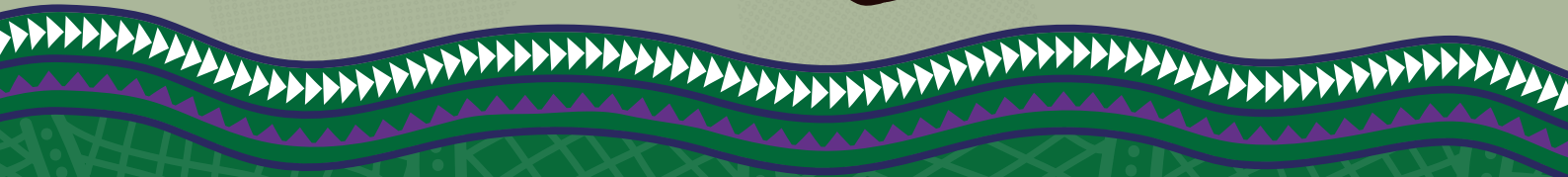




# WIYI YANI U THANGANI NATIONAL SUMMIT

SHOWCASE BOOKLET



Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission

The Australian Human Rights Commission encourages the dissemination and exchange of information provided in this publication.



All material presented in this publication is provided under **Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia**, with the exception of:

- the Australian Human Rights Commission logo
- photographs and images
- any content or material provided by third parties.

The details of the relevant licence conditions are available on the Creative Commons website, as is the full legal code for the CC BY 3.0 AU licence.

#### **Attribution**

Material obtained from this publication is to be attributed to the Australian Human Rights Commission with the following copyright notice:

© Australian Human Rights Commission 2023.

#### **Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit Showcase Booklet**

For further information about the Australian Human Rights Commission or copyright in this publication, please contact:

Australian Human Rights Commission  
GPO Box 5218, SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Telephone: (02) 9284 9600  
Email: [communications@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:communications@humanrights.gov.au)

**Design and layout** Dancingirl Designs

**Cover illustrations** Elaine Chambers, We Are Creative 27 and Carbon Creative

**Printing** Print Media

# Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) National Summit

## SHOWCASE BOOKLET

### *Welcome to the Showcase Booklet for the Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit 2023*

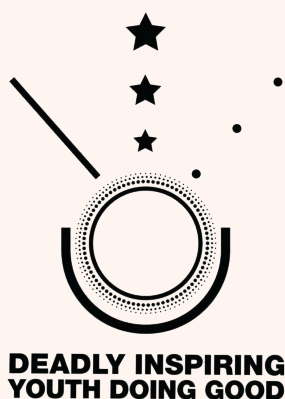
This Showcase Booklet offers an overview of the speakers, initiatives and organisations who will present at the Youth Forum and across the concurrent sessions and workshops during each day of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit.

It is designed to accompany the Summit Program, which specifies the date, time and location of each presenter's session.

You can find out more about the organisations by attending these sessions.

We thank all those who are presenting on their impressive initiatives and providing workshops for Summit participants. There is much to learn and share with each other whether you are a participant or presenter. Everyone has important contributions to make in creating the future together and achieving First Nations gender justice and equality.

# YOUTH FORUM



## Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG)

Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation is a youth-led, non-profit organisation empowered by young people aiming to inspire, equip and empower the next generation to take action that changes their world. By providing a platform for young people to co-design and lead their own projects DIYDG is forging a way to a stronger future. DIYDG is a proud partner of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit—leading the design, development, and delivery of the pre-Summit Youth Forum. The Forum brings young First Nations women together from across the nation, providing an opportunity to form valuable connections and prepare for the week ahead ensuring that the voices of our young women, and the generations to follow remain at the heart of all we do. We look forward to hearing from members of the Youth Forum across the Summit Program.



## Indigital

### Presented by Mikaela Jade, Indigital

Mikaela is a Cabrogal woman of the Dharug-speaking Nation of Sydney. She began her career as a national park ranger. While working in the remote Northern Territory, she started a project that led her to found Indigital: Australia's first Indigenous Edu-tech company.

Through Indigital, Mikaela seeks to develop innovative ways to digitise and translate knowledge and culture from remote and ancient communities<sup>4</sup>. Her aim is for Indigital to help create meaningful pathways for Indigenous people into the digital economy and the creation of future technologies.

In 2022 Mikaela was announced as one of 15 leaders to be awarded the Schwab Foundation 2022 Social Innovators of the Year award, was nominated for the ACT Australian of the Year Award and was named ANU Indigenous Alumna of the Year.





## Project Groove Co.

### Presented by Zhanae Dodd

Zhanae's first and foremost passion is her business, Groove Co which focuses on cultural restoration, revitalisation, restoration and advocacy alongside capacity building for community through education. A notable program from this organisation is the Yambanga Yuindi Cultural Immersion and Exchange program, which recently saw six young people reclaim their language, dances and songlines before heading across to Auckland, New Zealand for a cultural exchange where they were the first Aboriginal group in history to dance at Polyfest.

Zhanae is now focusing on growing the business to include a cultural centre, financial literacy programs, traditional jewellery and implementing a wider focus on cross-cultural relationships throughout the Pacific.

Zhanae believes First Nations people have a large role to play in the Pacific and wants to create pathways to strengthen relationships with people and places. Zhanae's driving force in her work and business is to empower Indigenous peoples of all ages to self-determination, while educating others on how to create safe spaces to learn and work in.



## Common Ground / First Nations Future

### Presented by Rona Glynn-McDonald

Rona is a Kaytetye woman who grew up in Mparntwe on Arrernte Country. With ties to storytelling, economics and narrative change, Rona works with First Nations organisations to shape future systems that centre on First Nations people, knowledge and solutions. Rona is the founding CEO of Common Ground and co-founder of First Nations Futures. Through her work across social change and philanthropy, she is shaping futures grounded in reciprocity and economic justice.

Rona will also be presenting for First Nations Futures in the Concurrent Sessions on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May.

## CONCURRENT SESSION:

### Leadership and decision-making for self-determination



## Change Making and Political Engagement

**Presented by Michelle Deshong and Carla McGrath**

Turnstone Collective is an Indigenous owned and operated entity. It is the collaboration of the two founding directors, Michelle Deshong and Carla McGrath, who are strong, proud, and accomplished Indigenous women with a wealth of experience in Indigenous women's leadership, governance, and public participation.

As an Indigenous led women's organisation, the Turnstone Collective are profoundly connected to country, culture and family. Turnstone are committed to supporting the aspirations of First Nations women, and believe unreservedly in their unique strengths. Led by Indigenous women, Turnstone's ways of knowing, being and doing are informed by 60,000+ years of connection to this land, nuanced leadership knowledge and governance structures.

Turnstone brings over 30 years of experience in the design, delivery and evaluation of high-level leadership and development programs regionally, nationally and internationally, in fields including leadership, governance, gender justice, international diplomacy and political engagement. In this session they will share their insights and experience on Change Making and Political Engagement.



## Indigenous Governance Excellence

**Presented by Jessica Bulger, Australian Indigenous Governance Institute**

Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (AIGI) is an independent, Indigenous-led, not-for-profit organisation connecting Indigenous groups, individuals and organisations to best-practice and place-based governance expertise and knowledge through strategic partnerships, research, advocacy, training and resources. AIGI believes that practical, effective and culturally legitimate governance is the fundamental building block for real change.

ALGI's **Indigenous Governance Toolkit** is a foundational resource developed by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, drawing on diverse knowledge systems, experiences and solutions to bring Indigenous ways of thinking, being and knowing into mainstream governance practices. It contains stories about innovative ideas and practices, and strategies and tools that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to determine for themselves how best to build effective and legitimate governance systems.



## Nurturing, supporting, affirming, and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+SB Communities

**Presented by Associate Professor Corrinne Sullivan, BLAQ Aboriginal Corporation**

BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation is the peak organisation for Aboriginal Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual + Sistergirl and Brotherboy (LGBTQIA+SB) peoples and communities in New South Wales. As a member of the NSW Coalition of Peak Organisations, BlaQ is the first LGBTQIA+SB organisation to be a part of an Aboriginal Peak Coalition, providing an opportunity and platform to advocate for the queer community in Indigenous policy.

BlaQ responds to the need for stronger representation for the Indigenous queer community as 'a minority within a minority' by advocating for their rights, offering case-by-case support, providing training and resources for individuals, communities and organisations, and building community networks and partnerships.

## CONCURRENT SESSION: Language, land, water and cultural rights



### Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Strategic Plan for Language, Law and Culture

**Presented by Merle Carter, Annette Kogolo and Aggie Pigram**

Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre (KALAAC) promotes, facilitates and encourages the use of traditional forms of cultural expression, including songs, dances, ceremonies and cultural heritage to keep land, language, culture and law strong across the 30 language groups in the Kimberley Region.

**The Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Strategic Plan for Language, Law and Culture** presents a pathway to promote the practice and sharing of Kimberley Aboriginal women's culture onto the next generation, ensuring that traditional ways of knowing, doing and being thrive in the future. The Plan was developed by and for Kimberley Aboriginal women through a process that combined the knowledge, values and priorities of different language groups, communities and local organisations together, planting law and cultural practices firmly at the centre. The Plan identifies localised priorities and actions across communities and supports the implementation of localised, place-based and language group strategic plans to respond to specific needs, challenges and opportunities.



### My Grandmother's Lingo

**Presented by Angelina Joshua, Ngukurr Language Centre**

The Ngukurr Language Centre is an independent, non-profit organisation that seeks to revitalise, document, teach and promote the traditional languages of the Ngukurr community in southern Arnhem Land. Ngukurr follows a whole-of-community approach to revitalise local heritage languages by running language courses, camps, teaching language in schools, cultural awareness courses, publishing language resources, and using digital technology.

Ngukurr's interactive documentary, **My Grandmother's Lingo**, leads participants through a sensory-rich tour of Angelina Joshua's heritage language, Marra. As Angelina did not have the opportunity to learn Marra in her childhood, she dives into the story of her desire to learn Marra as an adult, documenting the language from her grandmother before her passing, and the sense of joy and pride that learning her ancestry through language has brought her.



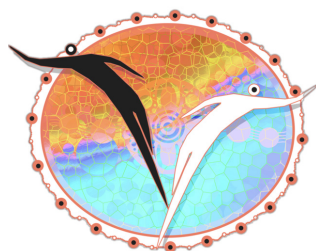
## “Ngketya Nwernaka Ilkerta Mparetyeka” Making Our Language Strong: The Pertame Master – Apprentice Program (MAP)

**Presented by Vanessa Farrelly, Leanne Swan, Elsa Swan and Doreen Abbott, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education**

The Batchelor Institute is Australia’s premier First Nations dual sector tertiary education provider privileging First Nations knowledge systems in education and teaching.

**The Pertame Master-Apprentice Program (MAP)** is an Indigenous community-led language immersion project that seeks to grow the next generation of Pertame speakers while nurturing strong cultures and identities. MAP focuses on uplifting all generations of Pertame women and girls, revitalising the critically endangered language of Pertame, and creating a space for knowledge and culture sharing. By practicing language, future generations have access to cultural and knowledge systems that span over 60,000 years, shaping the identities of women and girls. The program privileges the knowledge of Elders sharing traditional ways of learning and knowing through cultural practices, such as art, dance and song, collecting bush foods and medicine, and learning about kinship and responsibility.

## CONCURRENT SESSION: Societal healing and intergenerational wellbeing



### Butterfly Dreaming

**Presented by Leanne Saunders and Cheryl Penrith, Visual Dreaming**

Visual Dreaming is a First Nations women-led tech company creating digital solutions based on Indigenous language, culture and knowledge to enhance wellbeing. They provide holistic support and personal guidance to restore cultural connections and develop relationships within the community to achieve better health and mental health outcomes.

Visual Dreaming's **Butterfly Dreaming leadership program** is designed to inspire leadership in Aboriginal girls aged 8 to 16 years by strengthening their connection to self, family, community, identity, and culture. The program aims to support cultural identity and reduce mental health impacts by creating a positive environment and establishing support networks.



### Telling Our Story

**Presented by Laurel Sellers and Dawn Wallam, Yorgum Healing Services**

Yorgum Healing Services is an Indigenous women-led community-controlled organisation providing culturally secure, community-based healing support for Aboriginal families across Western Australia. Located in East Perth, Yorgum utilises a holistic trauma-informed approach providing healing, counselling, support and advocacy services that work within an Aboriginal Family Worldview. Doing so provides an inclusive and safe space for individuals to work through trauma and rebuild connections that positively impact their social and emotional wellbeing.

Yorgum adopts a 'no turn away' policy, strengthening their role and importance in the Aboriginal community as providers of wellbeing and support at all stages of need, from early intervention to recovery. Healing events, such as camps, day and healing circles are an important part of Yorgum's services. These may include self-care and cultural activities, using cultural artefacts, narrative, or art therapy, complementing mainstream approaches, to promote healing, build self-confidence and reconnect to culture.





## Healing Forum priority actions informed by Zenadth Kes women

**Presented by Fiona Cornforth (Healing Foundation) and Aletia Twist (Mura Kosker)**

The Healing Foundation is the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that provides trauma-aware, healing-informed support and a platform to amplify the voices and lived experiences of Stolen Generations survivors and their families—helping government, policymakers, and stakeholders to understand their role in intergenerational healing.

**The Mura Kosker Healing Forums** are a collaboration between the Healing Foundation and the Mura Kosker Sorority (the peak women’s organisation in the Torres Strait region, protecting and promoting the rights of women, children and families) designed to empower communities to address trauma by leading culturally safe healing processes with community, government and non-government stakeholders. Through a community-led approach, the Forums empower Torres Strait Islander people to be in charge of their own healing, strengthening local leadership and governance, and developing partnerships and networks.

## CONCURRENT SESSION: Economic justice and empowerment



Australian  
National  
University

### Caring about Care

**Presented by Marcia Gerrard (MG Corporation) Kayla Glynn-Braun (The Equality Institute) Diane Collins, Tracey Harris (Sisters in Spirit) and Shirleen Campbell (Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group) with Janet Hunt, Elise Klein (Australian National University) and Zoe Staines (The University of Queensland)**

The Caring About Care research project aims to provide an understanding of the full scope and nature of unpaid care work performed by First Nations women, the complex realities shaping decisions around unpaid caregiving, and the associated impacts on women. It is working with First Nations women and organisations in the East Kimberley, North Queensland, Sydney/ Blue Mountains, Canberra and Central Australia to understand how First Nations women themselves conceptualise care work, how they value and experience it, including its challenges, how much of it they do, and how and if policy could better recognise and value it.

This collaboration with the AHRC is committed to pursuing the gendered implications of First Nations care work into the future and to continue collaborating with First Nations women to develop the findings from this research further. The research is funded by the Australian National University Gender Institute, with contributions from the University of Queensland and the Northern Territory Government.



### Indigenous Women's Financial Wellness

**Presented by Larisha Jerome, the First Nations Foundation**

First Nations Foundation is an Indigenous-led financial wellbeing foundation working with Indigenous communities and the finance industry to provide customer-centric and culturally designed financial education, training and information.

**The Indigenous Women's Financial Wellness project**, engaging almost 3000 women, delivers education, workforce participation, and individual and collective empowerment and leadership initiatives that address the unique economic disadvantages faced by Indigenous women. The project has been transformative in creating a women-centred, culturally safe and inclusive environment to empower women, and break down the financial literacy gap that systemically disadvantages Indigenous women.

*"By breaking down these barriers and empowering and inspiring through education, we embark on a more holistic approach to detect the underlying effects that it has on our Indigenous women." (First Nations Foundation)*

## WORKSHOP: Claiming your place



### Warrior Heart: Self-Defence for the Spirit, Mind and Body

**Presented by Shantelle Thompson OAM**

Shantelle Thompson is a Dream Weaver, Warrior Heart and the Barkindji Warrior. Weaving together her lived, learned and earned experiences to inspire and empower people to write their own story. Amplifying her impact through her voice and storytelling by being an example of the change she wants to see in the world. Her being and doing work is through being a Mum to x6, proud Barkindji/Ngiyampaa woman, Jiu Jitsu athlete, Author, Storyteller, Indigipreneur and CEVO of the Kiilalaana Foundation.

Warrior Heart is a workshop offering an experience in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu self-defence as a vehicle to engage in a deeper yarn about self-defence for the spirit, mind and body. What does it mean to believe you are worth defending, what is your inner knowing? And what does it look like in those spaces?

## CONCURRENT SESSION:

### Leadership and decision making for self-determination



#### Minymaku Way

**Presented by Margaret Smith, Lynette Ross and Liza Balmer, Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council**

Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council is a not-for-profit organisation governed and directed by Aboriginal women's law and authority, and delivers services for all Anangu living in the NPY region of Central Australia.

NPY Women's Council provides holistic, Anangu-led, strength-based, culturally relevant and trauma-informed services and programs, including Nganagkari – a traditional healers and community educators group; Tyanpi Desert Weavers – a social enterprise providing community employment through the creation of fibre art; and services aimed at improving the wellbeing, safety and health of children, families, aged people, people living with disabilities, and women and communities who have experienced domestic and family violence. NPY Women's Council and the Australian Childhood Foundation have developed a community-centred, culturally strong, trauma-informed practice framework for those working in responding to violence. It resources communities with the tools to build and develop culturally-grounded strategies to challenge violence and find safety in their lives.



#### Yorga Djenna Bidi Aboriginal Women's Leadership Program

**Presented by Jahna Cedar and Johanna Ward, Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute**

The Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute (WAALI) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation which builds and strengthens Aboriginal leadership and governance capabilities.

WAALI's **Yorga Djenna Bidi Aboriginal Women's Leadership Program** is designed to bring Aboriginal women together from across Australia with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Cultural content and context are interwoven through the program's design and delivery, with Elders providing mentorship, and sharing knowledge and support throughout. The program provides a culturally competent and safe environment to lead women through the beginnings of a healing process to overcome unhealed traumas, and build confidence, networks and leadership skills.



## I am Yanalangami

**Presented by Dr Belinda Russon, Bernice Hookey and Deb Edwards, Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative**

Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative is the first and longest running Aboriginal-controlled education organisation in Australia. The Co-operative provides education and training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 18-65, embedding cultural ways of learning, knowing and being into their courses.

Tranby's **Yanalangami: Strong Women, Strong Communities program** was created by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, seeking to share and amplify women's voices and knowledge. It addresses the unique disadvantages Indigenous women face by cultivating a space for women to learn, connect, heal, share strengths, and grow together. Drawing on their community experience, Yanalangami enhances women's leadership skills via yarning circles and story sharing practices to foster women's self-confidence, resilience, and strength. This approach recognises that leadership is not something that happens in isolation but takes the strength of many women empowering each other and walking together to create meaningful change.

## CONCURRENT SESSION: Language, land, water and cultural rights



### Strong Women for Healthy Country Network

**Presented by Jasmin Daly and Sheila White, Mimal Land Management**

In recent years, women caring for Country in the Northern Territory have made a consistent effort to gather with women across different organisations and communities. In 2019, Rembarrnga, Dalabon, and Mayili Elders invited women caring for Country from across the Northern Territory to meet at Bawurrbarnda in Central Arnhem Land. Here women from 32 ranger groups articulated their shared vision.

Today, this network is known as the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network, and is proudly auspiced by Mimal Land Management. Women rangers, Elders, healers, community workers, and supporters are continuing to gather at their forums and have set out how they will support each other to achieve their vision by collaborating, communicating, and advocating together as a network.

### Our Island, Our Home

**Presented by Nazareth Faud, Torres Strait 8 claimant and Lala Gutchen, Ailan Ambassador**

The Torres Strait 8 are a collective of eight Torres Strait Islander claimants advocating and fighting for their human rights against the Australian Government's inaction on climate change through their campaign, Our Island, Our Home.





**Our Island, Our Home** became the first climate litigation brought to the United Nations Human Rights Committee against the Australian Government based on human rights, and the first legal action globally brought by the inhabitants of climate change vulnerable islands against a nation state. In 2022, 3 years since the campaign was brought to the Committee, Torres Strait 8 again made history by winning their claim and obliging the Australian Government to pay adequate compensation and do whatever it takes to ensure the safe existence of the islands. The win also marked the first time an international tribunal has found a country has violated human rights law through inadequate climate policy; the first time a nation state has been found responsible for their greenhouse gas emissions under international human rights law; and the first time that peoples' right to culture has been found to be at risk from climate impacts, thereby setting precedent for future claims.



## Mirring-nga – social and cultural importance of Women on Country

**Presented by Rachael Cavanagh**

Rachael Cavanagh is a proud Minyungbal woman, cultural fire practitioner and mentor working with communities to share cultural knowledge and practices to make land management more sustainable. Rachael uses her vast experience working in the land management sector and applied knowledge for protecting and strengthening Cultural Fire Practices, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, and Contemporary and Traditional Land Management to promote the need for better processes and protection for Country.

Rachael advocates for the need for changes in policy to protect Country and for governments to address climate change through a systems-based approach. She is also an advocate for action for missing and murdered Aboriginal women who have been victims of domestic violence, was a co-founder of the Djinders DV support services and is the Chair of the Clarence Valley Women's Refuge.

## CONCURRENT SESSION: Societal healing and intergenerational wellbeing



### Djäkamirr Caretaker of Pregnancy and Birth

Presented by Associate Professor Läwurrpa Maypilama, Ms Rosemary Gundjarranbuy, Evelyn Djojtja Bukaltji, Maria Gurriwiwi, Professor Yvette Roe and Dr Sarah Ireland, Molly Wardaguga Research Centre

The **Caring for Mum on Country Project** which takes a decolonising participatory action-research approach, is working in collaboration with Yolngu women from Galaiwinku in Northeast Arnhem Land to integrate Yolngu and Western medical pregnancy and childbirth knowledge systems. Recognising that pregnant women in Galaiwinku have to fly hundreds of kilometres by themselves to give birth, which can be distressing and traumatic. A major objective of the project is to form a community-based cohort of First Nations doula-childbirth companions, known as Yolngu Djäkamirr, to provide cultural, emotional and spiritual support and a skilled birthing companion before, during and after childbirth. The Molly Wardaguga research centre at Charles Darwin University has partnered with the Australian Doula college to deliver djäkamirr training in Galaiwinku to grow the cohort, and reinvigorate Yolngu maternal health, pregnancy and birthing knowledges and care practices.

Another output of the project has been the documentary, **Djäkamirr**, was filmed over two years on the ancestral home grounds of the Yolngu First Nations peoples. It explores childbirth from the perspective of Yolgnu women and the history and significance of this cultural knowledge and practice. The documentary is a rare invitation to experience Yolngu women's culture and hear their aspirations for maternity services. This is a journey of hope, demonstrating that when Yolngu and Balanda (non-Yolngu) Australians work together, positive change and community empowerment is possible. It has won and been selected for numerous international film festival awards.

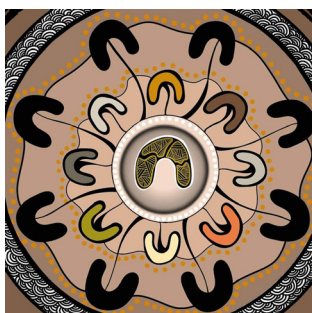


## Anwernneke mape apurtele arrintetye-ileme: Together, healing our people

**Presented by Tisha Carter and Amelia Turner, Akeyulerre**

Akeyulerre Healing Centre, proudly led by Arrernte people, works to keep family and community strong and connected through Arrernte law and culture by honouring, practising and sharing culture, healing and language. Akeyulerre provides services and supports promoting the importance of Arrernte ways of knowing, doing and being – sharing culture and practices with younger generations.

A core part of Akeyulerre's work is preparing bush medicine and food, visiting Country with community and young people, and performing songs, dances and ceremonies. These practices interconnect healing, wellbeing and learning with culture to promote strong governance systems that respect Arrernte ways of working.



## Kiilalaana Tiddas Program

**Presented by Shantelle Thompson OAM, Keina Moore and Shyanna Vandermerwe, Kiilalaana Foundation**

The Kiilalaana Warrior Kii Program is an Aboriginal girls empowerment program that seeks to support the dreams of the future generation. Our focus is to provide a platform for the rising generation to become self-determinate and stand in their own sovereignty, whilst maintaining and strengthening their connection to Self and their culture. This is achieved through weekly sessions over the course of a school term. Over the program the girls will have the opportunity to engage in a range of cultural activities, self-development, workshops, emerge themselves in learning about wellbeing for self, others and the environment. They will be inspired through connecting to other young Aboriginal girls in the community and be given the space to connect with their warrior heart.

## CONCURRENT SESSION: Economic Justice and Empowerment



### Building a Future of Reciprocity to Address Economic Injustice

**Presented by Rona Glynn-McDonald, First Nations Futures**

First Nations Futures is a not-for-profit First Nations-led organisation encouraging reciprocity and empowerment of First Nations communities and enterprises.

First Nations Futures provides mechanisms for Australians, businesses, corporate and philanthropic sectors to collectively invest into First Nations leadership and knowledge systems to drive sustainable futures. It creates pathways and opportunities for funding into First Nations initiatives that are under-resourced, centre young people as the future holders of knowledge and culture, grounded in First Nations worldviews, and focuses on long-term prevention and intergenerational impact.



### Redefining Reinvestment

**Presented by Alanna Reneman and Mekayla Cochrane, Justice Reinvestment Network Australia**

The Justice Reinvestment Network brings First Nations communities across Australia together to explore and implement Justice Reinvestment initiatives and create collective action to advocate for systemic policy reform that aligns with Justice Reinvestment principles, approaches and objectives.

The Network partners with like-minded non-government and community organisations and researchers to empower First Nations communities with data, tools and resources needed for self-determination and strong governance systems. The approach is deeply rooted in community-based practices and First Nations ways of knowing, doing and being, reflecting the unique and diverse cultural knowledge and practices needed to respond to local challenges.



## Yapa kuja kalu wangkami pirrijirdi jintangka: Warlpiri speaking up strongly together, the story of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT)

**Presented by Fiona Gibson and Nickita Kelly, WETT**

The WETT was set up in 2005 by the traditional owners of the Newmont Tanami/Granites gold mine using mine royalties to improve educational and training outcomes in Yuendumu, Nyirrpi, Willowra and Lajamanu. The WETT has invested over \$48 million into community-identified education supports and initiatives to keep culture and language strong in the community and provide opportunities for future generations to confidently walk in two worlds. These include delivering early childhood services, on-country visits and Warlpiri language teaching, youth diversion and development activities, secondary schools support and learning community centres. The WETT also invests in communities by funding training and development opportunities for education staff and the employment of Elders to share cultural knowledge.

## WORKSHOP: Claiming your place

### Passing the Message Stick

**Presented by Larissa Baldwin-Roberts, GetUp!**



Getup is an independent advocacy network that engages the wider public in political debates through online media, lobbying governments, campaigning, rallying and advertising, spreading awareness of key issues impacting Australians' rights and holding decision-makers to account. Getup's First Nations justice campaigning, centres on land rights, climate justice and Indigenous self-determination. Key campaigns have included lobbying to stop fracking in Northern Territory, creating federal laws protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, and calling on Cabinet to stop deaths in custody.

This workshop is for all First Nations advocates, organisations, spokespeople, journalists and grassroots changemakers – and will also include lessons for allies and ally organisations. Hear about developing persuasive messages to build public support to win transformative change.

## CONCURRENT SESSION: Leadership and decision making for self-determination



### Leadership, Our Way

**Presented by Cleone Wellington, Lisa Wellington, Hayley Longbottom and Kristine Falzon, Waminda South Coast Women's Health & Welfare Aboriginal Corporation**

Waminda is a women's health and welfare service that provides First Nations women and children with tailored, culturally safe and strengths-based care. It exists to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have a voice, are able to reach their full potential in society, and are given equal access to opportunities and resources. Waminda offer over 20 holistic services including Gadhu Balaang Biyani (health and allied health care services), Nabu (healing), cancer care programs, Elders groups, case management, drug and alcohol brokerage, Minja Gudjaga (Mother and Baby) and Munja Murawandha (Birthing on Country).

**The Birthing on Country Centre of Excellence** is Australia's first dedicated Indigenous birth centre. It is currently under construction in Nowra and will be co run by Waminda and Charles Darwin University. Waminda accommodates safe decolonial practice for First Nations mothers and children so they may lead independent and self-determined futures.



### Empowerment with a ripple effect

**Presented by Janine Dureau and Jodie Bell, Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council**

In 2021 a Working Group of Kimberley Aboriginal women came together to deliver the Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Leadership Roundtable, Empowering Aboriginal Women: Gender Justice and Equality. The Roundtable aimed to develop a response to the Human's Right Commission 2020 Wiyi Yani U Thangani Report, and also seek endorsement to establish the Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council. Over 150 women, from the ages of 18 - 80+ attended the Roundtable and a further six engagements in major Kimberley towns.



The engagements resulted in endorsing the creation of the Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council, and to develop the Regional Action Plan to feed into the Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Framework for Action. Since then, the Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council Regional Action Plan 2021-2024 has been launched. It's deliverable dashboard highlights seven focus areas: 3 years accumulative impact; Showcasing our stories and success; Supporting our girls to grow and glow; Access to leadership pathways; Supporting sisterhood; Significantly reduce statutory care and custody orders; Kimberley care through vulnerability.



## Desert Divas

**Presented by Dr Shellie Morris, Cassandra Williams, Genise Williams and Liz Archer, Music NT**

Desert Divas is a music development program facilitated by MusicNT that was created by First Nations female singer-songwriters. Desert Divas is a subset of the larger Divas program run by MusicNT. Other Divas programs include Saltwater Divas, Divas at Bush bands and Barkly Divas. Launched in 2010 in Alice Springs, Desert Divas was created to shine a light on the voices and stories of young Aboriginal women by providing them with an opportunity to create and perform music.

The program provides mentoring and facilitates industry connections for emerging First Nations female singer-songwriters and supports them to develop skills and confidence as performers. Participation in this program opens up avenues for touring and recording for an album.

## CONCURRENT SESSION: Language, land, water and cultural rights



### **Punkaliyarra: Sister-in-Law Dreaming Story**

**Presented by Michelle Adams and Genevieve Dugard, Big hART**

Guided by women from Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi country, Punkaliyarra: Sister-in-Law Dreaming Story is the first creative outcome for this long-term project and it's intergenerational process between senior and young women in Ieramugadu (Roebourne) – sharing stories, going on country, and mentoring digital skills to young people in the Ieramugadu Digital Lab.

Punkaliyarra is a meditation on women's stories – an experience of beautiful visuals, sound and spoken word which celebrates ancient and contemporary stories of women's power, where nurture, care and guidance are formed in the collective. Punkaliyarra's aim is "to connect to culture and country, and explore stories of women's strength".

### **Djinjama Contested Ground**

**Presented by Dr Danièle Hromek**

Dr Danièle Hromek is a Saltwater woman of the Budawang tribe of the Yuin nation, with French and Czech heritage. She is a spatial designer and Country-Centred designer, and the first Indigenous person in Australia to achieve a PhD in built environment and spatial disciplines. Her research considers Indigeneity in the built environment. It contributes to an understanding of the Indigenous experience and comprehension of space, and investigates how Aboriginal people occupy, use, narrate, sense, dream and contest their spaces.

Danièle has worked with state and local government, museums and galleries, and design and built environment industries. Her work has contributed to the Connecting with Country framework and Designing with Country discussion piece by Government Architect NSW. She is also Founder and Director of the Indigenous cultural design and research corporation, Djinjama, and is working with the University of Sydney as a Professor of Practice to bring Indigenous knowledges and values, gained through her experience working in the profession, to the curriculum.



## **From Governance to Government: local level approaches to building self-government and political representation of Indigenous Nations**

**Presented by Dr Janine Gertz, University of New South Wales**

Dr Janine Gertz is a Gugu Badhun and Ngadjon-ji woman from North Queensland. Janine is a Lecturer at Nura Gili's Centre for Indigenous Programs and Research Associate with the Indigenous Law Centre, University of New South Wales.

Janine has international experience within United Nations policy fora and her research interests lie in the practical application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the local level as it relates to the political governance and representation of Indigenous Nations. Her latest contribution was to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' Study on 'Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, between indigenous peoples and States, including peace accords and reconciliation initiatives, and their constitutional recognition'.

## CONCURRENT SESSION: Societal healing and intergenerational wellbeing



### Education Goals for This Generation

**Presented by Hayley McQuire, National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition (NIYEC)**

The National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition (NIYEC) advocates for an independent First Nations education system and reform of the national mainstream education system to incorporate truth-telling, First Nations knowledges and lived experiences, and to centre the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. NIYEC strongly believes that education that is designed around Indigenous pedagogies puts Indigenous culture, country, language, knowledge and values first. It plants the seeds for future generations to be strong, confident and empowered, and to challenge systemic and structural barriers that maintain educational inequity.

The **#LearnOurTruth** campaign is led by NIYEC in collaboration with the *In My Blood it Runs* documentary. This campaign focuses on listening and learning from the voices of Indigenous People and calls on educators to take a pledge to teach First Nations histories in school.



### Country is our Classroom – the Children's Ground Approach

**Presented by Veronica Turner, Felicity Hayes and Stacey Campton, Children's Ground**

Children's Ground is a First Nations led organisation leading systemic reform for First Nations communities by celebrating local knowledge systems and culture, and community strengths. By developing holistic structures and supports across communities, Children's Ground provides the best learning and wellbeing environment for children to become the leaders of tomorrow.

**Utyerre Apanpe** is a national network of First Nations cultural educators leading the way for education reform across Australia. The network brings together educators to share ways of working, embedded in Indigenous knowledges and practices, and support each other in creating an education system that is designed by communities and delivered on Country. Children's Ground is delivering systemic reform initiatives, including Utyerre Apanpe, across communities, and sparking national conversations on what needs to change for First Nations communities to thrive.



## **Baya Gawiy Baya Gawiy Buga Yani Jandu Yani U: Intergenerational Learning**

**Presented by Emily Carter and Patsy Bedford,  
Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre**

Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre in the Fitzroy Valley of Western Australia supports the health and wellbeing of women and their families through a range of healing informed and trauma informed programs which encourage healing, safety and wellbeing, leadership and empowerment. Programs include mentoring and support, access to culturally sensitive and respective services, advocacy work and the Baya Gawiy Buga yani Jandu yani u Centre.

**Baya Gawiy** provides holistic early childhood care and education. Embedded with First Nations knowledges and language and their principle of 'many ways of knowing and doing', Baya Gawiy makes has developed local resources and tools to provide culturally meaningful learning and supports for women and their children, whilst also supporting them to walk in two worlds. The centre encourages an inclusive, welcoming and safe environment to gather, reflecting that healing and learning occur best in spaces where individuals feel valued and supported.

## CONCURRENT SESSION: Economic justice and empowerment



### The Morning Sky Initiative

**Presented by Carol Vale, Hazel Vale and Dr Rieko Fukushima Byrom, Murawin**

Murawin is a national Indigenous consultancy co-founded by Carol Vale and Greg McKenzie in 2014. Murawin creates impact through breaking cycles of disadvantage and amplifying initiatives that contribute to improved futures for First Nations individuals.

Murawin works with multiple industries across the business sector including corporate, not-for-profit, Indigenous affairs, education, infrastructure, justice, human services, transport and government.

Through the Morning Sky Program, Murawin proudly sponsors a range of initiatives to increase the levels of Indigenous girls and women in industries that lead to exciting career pathways and employment opportunities. Women involved in the Morning Sky Initiative workshops are provided support to validate their business ideas and establish a business model, in a culturally embracing and peer learning environment.



### Investing for impact: driving change through targeted investment in our women

**Presented by Kia Dowell and Stella de Cos, Indigenous Business Australia**

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) is an organisation that “serves, partners and invests” with First Nations people to enhance their economic independence and promote the growth of Indigenous-owned businesses in Australia. IBA provides a range of services to Indigenous entrepreneurs including business advice, finance and investment support and mentoring. IBA’s mission is to empower Indigenous Australians to create thriving businesses and build economic independence whilst preserving their cultural heritage and traditions.



IBA provides a range of tailored services to Indigenous women entrepreneurs. This includes business development and mentoring programs, access to finance and investment support, and targeted networking and training opportunities. IBA also actively seeks out and supports women-led businesses in its investment portfolio. By supporting Indigenous businesses, IBA aims to improve the socio-economic outcomes for Indigenous communities and increase their participation in the wider Australian economy.



## Women's Business Second Chance (WBSC) Hub

**Presented by Christiana Cartwright, Real Futures**

Real Futures is an Indigenous specialist employment service provider that focuses on training and empowering First Nations individuals to become workplace assets and community role models.

The Women's Business Second Chance (WBSC) Hub is a program for women at risk of being left behind. It aims to give them the chance to achieve quality learning, entrepreneurship, employment and support services tailored to their needs as learners and future earners. It is a program run by Real Futures in partnership with UN Women and financial support from BHP exclusively for First Nations women in Greater Western Sydney and Kempsey in New South Wales and Carnarvon in Western Australia.

Australia is one of six countries participating in delivering this program for women. Real Futures is an Indigenous specialist employment service provider that focuses on training and empowering First Nations individuals to become workplace assets and community role models.

## WORKSHOP: Claiming your place



### Creative Catharsis: Artmaking and mindfulness

**Presented by Kirli Saunders OAM**

Kirli Saunders is Gunai women and award-winning and celebrated writer, visual artist, consultant and activist with a passion for enlivening spaces and engaging audiences in bold conversations for social impact. In 2022, she was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her contribution to the arts, particularly literature.

Kirli's celebrated books include *The Incredible Freedom Machines* (2018), *Kindred* (2019), *Bindi* (2020) and *Our Dreaming* (2022) which explore themes of breaking boundaries, identity, kinship, culture and Country. In 2023, assisted by Australia Council for the Arts (AUSCO), Kirli will develop her debut novel, *Yaraman*. She is also the founder of the Poetry in First Languages project ran by Red Room Poetry, in which First Nations poets are commissioned to write in language and teach on country, alongside Elders and custodians.

This workshop centres on the importance of mindfulness through the arts, offering tools to get you grounded and creating, as a form of creative catharsis and self-care with a community of like-minded creators.



