ISSUE # 5 - JUNE 2026

DREAM IT FORWARD PROGRAM

AN INNOVATIVE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Alike WA

Kindly supported by Mental Health Commission

Government of Western Australia
Mental Health Commission

Alike WA acknowledges the traditional carers of Country throughout Western Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures; and to Elders past, present, and emerging. Alike WA acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation as the Traditional Carers of the land on which our office stands today.

THANK YOU

Alike WA would like to acknowledge and thank the WA Mental Health Commission for their ongoing support of the Dream it Forward small grants program. A special mention to Senior Contract Officer, Donna Harrison, and Manager Community Services, Jennifer Ferraro, for their steadfast support.

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INTRODUCTION

Since 2014, Dream it Forward has partnered with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Western Australia to support grassroots, community-led projects that strengthen healing, connection, and social and emotional wellbeing.

The program is grounded in cultural strength and community leadership. It recognises that communities already hold deep knowledge, resilience, and the ability to create meaningful change in ways that are shaped by local culture, lived experience, and community priorities.

Across Western Australia, Dream it Forward has supported projects that reconnect people with Country, culture, spirituality, family, and community. These connections play an important role in strengthening identity, belonging, wellbeing, and healing.

Every project is different because every community is different. What connects them is a shared commitment to creating spaces where people feel connected, supported, and empowered to lead change within their own communities.

Over many years, the program has built trusted relationships with Elders, community leaders, and local organisations. These relationships continue to create opportunities for people to share knowledge, strengthen cultural identity, support future generations, and build lasting community impact.

This storybook celebrates the people, stories, and communities behind that work, and the strength that continues to grow through connection, culture, and community-led action.

FINANCIAL YEARS

2023 - 2024

2024 - 2025

4,630
Average $ awarded per project

125,022
$ Awarded in total

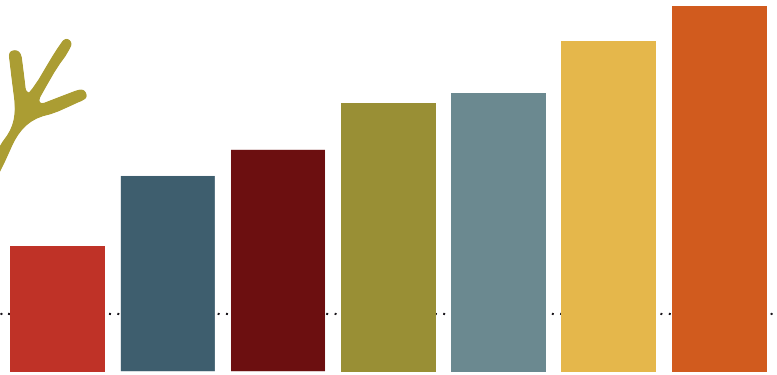
2,640+
Individuals impacted

26
Community Groups

27
Projects

KEY SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING OUTCOMES

Connection to body.....35%
Connection to spirit, spirituality and ancestors.....53%
Connection to Country.....65%
Connection to mind and emotions.....71%
Connection to community.....76%
Connection to family and kinship.....82%
Connection to culture.....88%





Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation

Region: Traditional Lands of the Kimberley
Category: On Country Camp

The Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation is a public non-profit organisation located in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. The name "Dawangarri" refers to the extended families or clans of the Bunuba people, reflecting the Corporation's commitment to kinship and community. The organisation prioritises the empowerment of Bunuba women, recognising their vital role in nurturing children, maintaining cultural continuity, and strengthening community resilience.

In 2022, the Corporation established the Bunuba Women's Collective, Wiyi Yani U, to provide a structured platform for women to lead initiatives that sustain and restore Bunuba culture and language. The Collective's work focuses on taking women and children out on Country to reconnect with their heritage, strengthen identity, and address the impacts of intergenerational trauma and cultural disconnection.

Dream it Forward supported the Collective's 2024–2025 project, designed and led by senior Bunuba women. The project delivered on-Country language and cultural camps, engaging women and children in cultural learning and language revitalisation activities. Funding enabled the purchase of essential camping equipment, ensuring safe, comfortable conditions and strong participation.

The initiative created employment opportunities for Bunuba women as artists, caterers, and camp assistants, alongside Elders who guided cultural teaching. Outcomes included strengthened cultural identity, increased language knowledge, and deeper intergenerational connections. The project reinforced women's roles as cultural custodians and nurturers of future generations, while also providing long-term capacity for ongoing camps.

"The on-Country camps are held across Bunuba Country, allowing women to share seasonal knowledge and pass down language, culture, and connection to ancestors. These camps build kinship and community, grounding children and youth in their cultural identity as Bunuba people."

"Our community is proud that we can now run these camps on our own terms. Previously, we relied on borrowed equipment, which came with conditions. This grant has given us true independence and long-term sustainability."





Combined Yorgas Retreats

Region: Noongar Country (Great Southern) and Ballardong and Yued Noongar Country (Wheatbelt)
Category: Women's Group

Over the past 8 years, Noongar women in the towns of Tambellup, Gnowangerup and Mount Barker have worked to create Yorgas groups, which meet weekly to help support each other through the ups and downs of life. The Elder-led groups are named: Tambellup River Girls, Gnowangerup Yorgas and the Mount Barker Moorilurrup Women's Healing Group Inc.

Dream it Forward funded a regional cultural healing gathering. The event brought together the three long-standing Noongar women's healing groups for two days and two nights of cultural sharing, healing, and vision-building on Country. This time away from the everyday stress of life provided culturally safe spaces for rest, yarning, and emotional support. The funding supported travel, accommodation, meals, and facilitation for the women to connect, reflect, and plan for a strong future together.

The ladies had an amazing time together, sharing yarns around the fire late into the night, and during the day discussing family trees and stories with the younger women. Outcomes of the program included strengthened cultural identity, improved emotional wellbeing, and deeper connections between women across towns. The gathering fostered unity, cultural pride, and belonging, reinforcing the value of ongoing peer and Elder support. Women reported increased confidence in their roles as leaders, carers, and cultural knowledge holders.



"All of the women said it was a healing time. Elders stayed up late yarning and laughing while teenagers painted and relaxed. The retreat built lasting links between the three groups and strengthened relationships that continue today."

"The retreat connected us to Country, community, and ancestors. Sharing stories, art, and family bonds brought healing and laughter. It was an important time for reflection, connection and joy."



GNOWANGERUP YORGAS

Tambellup River Girls

Northern Suburbs Noongar Language Group

Region: Whadjuk Noongar Country (Metropolitan)
Category: Language / Knowledge Transfer

The Northern Suburbs Noongar Language Group, based in Perth, is a community-led Aboriginal initiative dedicated to the revitalisation and preservation of the Noongar language. Rooted in the understanding that language is central to identity, culture, and connection to Country, the group creates opportunities for Aboriginal people to reclaim their traditional language in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment. For the Noongar people, language embodies ancestral knowledge, stories, and cultural practices carried across generations. Through its programs, the group addresses the intergenerational impacts of colonisation, assimilation policies, and language loss while fostering healing, empowerment, and cultural pride.

Dream it Forward provided funding to strengthen the delivery of the group's free community language classes. These classes are open to people of all ages and experience levels, embedding cultural knowledge alongside vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills. Lessons include storytelling, traditional songs, greetings, and local place names to ensure learning remains practical and culturally grounded. Funding supported the engagement of a dedicated language teacher and helped secure a consistent, culturally safe venue for ongoing classes. Over the 2024–2025 period, the group successfully delivered more than 40 sessions, engaging over 60 participants ranging from children to Elders.

The project resulted in strengthened cultural identity, community resilience, and increased pride in language and culture. Participants reported greater confidence, belonging, and healing from the intergenerational impacts of dispossession and assimilation.

"Offering free Noongar language classes fosters social connection, strengthens cultural identity, and promotes emotional wellbeing. Reclaiming language deepens ties to Country and kin, restoring pride and intergenerational knowledge. It's more than words, it's about reconnecting with self and community on a profound level."

"Learning and reviving Noongar language has provided powerful social and emotional wellbeing outcomes for our community. Speaking the language of our Old People is a sacred act, an expression of love, remembrance, and commitment to future generations."



Daru Salam

Region: Noongar Country (Wheatbelt)
Category: Arts Projects, Language / Knowledge Transfer

Daru Salam is a local community member based in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia who led a community-based arts project focused on cultural preservation, community connection, disability awareness, and individual empowerment. The project centred on sharing Indigenous culture, fostering intercultural understanding, and supporting social and emotional wellbeing through artistic expression, particularly through the use of the didgeridoo and tapping sticks.

Daru delivered a series of structured arts workshops designed to engage participants of all ages and abilities. The workshops focused on cultural learning and creative expression and included introductions to the didgeridoo, didgeridoo making workshops, creative expression sessions, playing lessons, and tapping sticks workshops. These activities provided opportunities for participants to develop skills, build confidence, and connect with culture in a supportive environment.

Dream it Forward supported Daru's project, enabling the delivery of multiple workshop sessions across the community. Four sessions were held with Northam Primary School, with further sessions delivered through the Friendship Club at Avon Communities. Project funding supported the purchase of art supplies, Elders' support and engagement, and catering to ensure inclusive and welcoming sessions.

The project strengthened community relationships and created culturally safe spaces for learning and expression. Outcomes included increased cultural awareness, improved creative skills, and enhanced social and emotional well-being for participants. By bringing together Elders, children, and community members, the project supported cultural continuity, encouraged inclusion, and reinforced the value of shared creative experiences within the Wheatbelt community.









headspace Northam

Region: Noongar Country (Wheatbelt)
Category: On Country Camp, Youth

headspace Northam is a free and confidential health service supporting young people aged 12-25, many of whom are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people living in Northam and surrounding towns. Located in the Wheatbelt region, headspace Northam offers a holistic approach to wellbeing, addressing mental, physical, and social health while recognising the broader cultural and emotional needs of young people and their families. The service provides a culturally safe space where Aboriginal youth can access support for challenges such as anxiety, depression, substance use, relationships, and school or work transitions.

Dream it Forward funded two culturally significant on-Country experiences designed to connect Aboriginal youth with Elders and traditional knowledge. Led by respected Elders Aunty Yvonne and Aunt Janet, a group of girls toured the cultural centre Bilya Koort Boodja to hear from the two Elders about women's business topics and learn about the six Noongar seasons. The six seasons were used as an inspiration for the girls to create new art pieces which the girls could take home.

The second trip, led by young Ballardong man Johnny Garlett, focused on men's business, introducing boys to traditional hunting practices, boomerang use, and the cultural importance of the didgeridoo. With Johnny's support, they learnt about the practices of the Ballardong rangers. Both activities encouraged storytelling, identity-building, and hands-on learning.

Funding supported transport, art materials, food, venue hire, and reimbursement for Elders' time and expertise. Outcomes included stronger cultural identity, improved emotional wellbeing, and increased connection to community, culture, and Country. Youth participants developed greater resilience, confidence, and pride through culturally grounded experiences.





"Our men's and women's business projects connected Aboriginal youth with Elders, cultural educators, and local Ballardong rangers. Young people learned art and on-Country knowledge, built peer networks, and strengthened ties with headspace. These activities opened conversations around mental health, culture, and belonging, creating safe, healing spaces for local Aboriginal youth."

Jamie Garlett

Region: Noongar Country (Wheatbelt)
Category: Art Projects, Language / Knowledge Transfer

Jamie Garlett is an individual artist based in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia who led a community-focused music project centred on cultural sharing, creative expression, and disability awareness. Through music and storytelling, the project aimed to deepen understanding of Aboriginal culture, foster a sense of belonging, and support the social and emotional wellbeing of young people and individuals with disabilities.

Jamie delivered a series of structured workshops and activities designed to engage participants in both cultural learning and music practice. The workshops included singer-songwriter sessions, storytelling workshops, and guitar lesson workshops, alongside activities centred on the didgeridoo and tapping sticks. These sessions provided participants with opportunities to build creative skills while learning about culture, communication, and self- expression.

Dream it Forward supported Jamie's project, enabling the delivery of workshops to a total of 45 participants across the Wheatbelt community. Project funding supported the purchase of audio equipment, paint and pigment, Elders' support and engagement, and catering, ensuring the workshops were accessible, inclusive, and well-resourced.

The project placed a strong emphasis on disability awareness and inclusion. Through guided discussions and shared learning, participants gained insight into the challenges faced by people with disabilities, helping to reduce stigma and promote empathy. Outcomes included improved confidence, strengthened creative skills, and a noticeable shift in attitudes toward cultural respect and disability awareness. As reflected in participant feedback, the project contributed to a more inclusive and empathetic community while empowering individuals to continue their creative pursuits and contribute positively to community life.





"The most significant change of the project was the shift in attitudes towards cultural respect and disability awareness. Participants developed a deeper appreciation for Aboriginal culture and a better understanding of disabilities, leading to a more inclusive and empathetic community."



KADADJINY
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION

Kadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation

Region: Noongar Country (Great Southern)
Category: Language / Knowledge Transfer

Kadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation that delivers culturally secure, confidential, and free services to Aboriginal people across the Great Southern region of Western Australia. The organisation is dedicated to empowering Aboriginal communities through social, economic, and cultural development initiatives that promote self-determination, resilience, and long-term wellbeing. The name Kadadjiny, a Noongar word meaning "thinking, listening, and learning", reflects the organisation's philosophy of fostering growth through reflection, understanding, and shared knowledge. This philosophy is represented in its logo, which features a fish inspired by the saying, "Give a man a fish, and he eats for a day; teach him to fish, and he eats for a lifetime," symbolising sustainable empowerment through education and community-led change.

Dream it Forward provided funding to support Kadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation's Elders Yarning Circle Group, a culturally significant program designed to bring Elders and community members together in a safe, respectful space. The Yarning Circle facilitates storytelling, cultural exchange, and intergenerational dialogue, providing opportunities to strengthen identity and promote healing from the impacts of colonisation and past government policies, including the Stolen Generations. Funding supported operational delivery, facilitator resourcing, culturally appropriate materials, and transport for participants.

Across 2024–2025, the program delivered 12 sessions, engaging over 60 participants and creating a trusted environment for reflection, healing, and cultural renewal. The initiative fostered stronger family relationships, greater confidence, and deeper community connection while reinforcing respect for Elders as cultural knowledge holders and leaders.

"The Elders Yarning Circle has provided a culturally safe space for our Elders to connect and heal. It has strengthened family bonds, promoted cultural pride, and helped people feel supported, heard, and empowered. Through shared stories and teachings, the Circle has built stronger kinship networks and reinforced the importance of cultural identity and belonging across generations."



Kwaalup Djet Aboriginal Corporation

Region: Noongar Country (Great Southern)
Category: Youth

Kwaalup Djet Aboriginal Corporation is a volunteer-run organisation based in the Great Southern region of Western Australia. It is committed to providing culturally grounded advocacy and support for Aboriginal communities, particularly for individuals and families impacted by alcohol and drug use, grief, psychological distress, youth disengagement, and limited access to counselling services. Guided by community need and cultural pride, Kwaalup Djet delivers holistic programs that promote empowerment, healing, and connection to Country through Elder guidance and intergenerational learning.

Dream it Forward funded Kwaalup Djet Aboriginal Corporation's Shearing Camp Project, an initiative introducing young Aboriginal boys to the shearing industry as a culturally relevant employment pathway. The camp served as both a job-readiness and mentorship program, where participants received hands-on training from experienced Aboriginal shearers and learned from Elders who shared their knowledge and stories of life on Country. Building on the success of previous camps, this year's project deepened collaboration with local farmers and added creative components, including screen-printing workshops led by local artists, to engage participants with diverse interests.

The project led to increased employment readiness, confidence, and cultural pride among the young men involved. Through shearing, teamwork, and shared experiences, participants built resilience, discipline, and a stronger sense of identity. Families, Elders, and community members noted improved attitudes, stronger bonds, and renewed motivation among the boys.

"The boys that attended were keen, and the shearing school gave them something to look forward to. They shared meals, yarns, and laughter, leaving Kendenup in a good space. The camp helped them connect to their bodies, minds, families, culture, and ancestors while learning skills that strengthened both spirit and community."



Miya Kaadadjiny (Learning Sanctuary) Community Centre Inc.

Region: Whadjuk Noongar Country **(**Metropolitan)
Category: Art Projects, Language / Knowledge Transfer

Miya Kaadadjiny (Learning Sanctuary) Community Centre Inc. is a not-for-profit, Aboriginal community-controlled organisation located in Girrawheen, WA. The Centre provides a culturally safe and welcoming space for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to gather, connect, and participate in programs that strengthen cultural identity, wellbeing, and community connection. Benefiting over 100 community members, Miya Kaadadjiny offers arts and crafts workshops, youth programs, Noongar language classes, Bush Tucker Garden activities, Kwobidak Yoka (beautiful women) and Walbirniny healing sessions focused on grief and loss.

Dream it Forward funded a series of cultural healing and youth engagement initiatives, including a NAIDOC Family Support Activity Day that brought community members together to celebrate culture through storytelling, dance, traditional meals, and creative expression. Youth-focused programs such as graffiti art and bike repair offered meaningful outlets for creativity and skills development, while Elders guided cultural education through language and storytelling. The Bush Tucker Garden served as a living classroom connecting participants to Country and traditional ecological knowledge, while Walbirniny sessions provided a safe space for emotional healing and reflection.

The programs strengthened intergenerational bonds, cultural knowledge, and emotional wellbeing. Participants reported a deeper sense of belonging and pride in their heritage, with families and Elders building stronger relationships across generations. The initiatives fostered healing, empowerment, and resilience through connection to Country, culture, and community, while creating opportunities for youth to develop confidence and life skills.



"Best NAIDOC event I have ever been to. Good music, good feed and even better company!"

"Thank you to Alike for the support of Miya Kaadadjiny Community Centre to deliver a wonderful local NAIDOC Week event for the community. Without this support, it would not have been possible to achieve such a positive impact and reach within the community or to cater for larger groups."

"Thank you so much for a moorditj time. The Welcome to Country was kwobidak (beautiful) and from the koort (heart). The dancers were so wonderful, very professional and committed."





Moorilurrup Women's Healing Group

Region: Noongar Country (Great Southern)
Category: Women's Group, On Country Camp

The Moorilurrup Women's Healing Group (MWHG) is a grassroots initiative under Amity Health's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health, Wellbeing, and Resiliency Program. Based in Mount Barker, the group meets weekly at the Uniting Church, which kindly provides access to the space. Named by a respected Elder who has since passed, Moorilurrup honours the ancestral Noongar women of local family groups and reflects the group's purpose: to offer a culturally grounded space for healing, connection, and support.

Members gather regularly to yarn over a cuppa, share stories, and take part in activities such as art, craft, cooking, and cultural exchange. The space provides comfort, confidentiality, and belonging, a vital source of emotional wellbeing, resilience, and community care for Aboriginal women in the region.

Dream it Forward funded a special family-focused healing camp for participants, including children who are part of the women's extended families. Many of these children are being raised by grandcarers or kin due to family hardship, making the camp a rare and precious opportunity for collective healing.

Outcomes included strengthened family bonds, intergenerational connection, and deeper cultural understanding. The camp provided a culturally safe space for rest, reflection, and reconnection, allowing women and children to heal together, share stories, and celebrate culture as a source of resilience and hope for future generations.











Newton Moore Senior High School (SHS)

Region: Noongar Country (South West)
Category: Youth, Language / Knowledge Transfer

Newton Moore Senior High School (SHS) is an Independent Public School in South Bunbury, WA, committed to delivering personalised, inclusive, and culturally responsive education. The school emphasises student voice, community connection, and the authentic integration of Aboriginal culture, language, and history into everyday learning.

Dream it Forward provided funding to support a series of initiatives designed to deepen students' understanding of Noongar culture and strengthen ties with the local Aboriginal community. This included an On Country Experience, led by respected Noongar knowledge custodians Ernie Hill and Philip Ugle, allowing students to visit culturally significant sites and learn about local songlines, histories, and traditions. Noongar language classes, delivered by linguist Charmaine Councillor, built staff and student confidence in using language in classrooms, promoting cultural literacy and revitalisation. Additionally, funding supported the purchase of didgeridoos, which Aboriginal Year 7 students debarked, sanded, varnished, decorated, learned to play, and will perform with at school assemblies and community events creating a lasting connection to their culture.

Outcomes of the program included increased cultural awareness and pride among students and staff. Students developed a deeper understanding of Noongar history and traditions, while staff gained confidence in embedding Aboriginal perspectives into the curriculum. The didgeridoo project fostered self-expression, cultural pride, and engagement, providing students with tangible links to heritage. Participation in the On Country Experience strengthened respect for land, knowledge systems, and community connections.

"The boys involved with the didgeridoos are truly excited and proud. Staff are enjoying the Noongar lessons, which are well-presented, fun, and build cultural understanding. The program has strengthened connections to culture, family, kinship, and community, fostering pride, confidence, and joy among students and staff alike."



Ngany Wirrin Aboriginal Community Support Group

Region: Whadjuk Noongar Country (Metropolitan)
Category: Art Projects, Language / Knowledge Transfer

Ngany Wirrin Aboriginal Community Support Group is a grassroots, Aboriginal-led initiative dedicated to supporting and empowering Aboriginal families within the City of Wanneroo. The group is founded on the principles of cultural strength, healing, and community connection, providing safe and meaningful opportunities for families to gather, connect with Country, and strengthen their sense of identity and purpose.

Dream it Forward supported the Moort Biddi Cultural Day, a full-day cultural immersion experience designed to build cultural knowledge, promote healing, and strengthen community bonds. The funding covered a guided Cultural Tour led by respected Noongar Marmun Derek Nannup, as well as a healing art and yarning session led by local artist and cultural knowledge holder Esandra Colbung and facilitated by Abby Ware. Participants explored culturally significant sites, learned about local songlines and ancestral connections, and contributed to a collaborative art piece.

Outcomes included strengthened cultural identity, social and emotional wellbeing, and connections to Country, culture, and community. Families reported deeper understanding of Noongar history, traditions, and values, with intergenerational learning, storytelling, and cultural art activities. Elders, parents, and children were able to share knowledge, build confidence, and express cultural pride. The collaborative art piece remains a visual symbol of community resilience, unity, and cultural continuity. Ngany Wirrin continues to provide a culturally safe space for families to grow, learn, and thrive; together on Country.







"The Moort Biddi Cultural Day connected Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families to Noongar culture, fostering understanding of kinship, Country, and spiritual connections. The yarning circles, introductions in cultural ways, and collaborative art activities created a safe learning environment, strengthened community relationships, and empowered participants to celebrate their heritage while learning from Noongar knowledge holders."







Team Connect WA

Region: Across Country (Statewide)
Category: Youth

Team Connect is a community engagement program designed to support teenage girls, particularly those experiencing or at risk of social isolation, by helping them build stronger connections with school, community and themselves. Delivered in partnership with a local community cricket club, the program offers a fun, inclusive, and non-competitive sporting experience in a culturally safe and welcoming environment. The program uses sport to build confidence, leadership skills, and strong connections to culture and community. Team Connect is proud to have created meaningful opportunities for hundreds of Aboriginal girls.

Dream it Forward supported two key elements of the Team Connect program: the creation of printed Team Stumps and the production of a three-minute video capturing the voices and experiences of the girls involved. The stumps were designed by the girls as part of the "Team Stump" initiative, allowing them to paint unique patterns and stories that were then printed and used in matches. The video provided a platform for girls to share their journeys, achievements, and reflections in their own words, celebrating their experiences and raising awareness of the program's impact.

Outcomes included increased self-esteem, cultural pride, and community visibility. The printed stumps have become a powerful symbol of identity, ownership, and recognition, sparking conversation among players, families, spectators, and club volunteers. The video amplifies the girls' voices, enabling wider recognition and appreciation of their contributions. Participation strengthened connections to team, school, family, and community, while also encouraging reflection on culture, Country, and spirituality.





"The girls involved in designing the Team Stumps developed a strong sense of pride and accomplishment. Their families, teammates, and community were excited and supportive, and the project strengthened connections to school, team, and community. The video and stumps allow the girls' creativity and cultural reflection to be celebrated widely, fostering confidence, cultural pride, and a sense of belonging for all participants."





South West Women's Health and Information Centre (SWWHIC)

Region: Noongar Country (South West)
Category: Women's Group

South West Women's Health and Information Centre (SWWHIC) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of women across Western Australia's South West region. The centre provides a wide range of services, including counselling, cervical screening, health education, and personal appointments with a qualified nurse, in a confidential, respectful, and inclusive environment. Beyond individual services, SWWHIC facilitates workshops, support groups, and community programs that foster empowerment, resilience, and social connection.

Dream it Forward funding supported the hiring of a First Nations facilitator as part of The Grounded Women's Wellbeing Project, which aims to create a culturally safe and welcoming space for Aboriginal women. The facilitator led yarning circles, cultural art and language activities, and healing-focused workshops, ensuring programs were culturally appropriate and community-led. Participants engaged in intergenerational activities, including keyring-making, painting, succulent potting, and the creation of the Native Bee Mural, which promoted reconnection with Country and cultural knowledge. The program also provided opportunities for women to attend community events such as NAIDOC celebrations and fundraisers, strengthening kinship and community networks while reducing isolation.

Outcomes of the project included strengthened engagement with Aboriginal women, increased participation in health and community programs, and enhanced emotional wellbeing, resilience, and cultural pride. Participants reported a deeper sense of belonging, connection to family, kinship, and community, and opportunities for spiritual reconnection through creative and yarning activities. The presence of a trusted First Nations facilitator enabled open dialogue, relationship-building, and culturally grounded support, fostering sustained engagement and empowerment. SWWHIC continues to provide a safe and inclusive space where women can learn, heal, and thrive, ensuring culturally respectful and supportive pathways to health and wellbeing.





"The Grounded Women's Wellbeing Project provides a safe, culturally affirming space for women of all ages. Yarning circles, creative workshops, and community gatherings foster kinship, cultural pride, and connection to Country, spirit, and ancestors. Many women describe the sessions as 'the only time I have felt safe or accepted,' highlighting the program's profound impact on wellbeing, resilience, and community cohesion."



TYM4CHANGE

Region: Across Country (Statewide)
Category: Art Projects

TYM4CHANGE is a grassroots Community Support and Coordination Service dedicated to walking alongside vulnerable individuals and families who need in-home, social, or community-based support. Founded on principles of compassion, cultural safety, and empowerment, TYM4CHANGE draws on lived experience and cultural knowledge to provide personalised care that responds to each person's unique needs. The organisation prioritises building real relationships with participants, offering meaningful connection in addition to practical support.

Dream it Forward provided funding to purchase screen printing equipment and materials for their creative and cultural arts program. These resources enabled hands-on, culturally safe workshops that focus on identity, self-expression, and skill development. Integrated with existing programs, including sewing, traditional basket weaving, and contemporary Aboriginal art, participants, particularly Aboriginal women and young people, explored cultural storytelling through textile art, designing and printing their own patterns, symbols, and messages. Workshops were designed as artistic outlets and opportunities for healing, connection, and learning within a supportive group environment.

Outcomes included enhanced self-confidence, cultural pride, and social connection. Participants reported feeling calmer, more connected, and proud of their culture through creating and wearing or gifting printed pieces. The workshops also fostered intergenerational learning, with Elders and younger participants sharing knowledge and techniques. Screen printing skills created further opportunities for income generation and community engagement. The project has had a ripple effect, inspiring cultural pride and conversations in families and the broader community, strengthening wellbeing and belonging across participants and supporters. TYM4CHANGE continues to provide culturally safe, creative programs that uplift community voices and foster resilience.



"The screen printing workshops allowed participants to express their cultural stories and identity in meaningful ways, boosting confidence and pride. The project created a culturally safe space where people connected, shared knowledge, and developed new skills. The resulting artwork inspired conversations and engagement within families and the wider community, fostering cultural healing, belonging, and a lasting sense of empowerment."



Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation

Region: Traditional Lands of the Kimberley
Category: On Country Camp

Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation (WAC) is the Prescribed Body Corporate for the Nyikina Mangala and Booroola Moorrool Moorrool Native Title Determinations, representing over 27,000 square kilometres of Country in the West Kimberley. Established in 2014 and expanded in 2021, WAC upholds the environmental, social, and economic interests of its people, guided by the vision of becoming a self-sufficient organisation that protects Country in accordance with cultural law and sustainable land management. Through initiatives such as cultural return-to-Country trips, language preservation, youth and women-led ranger programs, and partnerships with Kimberley Agriculture and Pastoral Company (KAPCO), WAC promotes holistic social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB).

Dream it Forward funding supported WAC with the purchase of essential camping and field equipment to strengthen the delivery of culturally safe and accessible on-Country programs. The grant provided chairs, gazebos, tables, swags, tents, eskies, and stoves, key resources for operating in remote environments. This equipment enables Elders, youth, and families to comfortably gather on Country for cultural ceremonies, storytelling, healing, and knowledge sharing. It also removes barriers to participation by reducing the financial and logistical challenges for community members who might not have access to camping gear.

Outcomes of the project include increased capacity for WAC to deliver inclusive, culturally grounded SEWB programs that foster healing, intergenerational connection, and cultural revitalisation. With improved logistical capability, WAC can host more frequent and far-reaching on-Country activities that strengthen identity, belonging, and pride. The new equipment ensures programs can be delivered safely and efficiently while maintaining cultural integrity, supporting WAC's long-term goals of empowerment, cultural continuity, and community-led wellbeing across Nyikina Mangala and Booroola Moorrool Country.







West Kimberley Futures
EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

West Kimberley Futures Empowered Communities (WKFEC / EC-West)

Region: Traditional Lands of the Kimberley
Category: Youth

West Kimberley Futures Empowered Communities (WKFEC or EC-West) is a regional, Aboriginal-led initiative committed to improving social, cultural, and economic outcomes across Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Valley, the Dampier Peninsula, and surrounding areas. Founded on principles of community-led action and cultural authority, the organisation prioritises youth empowerment, ensuring young Aboriginal people are included in decision-making and actively leading conversations that shape their futures. Through leadership development, cultural engagement, and advocacy, EC-West provides platforms for young people to build confidence, express their identity, and lead with purpose.

Dream it Forward provided funding to support travel, fuel, and resources for WKFEC's community-based youth engagement activities. These funds enabled facilitators to travel across vast and remote Kimberley regions to deliver workshops, forums, and leadership sessions in culturally significant locations. Resources purchased included activity kits and culturally relevant tools that supported youth-led projects, storytelling exercises, and interactive leadership activities.

Outcomes of the project include increased youth participation in community leadership, strengthened cultural identity, and improved access to mentoring and support services. Participants reported feeling more confident sharing their views, proud to contribute to community conversations, and motivated to take on leadership roles. Culturally grounded, hands-on activities promoted peer-to-peer learning and connection between Elders and youth, while the removal of barriers such as transport ensured inclusivity and trust-building. The ripple effect of the program extended beyond participants to families, peers, and local services, fostering broader community engagement, awareness of mental health and substance use issues, and strengthened support networks.





"The West Kimberley Youth Forum created a safe space for young people to learn about mental health, AOD issues, and leadership. Participants built confidence, developed leadership skills, and strengthened their connection to culture, community, and Country. By sharing knowledge with families and peers, the forum fostered a more informed, empowered community, highlighting the importance of youth voices and wellbeing."









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