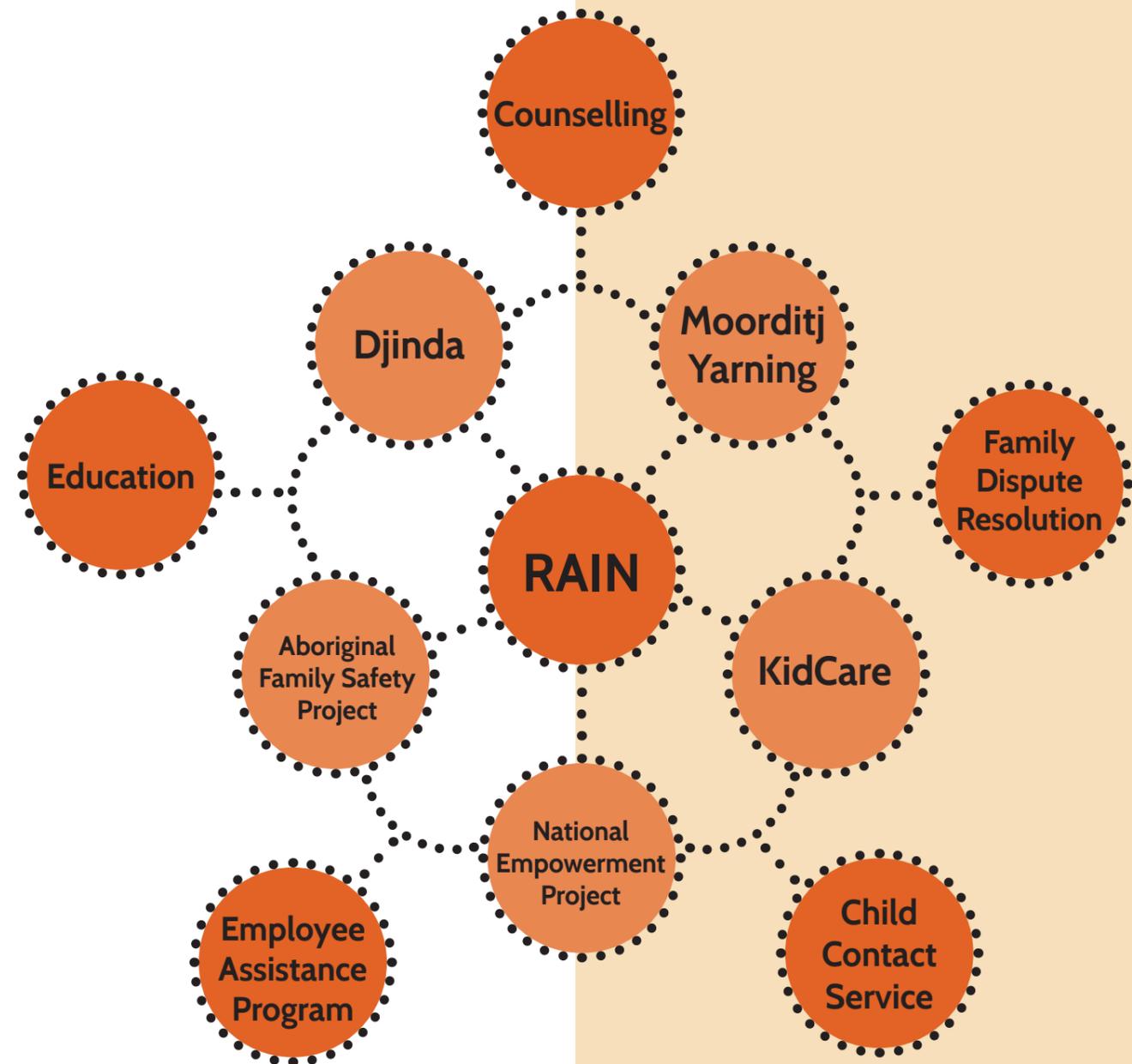
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples should be aware that this document may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.



Terri Reilly, CEO



Angela Ryder, Senior Manager - Aboriginal Services



Our support services interlink and connect to Relationship Australia WA's Aboriginal support services. All of the services are available to and inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.



# Djinda Service



In 2015 Relationships Australia WA began a collaboration with the Women's Legal Service WA (WLSWA), with the aim of improving the safety of Aboriginal women and reducing the trauma of those who have experienced family and domestic violence. It is the only service in the Perth metropolitan area specifically for Aboriginal women who are survivors of family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

**WHO IS IT FOR?** Djinda Service is available for free to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander woman living in the Perth area who has experienced domestic, sexual or family violence.

**PROVIDES:** Djinda can help survivors of family and domestic violence with support they may require in regards to child protection issues, housing assistance, counselling, applying for family violence restraining orders, refuge accommodation, and attending appointments with other services and organisations. Djinda's partnership with the

WLSWA is crucial. A specific team of female Djinda solicitors at WLSWA provide important legal advice to women who are already struggling and dealing with the trauma of the violence.

**RUN AND SUPPORTED BY:** The staff at Djinda are Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women - mothers, daughters and sisters, who care about the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Staff have personal and professional experience in understanding family and domestic violence.

When Amy stepped onto a plane with her four young boys, she had no idea what the future would hold.

Forced to flee from a violent partner in Melbourne, she found herself alone in Perth with nothing for her family but the clothes on their backs. "It was daunting trying to start over again. I had no idea what to do," Amy said.

After being introduced to Gemma Spee, an Aboriginal Resource Worker at Djinda, Amy was able to get back on her feet, helping her to provide a stable and loving environment in which to raise her children. The resource workers at Djinda are not limited by the amount of time they can spend *continue over...*



**"Djinda is a Noongar word for 'star', chosen because it represents us as women who guide our families, shine brightly, survive against the odds, and who are strong in our determination to keep our families safe."**



...with a woman, and are able to offer support where it is needed.

"We understand that domestic violence can affect women for a long period of time in their lives, and having to overcome the trauma of the violence they endured isn't a fast process, it's a very slow one," Gemma said.

"Little everyday things that might be easy for anyone to do, are often difficult for women who have had to flee their homes and find their way and manage - we don't want them to have to do it alone."

It is this level of care and dedication that led to the Djinda team winning the 2018 Program of the Year at the NAIDOC Perth Awards.

"One day we might be in court holding a woman's hand in support while she obtains a family violence restraining order against her ex-partner, and the next we might be in an office listening to the story of a client who has walked in off the street," said Gemma.

"Helping the women navigate services such as

Centrelink and rental agencies, being the person to fill out the mountain of paperwork for them, and be a shoulder to cry on when things get too tough, is important support we can offer.

"We allow women to heal in their own time, we don't push them into making decisions, and our support is non-judgemental, respectful and safe always."

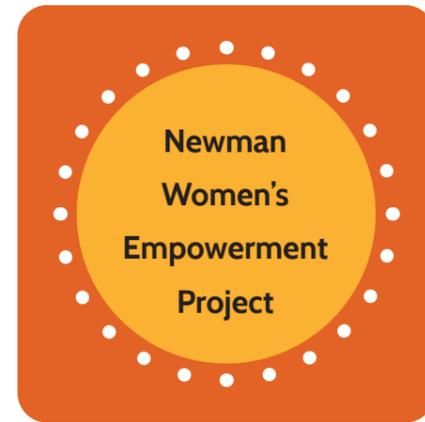
As a survivor of family and domestic violence, Amy said it was hard to adapt to a new type of environment and know that she and her children were going to be safe.

"But I'd be in a bigger hole right now if it wasn't for Djinda helping me out with all aspects of my life."

**"It was daunting trying to start over again. I had no idea what to do."**



# Newman Women's Empowerment Project



**WHO IS IT FOR?:** All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in the Newman area.

**PROVIDES:** A safe space to yarn, do craft activities and participate in educational workshops.

**RUN AND SUPPORTED BY:** This program is co-ordinated by Sammi Ryder. Funding is provided by Fortescue Metals Group, Relationships Australia WA and the Shire of East Pilbara.

In 2017 Sammi Ryder, a mum of three and long-time resident of Newman, realised there were no local services for Aboriginal women who had become isolated from their family and friends. After speaking with women across the community, and with the support of Relationships Australia WA, Sammi was successful in receiving funding to set up a program that would provide local Aboriginal women with a space and opportunity to socialise, learn new skills, and gain knowledge.

Thanks to word-of-mouth and support from the community, the group has blossomed and there is fantastic engagement in the workshops presented. A wide range of topics are covered including grief and loss, and parenting. Some of the activities organised by Sammi for the group include making essential oils with a Doterra lady, making coffee scrubs and bath bombs, marbling mugs, wood burning, and canvas art.



As testament to the success of the group, her dedication to the community, and her culturally appropriate support to people living in Newman, Sammi was nominated for the 2019 Newman International Women's Day BHP Award.



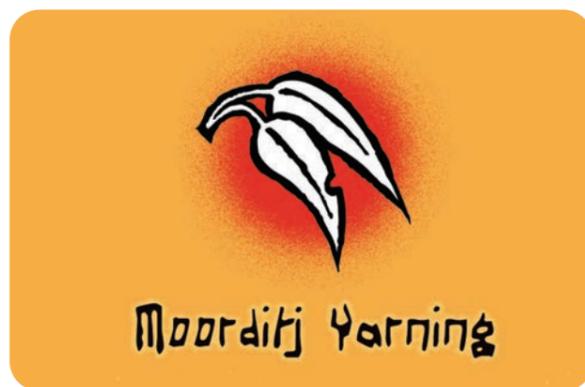
"We love coming together and seeing each other each week, and enjoy the time spent away from home and the children to just relax and do some arts and crafts and enjoy a deadly feed, which I cook up each week," said Sammi.

"One lady comes nearly every week, and told me she looks forward to Thursdays, as she knows that's her time to go and do her own thing at the group. She tells me all the time she feels relaxed and in a much better head space when she's here, and is always thankful for the opportunity to attend and learn new things and take crafts home."



**"I love the women's group as it brings women from all different backgrounds together and we all yarn and share our stories, our struggles, our achievements and we just listen and we are there for each other. The ladies have learnt skills they didn't know and made things for their home." Sammi Ryder**

# Moorditj Yarning



**WHO IS IT FOR:** Moorditj Yarning is available to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and families.

**PROVIDES:** Moorditj Yarning can provide support for all concerns or issues, family and one-on-one counselling, and also run workshops and men's and women's groups. So if something's bothering you, or you'd like to talk to someone, please call us. We encourage people to drop in for a chat during the week when we are at the Wadjak Northside Community

Centre and, if you wish, talk about what's worrying you. You can also book a personal appointment for a one-on-one confidential yarn.

**RUN AND SUPPORTED BY:** Moorditj Yarning staff are Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, male and female, and experienced in working with most issues that concern community: grief and loss, family violence, anger issues, managing stress, drug and alcohol issues, and relationships.

## Women's Group

Moorditj Yarning means good talking... and that's what this group of women do every Tuesday at Wadjak Northside Community Centre in Balga.

Gathering for weekly craft sessions, like sewing or painting classes, the women sit and talk, or listen to mentors sharing their knowledge about culture, heritage and traditions. Country and Western music fills the room, as the women sing along and share materials for their paintings.

"The purpose of the group is to develop a relationship and build trust, listening to what the women identify as areas of concern they want to work with, before counselling can take place," said Moorditj Yarning Coordinator Deb Singh.

"By yarning over a cup of tea, sharing a lunch, and participating in other activities, we can show that we are safe and won't disappear after six months, which all helps to promote healing."

This strengthening effect can be shared, as through the women, Moorditj Yarning is also able to reach men and young people to offer support.

Aunty Pat has been attending the women's group in Balga for four years. She says she looks forward to every Tuesday so she can paint and relax, and have a yarn with the other ladies.

"The atmosphere is good – everyone is very happy and caring. They really look after you and we have a cup of tea, a bit of lunch and a chat.

"I don't like it when it's time to leave."

Aboriginal Resource Worker Megan Hill said the women really enjoy their Tuesdays together.

"If someone needs a hand with her art, we can lend a hand. And we chat about all sorts of family issues. We're like sisters."



## Banksia United

Shots were fired, passes made and tackles attempted – all delivered with large smiles and laughs of delight. While it might have seemed like any old game of football, this debut match was only the beginning of an enduring community sports program.

In 2011 the young team of Banksia United walked out onto the green grass of the soccer pitch for the very first time. With brand new soccer boots and uniform, the team felt like sports stars – helping grow their self-esteem and sense of worth.

Since then, this weekly Saturday soccer program set up for Aboriginal young people in the northern suburbs has grown into a multi-sport hub in Koondoola.

The Edmund Rice Centre's Banksia United Aboriginal Multisport Program now introduces a new sport every six to eight weeks.

Some of the most popular initiatives have included six weeks of swimming training with Royal Life Saving, and the gymnastics program. A hearty lunch is served to hungry tummies after the sports fun.

One of the key aims of the program is to develop mutual multi-cultural understanding in a culturally safe environment.

"The coaches and volunteers have extensive experience in delivering the sports sessions, and they build amazing rapport with the young Aboriginal kids and some of their extended families," said Moorditj Yarning Coordinator Deb Singh.

"Sport is incredibly powerful in building respectful relationships and breaking down cultural barriers."

"Yarning, like counselling, can support people in different ways."

## Creating connections within schools

During the week you will find Annette Dickie, Megan Hill and Deb Singh getting crafty with kids in northern suburb schools of Perth.

As part of Moorditj Yarning's outreach program, they visit Joseph Banks Senior High School, Banksia Grove Primary, Clarkson Primary School and Balga Senior High once a week. It's all part of a plan to support Aboriginal students to feel comfortable and engaged in the classroom, so they gain the knowledge and skills needed to enjoy education success.

"Through engagement with the kids, we can also support their families and parents, and encourage their participation in the school so they feel like part of the community," said Annette.

Some past projects the kids have participated in include involvement in the Moorditj Yarning Art Exhibition, the creation of a Six Seasons bush tucker garden, taking part in healthy eating programs and Aboriginal language classes.

"It is an exciting achievement for the children to create physical artworks and it's wonderful to have the support of the schools, who really encourage and get behind the programs we are delivering."



# NAIDOC Week Events



## Because of Her We Can

Strong beautiful portraits of Aboriginal women, photographed by Aboriginal women, took centre stage in Perth's Yagan Square during 2018 NAIDOC Week.

Women from Relationships Australia WA's Moorditj Yarning Wadjak based group participated in the #CANBecauseofHer community portrait project. The women worked alongside mentors from Camera Story and the Community Arts Network to develop their photography and communication skills, helping to empower Aboriginal women in the Perth metro area through the medium of photography. Some women even starred in their own portraits, becoming models for the day.

At the end of the project a series of the portraits were exclusively screened via a digital tower in Yagan Square, alongside live entertainment, all in celebration of the NAIDOC Week theme of 'Because of Her, We Can'.

Thanks to the success of this initial project, Camera Story will continue to work alongside the women of the Moorditj Yarning program each year.



**“Celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.”**

## NAIDOC Week Opening Ceremony

In the beautiful setting of the Supreme Court Garden, next to the Derbal Yerrigan, Relationships Australia WA joined the yearly celebrations at the official Perth NAIDOC Week opening ceremony.

Volunteers got busy cooking yongka (kangaroo), beef and vegetarian sausages on the BBQ, and with the delicious smell wafting across the park, lines quickly formed for the free sausage sizzle we provided as part of our support for the celebrations.



## Aboriginal Youth Standing Strong 2019 NAIDOC Youth Ball

After years of planning and discussion the NAIDOC Youth Ball finally made its debut in 2019. The ball was a safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to dress up and have fun, and celebrate culture, as many don't feel comfortable

attending the balls held at their schools. A red carpet was rolled out at the Hyatt Hotel, with the festivities hosted by Jamahl Ryder. The evening featured live entertainment and was a night to remember - one which will be repeated!



## Little Peeps NAIDOC Ball

Running since 2016, this event in Kwinana is held especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children up to 11 years to celebrate NAIDOC Week. Food, music by a DJ, activities, games and prizes are all highlights of the afternoon, with the kids diving straight into the fun.

The ball was a brainwave by Angela Ryder and Donna

Brahim, after they were discussing how fabulous it would be to arrange a special event for the young children in the community.

The fifth ball is being planned for 2020. Thanks for this year's support from City of Kwinana, Australian Red Cross, Moorditj Koort, Medina Aboriginal Cultural Community Centre, Ngala and the Smith Family.



# National Empowerment Project



The National Empowerment Project (NEP) is an Aboriginal led research project, established in 2012 and led by Professor Pat Dudgeon from the University of Western Australia. Extensive community consultations were conducted in response to the high rates of psychological distress, self-harm and suicide in Aboriginal communities. As part of this project Relationships Australia WA is working in partnership with Langford Aboriginal Association to deliver the NEP Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing (CSEWB) program. This program has been delivered in Langford, Balga and Kwinana.

**PROVIDES:** The CSEWB program focuses on strengthening the cultural, social and emotional wellbeing of individuals, families and the community, and involves a number of activities that have a community-wide focus.

**WHO IS IT FOR:** The CSEWB program is specifically available to Aboriginal men and women over 18 years of age in the Perth metropolitan region.

**RUN AND SUPPORTED BY:** The program delivery has been facilitated by Angela Ryder, Elizabeth Hayden, Geraldine Hayden, Annette Dickie, Carrie Millson and Paul Garlett. Thank you also to Professor Pat Dudgeon and local government and community organisations who have worked in partnership with us.

After months of hard work and creative inspiration, a beautiful Aboriginal mural now spans a wall at Kwinana Marketplace. This stunning artwork depicting and acknowledging local Aboriginal culture and the six Noongar seasons was created by graduates who completed the Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing (CSEWB) Program in 2018.

The mural was an important part of the program, which includes participants identifying and implementing a community cultural project. With the support of many community members, including police and fire personnel, the mural was successfully completed in the heat of Bunuru (summer) from January to March 2019.



**“Since completing the National Empowerment Project CSEWB program, I have gained knowledge in how to deal with difficult situations. I have now been empowered in gaining employment within my community and found happiness and feeling much better about myself.”**



One participant said the project helped him connect with himself, family, his community and his culture. “It’s informative, transformative and life giving.”

As well as taking part in a joint community project, participants also complete Mental Health First Aid Training and other healing and leadership workshops. These are designed to help participants develop the skills and knowledge to form strong, supportive relationships with one another and build confidence in themselves, their family and their community. Topics range from family structures and dynamics, the importance of Elders, understanding of the Stolen Generations,

positive parenting, and how to develop greater self-esteem, assertiveness and positive thinking.

Support is provided to participants after they have graduated, with culturally appropriate engagement strategies to continue to support the social and emotional wellbeing of graduates.



**“After the NEP program I have completed a Cert II in Business and done work experience with the zone youth spaces. Now I volunteer for the Australian Red Cross in Kwinana. I really enjoy working in the Kwinana community and to be a role model to the younger youth. I’m also studying a Cert III in Community Service; it made me realise there’s more out there and a lot you could give to the community and to also prevent the youth from making wrong choices in life.”**

# KidCare



**HISTORY:** In 2007 Lynthia Flowers was instrumental in establishing an outreach service at a former service station operated by the Tambellup Aboriginal Progress Association. This was recently renamed 'Lynthia's Place', after Lynthia, who passed away in September 2019, in recognition of her skill, dedication and generosity working with the community.

**WHAT IT PROVIDES:** KidCare prioritises children and families and aims to reduce levels of family violence at a community level. Through counselling and community

development Relationships Australia WA staff implemented the project and now run a variety of weekly activities and events.

**RUN AND SUPPORTED BY:** Relationships Australia WA's Aboriginal Resource Worker in partnership with Wanslea, Aboriginal Health, Southern Aboriginal Corporation, Southern Ag-Care, Amity Health, Communities for Children, Wirrpanda Foundation, the Tambellup Community Safety Project and many wonderful community volunteers.

## Breakfast Club

The breakfast club is still going strong at Tambellup Primary School and every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning we help keep the kids fed, healthy and happy – ready to start their school day. Providing a free, healthy breakfast within a school breakfast program helps children to achieve their best in the classroom and in the playground. Students participating in the School Breakfast Program not only experience the physical benefits, but also the positive social and educational aspects of the program.

## Lynthia's Place

Community spirit in the Great Southern is boosted every Tuesday at Lynthia's Place. A group of men and women gather each week to create handicrafts such as basketry from vines and reeds, beautiful examples of T-shirt printing, and making soap and skin care products. The group even designed artworks to be painted onto calico for new curtains for the centre.

But colourful crafts are only one of the results of the weekly gatherings. Another is bonding of family and friends. While mixing paints and adding glue and beads to calico, or breaking for a homemade morning tea and lunch, a buzz fills the room as the mothers, nephews, god-daughters and toddlers enjoy the chance for yarning and forming new relationships.

Lynthia's Place also continues to be a huge drawcard for primary aged children, who visit the centre on Monday afternoons to have afternoon tea followed by homework support, literacy and numeracy development, and a collection of extension activities.



# Redress Support Service



**HISTORY:** On Wednesday 27 June 2018, the Western Australian Government announced that it will join the National Redress Scheme, which has been created in response to recommendations by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

**WHO IS IT FOR?** If you have experienced sexual abuse as a child (up to 18 years) in an institution or group i.e. schools, sporting clubs, orphanages, foster care and religious organisations, group homes or clubs and are considering making an application for the

National Redress Scheme. This free service is available throughout WA.

**HOW CAN WE HELP?** We will provide support and assistance to people throughout their engagement with the National Redress Scheme process, including individual support for applying to Redress face-to-face or by phone, referral to other support and legal services, giving you all the information you need on the National Redress Scheme and assistance with the National Redress application.

From the Midwest Gascoyne to the Goldfields to the Kimberley, the Redress team have been travelling the West Australian country to connect with Aboriginal communities.

Meeting the organisations who work in these regional communities, and creating new connections with the local people has been the focus of John Rich, one of the Redress Case Managers.

"It's about ensuring everyone, everywhere, has the opportunity to reach out to us for support during what can be a stressful process," he said.

This care and dedication extends to all members of the community. After dropping into Kalgoorlie Prison for a chat recently, John connected with a man originally from Melbourne, who had been lost in the system and been told he wasn't able to be helped.

"He felt like he had been abandoned, and hadn't ever been able to tell his story," John said.

"But through word of mouth we were able to connect with him and help him through the Redress application process."

## Waakal Moort Kaadadjiny Festival (Rainbow Serpent Family Learning)

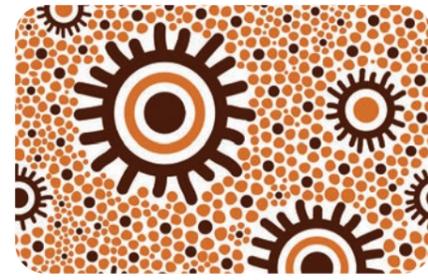
Under the summer sky the first Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Festival brought service providers together with community to support better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The Redress team joined more than 40 stallholders at the free event, which has a focus on mental health services, alcohol and drugs, physical health and employment and education services.

As well as learning about how to access community support programs there was plenty of time to have some fun. The day was filled with live cultural performances and activities, as well as some traditional food cooked by the Elders.

Case Manager John Rich said it was fantastic to attend the festival to be able to share information on the Redress Support Service, and how we could provide culturally appropriate support through the Redress process.

# Legally Assisted & Culturally Appropriate FDR Program (LACA)



**HISTORY:** In 2017 LACA was federally funded for a two year pilot. This funding has since been extended to June 2020. While the pilot program will be ending, Relationships Australia WA will continue to offer the same culturally sensitive service through our Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) program.

**PROVIDES:** LACA aims to help separating couples reach agreements that are in the best interests of their children. This may be an alternative to going to Family Court. Each client also has the support of a free

lawyer assigned to their matter, to advise them before – and be with them during – the mediation. Mediations can be conducted in the community and tailored to clients' needs. Staff are trained in domestic violence and culturally safe practice.

## WHO CAN ACCESS THIS SERVICE?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents (at least one parent) who have separated, or are in the process of separating, where there has been family and domestic violence, and there are children under the age of 18 years.

The Legally Assisted and Culturally Appropriate FDR program, known informally as LACA, offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families culturally appropriate responses and support through the mediation process.

Mediation can be a difficult process in itself, without the addition of extra cultural barriers when attempting to access services.

LACA, a free service, offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander case workers and also lawyers to provide legal advice and attend mediation sessions. Mediation is conducted in a culturally appropriate manner, using interpreters where necessary and working with external professionals. This service also works with family groups and children, not just Mums and Dads, as is common in mainstream mediation. By linking families with housing, counselling services and Aboriginal services, as well as liaising with other support agencies, families are supported in all areas.

LACA has added an important dimension to dispute resolution services at the Perth Family Relationship Centre.

## LACA FDR in practice

Among the clients who have benefitted from accessing the LACA service was a mother with substance misuse, who was unable to see her child. The child was living with the father and after accessing the LACA service the mother was supported into counselling and supervised contact with her child and case workers liaised with the Department of Child Protection.

Thanks to the LACA service this family is now sharing the custody of the child and co-parenting respectfully. The parents initially said they did not want to attend as they did not trust or wish to access a 'mainstream' service. However our staff worked with the parents around their concerns, and offered various alternatives such as outreach sessions, taxi vouchers and many other supports. It was a very happy outcome in the end with the parents saying they were very grateful they attended LACA, and that the process had changed theirs and their child's lives for the better.

# Other Services

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As well as specific Aboriginal Services, all the programs and services Relationships Australia WA provides are available to and inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We provide an open, transparent and safe environment and culturally sensitive service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members who may wish to access our other support services.

**Counselling** - our counsellors have strong experience working with alcohol and drug problems and other health concerns such as diabetes, family and relationship issues, grief, loss and domestic violence. We can either meet you one-to-one or offer the chance to join one of our groups. These group meetings are informal, open to ideas – and can be fun too.

**Child Contact Service** - we can help reduce stress by providing a safe and supportive way for children to move between separated parents (changeover) and maintain a relationship with the parent they do not live with and with other family members. Over time our aim is to help parents develop their own ways of managing contact arrangements that are in the best interests of their children.

**4families** - This free service provides whatever support families and carers need, linking them to a variety of services to reduce family stress and enable children and young people to reach their full potential. An Aboriginal Child and Family Practitioner is available at our Bunbury location.

**Education Services** - The relationship education programs range from workshops to eight week courses. We offer a broad selection of programs and topics that reflect the complexity of 21st-century life. Visit our website to find which education programs suit you best.

**Forced Adoption Support Service** - This free service is for anyone who has been affected by forced adoption. The impacts of forced adoption are wide ranging and can extend beyond mothers, fathers, adopted persons and family members. If you have been affected in any way by forced adoption, we are here to help you.

**Employee Assistance Program** - The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is designed to help organisations support their employees by promoting personal well-being and strengthening relationships in the workplace, at home and within the community.

**Empower Families** - This free service can help you if you want to improve the health and wellbeing of your family, would like someone to walk alongside you while you figure things out together, have a child or children aged 0 to 12 and live in Kwinana.

**Find and Connect** - This free support service has been set up to help Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants uncover their history, trace and reclaim their identities, help build relationships with their families and come to terms with their past.

# Community Initiatives

- In 2019 a group of Aboriginal women started their own businesses, designing artworks that can be printed onto fabric, with the support of the Moorditj Yarning Program Coordinator Deb Singh. They now collectively attend markets where they sell their unique and extended merchandise, including Noongar Seasons Chiffon Silk Scarves & Lux Size Canvas Cushions.
- Delivering the Aboriginal Family Safety Project in partnership with Langford Aboriginal Association. The initial stages include community consultations, with the view of developing an Aboriginal Family Safety Program. We encourage and welcome community participation in developing this important resource for community.
- Holding Aboriginal Grief and Loss Workshops to yarn about the losses people were experiencing and to learn how to manage the grief around their losses.
- Running a year-long Noongar words campaign on social media for United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages. (2019)
- Running cultural fitness training programs for organisations and companies in Perth. These training days can help raise awareness and bring changes in workplace attitudes and practices in regards to working with Aboriginal People.
- The Moorditj Yarning Art Exhibition, which ran yearly from 2009 to 2016. Artworks produced by participants of the support service were sold during the exhibitions, with all proceeds going to the artists. The art workshops also helped enrich family relationships. This was a catalyst for the current Art and Yarning program at Langford Aboriginal Association.
- Supporting the Isiah Kearing Basketball Cup to raise awareness for suicide prevention.
- The SouthSide Beatz HipHop program, which engaged Aboriginal Youth using Hip Hop and movement. This program, held on Friday nights at Thornlie Community Centre, was a partnership with Save the Children and the City of Gosnells. Funding came from the WA Department of the Attorney General's Criminal Property Confiscation Grants Program. (2013)
- Contributing to the opening of the Mungitj Eco-Art Bushland Trail project, that developed an interpretive walking trail in Perth's Banksia Grove. It celebrates Aboriginal culture and practices and educates the wider community on how the bush was traditionally used by Noongar people. (2012)
- A cultural mural on the wall of the shop nearest the Banksia Grove Community Centre, which is a testament to the local creative spirit. Local young people worked with a professional urban art organisation, Graphite Crew, to complete the project, which was a partnership with Banksia Grove Residents' Association, Banksia Grove Development Agency, the Office of Crime Prevention, the City of Wanneroo, and People Against Vandalism (PAV). (2009)

# Acknowledgements

We can not do the work we do without the valued support of all our partners and fellow community organisations. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and resources over the years to help keep these services running. We would like to give special thanks to the following contributors for their dedication and generosity.

- Aboriginal Family Safety Project Community Reference Group Members
- Balga High School
- Banksia Grove Primary School
- Banksia Grove Residents Association
- Brad Goodlett
- Camera Story
- City of Gosnells
- City of Kwinana
- City of Rockingham
- City of Wanneroo
- Clarkson Primary School
- Community Art Network (CAN)
- Djinda Service Community Reference Group
- Edmund Rice Centre
- Jan Woodland (dec)
- Joseph Banks Senior High School
- Katanning Aboriginal Corporation
- Kojonup Aboriginal Corporation
- Koya Aboriginal Corporation
- Langford Aboriginal Association
- Medina Aboriginal Cultural Community Centre
- Miya Kaadadjiny (Learning Sanctuary) Community Centre
- Moorditj Koort
- National Empowerment Project Community Reference Group Members
- Ngala
- Perth NAIDOC Committee
- Penny Glanville (dec)
- Professor Pat Dudgeon, UWA
- Red Cross Australia
- Roger Cook MP
- RUAH
- Save the Children
- SMYL
- South Coastal Babbinger Mia
- South Metropolitan Health Service
- Tambellup Aboriginal Progress Association
- The Smith Family
- Wadjak Northside Community Centre
- Wirrpanda Foundation
- Women's Legal Service WA
- Wungening
- Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation

Artwork on cover - Tamara Hayden - Seven Sisters



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