

ABORIGINAL VOICES *of* ARMADALE

community engagement

creative expression

cultural identity

and place of belonging



“The Sister Kate’s Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation, Communicare Communities for Children has delivered a wide range of cultural healing programs to Aboriginal families and their children in Armadale.... this book is a reflection of the journey through prose, poetry and pictures.”

Directors: Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation



Cultural Perspective



...“To Aboriginal people cultural healing is a major dynamic of their cultural heritage and identity.

In the past, Aboriginal peoples had a rich living culture embedded in a history of thousands of years – it was diverse, strong and stable, incorporating belief systems and LAW practices – this enabled all people to both know their place and to respect each other and all living things”...

Tjalaminu Mia

Managing Director Cultural Healing Programs

SKHKAC/Communicare – Communities for Children – Armadale, WA

Community Perspective



...“Mainstream models of community development and working with families will not work without respect for and integration of knowledge around Aboriginal networks and relationships. The SKHKAC/CfC can report that this program has achieved some extremely positive outcomes from this journey and we encourage other not-for-profit and government agencies to sit back and let Aboriginal people take the lead as they have important things to say and we need to hear them”...

Martine Pitt

CEO, Communicare Inc.



...“May the Spirit of our Ancestors,
the strength and wisdom of our Elders
and the warmth and light of our camp fires
inspire our hearts and lead our people
towards a better future”...

Author: Tjalaminu Mia

Voices of Our Elders



...“The Community for Childrens programs that SKHKAC/ Communicare have staged, that I have been a part of look at bringing something back to us. We are all part of this community, we need to come together and together we can build a better future by respecting ourselves, each other and preserving our cultural inheritance.”...

Gary Bennell
Noongar Elder – Armadale, WA



...“ The programs give us older generations an opportunity to help guide and share our knowledge with our young ones. These programs and events are enabling us to do this now. Aboriginal leadership is really important for our young ones and we as Elders need to look after and guide our kids down here in Armadale”...

Gloria Bennell
Noongar Elder – Armadale, WA

Christmas Event 2012



...“ It was a successful Christmas gathering, we had a wonderful time and I felt very honored to be the Elder who welcomed everyone to the event”...

Madge Hill

Senior Noongar Elder – Armadale, WA



Christmas Event 2012

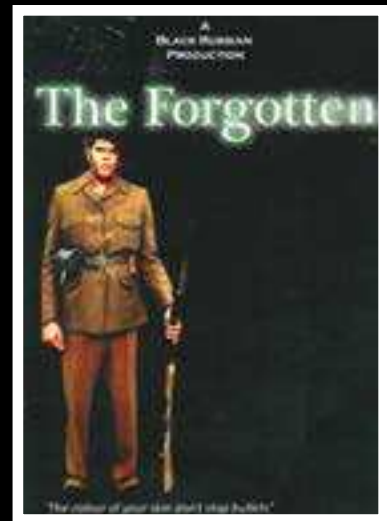
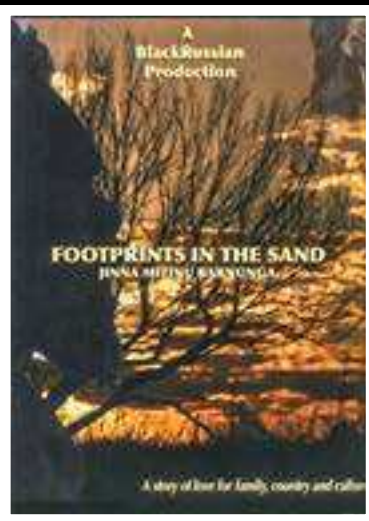


Elders Indigenous Film Festival



...“I was happy to participate in the SKHKAC/Communicare-Communities for Childrens programs in Armadale, because I had a chance to talk with some of the Elders, and it was great because they could relate to most of the sub-themes in both of my films”...

Glen Stasiuk
Senior Lecturer, Murdoch University



Cultural Day in the Park



... “Personally for me the Minawarra Park Cultural Day took me back to when I was young being with the old people, yarning, story-telling and supporting each other. For us in Armadale, helping our families come together to celebrate our culture our way is important for our children to see. The Programs are about bringing people together”...

Gary Bennell
Noongar Elder – Armadale, WA



Cultural Day in the Park



Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program



...“The Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program has helped me to learn more about Aboriginal people and their culture. I am very lucky to be part of this service because we work as a team to improve pregnancy care for Aboriginal mothers, babies and families and this is provided at the Armadale Hospital as well as in the community”...

Torna Moya

Coordinator Antenatal Midwife — Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program
Armadale Hospital, WA



...“The Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program continues to grow in strength and expand its horizons to make a difference in ‘Closing the Gap’ in this area of health care as well as lives of the pregnant Aboriginal women and their families we work with”...

Christine Parry

Aboriginal Health Officer — Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program
Armadale Hospital, WA



Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program



Wildflower Essence Healing – Mums and Bubs



...“Certain flower essences, especially the wildflowers that grow in Western Australia’s southern areas, can be used to treat pain and stress, others for low energy and negative emotions. All can be applied topically and used on points on the body, in footbaths, sprays, creams and lotions, but oral dosages need to be made by an accredited practitioner”...

Kadambii Barnao
CEO LiFe Academy Joondalup, WA



Wildflower Essence Healing – Mums and Bubs



Bibbulman Healing Pits: A Traditional Noongar Healing Practice



...“I think it’s very important that all Aboriginal kids know their culture and how country can play a role in their cultural identity. It was really good to see some of the Aboriginal families of Armadale do a pit healing together – afterwards, everyone said they felt calm, grounded and re-freshed”...

Esandra Collbung

Custodian to Bibbulman Healing Pits, WA



Bibbluman Healing Pits

- Healing Aboriginal Families



...“Participating in the healing pits was a great experience for me and my family because it shows us how some of the traditional healing was done by our Noongar Ancestors and it’s good for our younger people to know our ways of healing, not just the white-fella way...”

Madge Hill

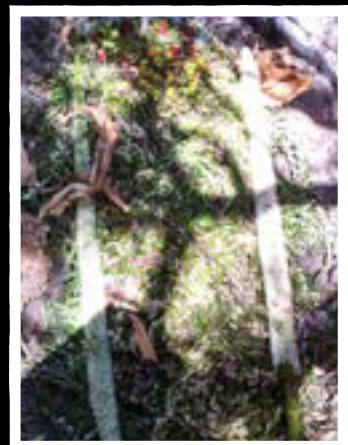
Senior Noongar Elder — Armadale, WA



...“Our family felt very privileged to participate in the healing pit ceremony, we both see the experience as valuable because it gave us an opportunity to learn more about the spiritual history behind how Noongar methods of healing work, and this type of healing also has a place in the wellbeing of our families...”

Sarah Thomason and Dudley Michael

Aboriginal Community Members — Armadale, WA



NAIDOC School Banner Project

by our Aboriginal Koolungas



The NAIDOC Banner Project was developed to enable Aboriginal children from five schools in the Armadale area to create a series of artworks that tell a story about their culture, country, their place of belonging, and how they see the natural world around them... and what wonderful pieces of art they have produced.

Tjalaminu Mia

Managing Director – Cultural Healing Programs,
SKHKAC/Communicare – Communities for Children – Armadale, WA



The art produced in the Banners from each school show how Aboriginal children can work together as a team to produce a series of cultural stories through their individual cultural and creative expression; it was a real pleasure to work with them on this project.

Alta Winmar

Cultural Project Officer
SKHKAC/Communicare – Communities for Children
– Armadale, WA



NAIDOC Banner Project

Challis Primary School - 2013



...“ The NAIDOC Banner Project is a great way of involving our students in an art project that will be shared with their community. Be proud, be who you are! Enjoy your culture!...”

Peter Wilkes

AEIO – Challis Primary School



...“ A fantastic program for the children as it allowed the children to understand and identify themselves as individuals, and as young Aboriginal people. It’s important for the children to learn their Aboriginal heritage and culture, and this program allowed the children to do that. The children were highly engaged and proud of the art they produced”...

Karina Foxon

AEIO – Challis Primary School



Challis Girls



Challis Boys

NAIDOC Banner Project Gwynne Park Primary Schools - 2013



... “Aboriginal kids need to understand about their culture and nurture it for future generations. They have to belong, and this project has given them a sense of belonging and it has helped them in regaining their own identity”...

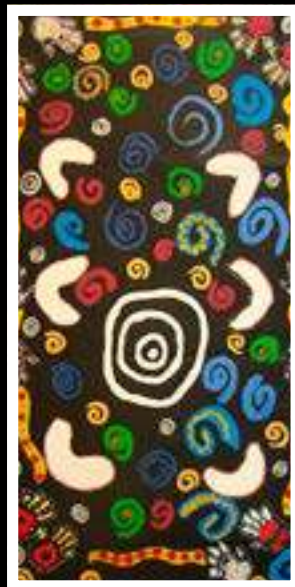
Tara Morrison

AEIO – Gwynne Park
Primary Schools



Norma Jarlett

AEIO – Gwynne Park
Primary Schools



Gwynne Girls



Gwynne Boys

NAIDOC Banner Project Grovelands Primary School - 2013



...“ This program was important for the children because it allowed them to learn about themselves, their parents and grandparents. They discussed history, the importance of storytelling and the significance of cultural symbols. They also learnt the importance of respect for themselves, for each other and about their own Aboriginality ”...

Michelle Ninnette
AEIO - Grovelands Primary School



Grovelands Girls



Grovelands Boys

NAIDOC Banner

Neerigen Brook Primary School - 2013



...“It has been delightful to see the bonds the children have formed with Alta and with each other through the Banner Project. I consider that the project has been valuable in contributing to the building of cultural identity and to helping the children feel proud of their Aboriginal heritage”...

Nola Earnshaw

Aboriginal Youth Worker - Neerigen Brook Primary School



...“The children quickly took ownership of their work and have shown much creativity, enthusiasm and enjoyment while learning a lot about teamwork.”...

Lauri Butcher

Indigenous Support Officer – Neerigen Brook Primary School



Neerigen Brook Girls



Neerigen Brook Boys

NAIDOC Banner Project Westfield Park Primary School - 2013



...“It’s great to see the children grasp and respect their Aboriginal culture within this program, as it enabled them to keep the dreams of their ancestors going, and we can all grow from this. This also helps us all to learn to be proud of our cultural backgrounds and development cultural pride. This is shown through the art on the Banners – the childrens’ individual and collective pride is reflected in them.

To know about your culture is very important for Aboriginal children as it teaches them about their people, their heritage and it helps develop a certain respect in themselves – it re-enforces their cultural identity.

The program has been very good for our Aboriginal students and it is hoped that further programs like these are held again”...

Norman Gardner

AEIO - Westfield Park Primary School



Grovelands Girls



Grovelands Boys

Cultural Incursion Programs



...“The Cultural Incursion Programs provide opportunities for children to learn from each other, where their cultures are acknowledged and shared in ways that nurture diversity, acceptance and pride – providing a bridge for community unity”...

Sue Fielding

Operations Manager, Children and Family Services, Communicare Inc.



Cultural Teaching and Learning

The Importance of Younger Generations Sharing and Learning Together



Sisters Sitting on the Ground Together

re-connecting to country, culture and traditional ways of healing



...“I feel really blessed to have been part of the healing programs the Sister Kate’s Home Kids have put on for us in Armadale over the last two years – it’s been a real healing journey for us all and I am also happy that we are starting to do more women’s business so we can teach our young yorga’s about their culture”...

Madge Hill

Senior Noongar Elder – Armadale, WA



Sisters Sitting on the Ground Together

re-connecting to country, culture and traditional ways of healing



Beautiful Yorgas – Strong and Proud



Beautiful Yorgas – Strong and Proud



Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation/
Communicare - Communities for Children:
Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program DVD Launch

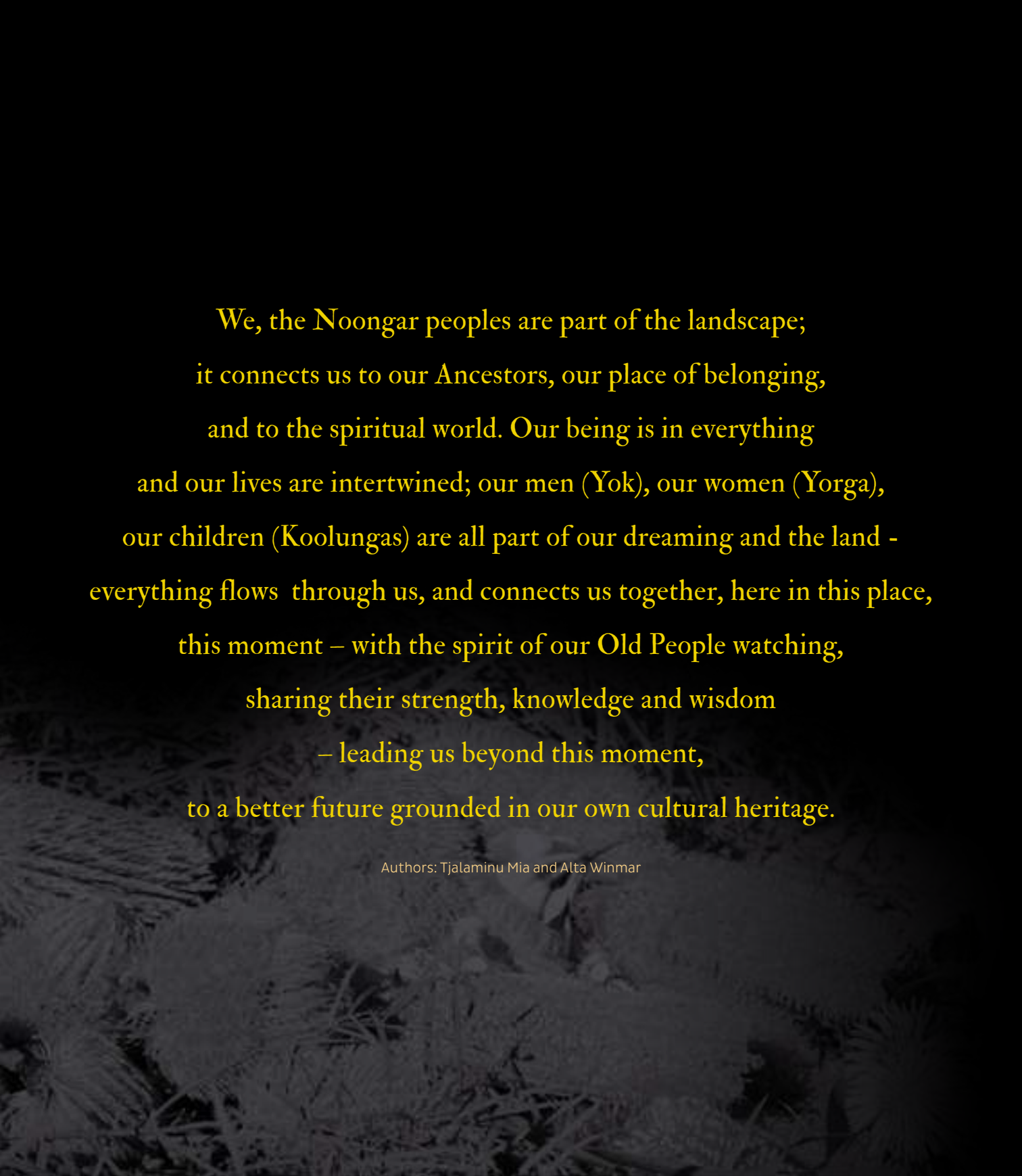


Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation/
Communicare - Communities for Children:
Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program DVD Launch



Beautiful Mother - Beautiful Baby





We, the Noongar peoples are part of the landscape;
it connects us to our Ancestors, our place of belonging,
and to the spiritual world. Our being is in everything
and our lives are intertwined; our men (Yok), our women (Yorga),
our children (Koolungas) are all part of our dreaming and the land -
everything flows through us, and connects us together, here in this place,
this moment – with the spirit of our Old People watching,
sharing their strength, knowledge and wisdom
– leading us beyond this moment,
to a better future grounded in our own cultural heritage.

Authors: Tjalaminu Mia and Alta Winmar



ODE TO OUR CHILDREN

Ngalang moolyak Noongarang nidja boodjera
We are the First People of Country
Yeyi, koram man-ya-na
Now, Yesterday, and Tomorrow
Maamarang djinanginy wer
Our ancestors watch, and feel
Kaaditj ngala koort warabiny
Our sadness and sorrow
Ngarda malidji ngala wininy
Under the Shadow (of our lives)
Ngalalak nobiny wortan-koorl
Our young ones have turned away
Balang koort banyadak; mandjoo koorliny
Their hearts heavy; lost in decay
Yoowart balang moortang maat kaaditj
Not from their culture or Aboriginal way
Bandang yoowart bookart-yen
But all is not lost – a new day is dawning
Nidjak benang koorliny boorda kwop
For a better future, our babies drawing
Ngala maawit koorlangka baranginy
On the strength of our People
Ngalang moortang Kwidjar-ak
Young, old – men and women alike
Nobiny Koorakor- maaman yokal mokiny
Whose voices; now calling
Baalap maya, yeyi mirowiny
To follow (in) the foot prints
Djena bidi koorl ngalang kaadadjiny
Of our cultural ways
Moortang woonyak koordak kwobadjil
Family, love, respect and honor
Moortang koorliny, Ngaangkan baadadjil
Darkness fading from Old Fella SUN's rays
Yinang kaaditji baranginy – Yinang kedala nidjak
Bringing new hope – to a brand new day

Author: Tjalaminu Mia

Translated into Noongar language by: Yibiyung (Roma Winmar)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Sister Kates Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation – Communicare Communities for Children cultural healing program has been a wonderful journey over the last 29 months for both staff and participants, resulting in some great achievements for Aboriginal children and their families, as well as the wider community in the Armadale region.

Though the program was primarily to develop and deliver cultural healing programs and community initiatives for Aboriginal families living in Armadale, (which is still the case), it also is in its infancy stage but has built bridges of conciliation within the frame-work of Aboriginal empowerment and self-determination.

The program has grown in depth and has embedded in its Terms of Reference various important factors: to strengthen our younger generations' understanding of their cultural heritage, to nurture pride in their cultural identity, and to manifest a better understanding and acknowledgement of the value of Aboriginal peoples and their culture within mainstream society by other cultures who have made Australia their home. Community engagement has been the underpinning link in enabling (workable) relationships to establish between Aboriginal people and their children, and the wider community. It has also resulted in 'closing the gap' in a multitude of ways between different cultures across a broad area of the community in Armadale; including local government, educational institutions, after school care facilities, a number of healthcare/teaching-learning service provider agencies, the Stolen Generations and the City of Armadale.

The support of these agencies and various individuals has been paramount to the program, as they have through their commitment to Aboriginal children's education and well-being, helped to enable them and their families to re-affirm their cultural identity and connections to family and country, as well as to affirm a place of belonging within the wider Armadale community.

The Sister Kates Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation/Communicare – Communities for Children would like to thank the Australian Government Department of Social Services for funding the program, as without their help the program would not have been possible.

We would also like to sincerely thank: SKHKAC Directors, SK Home Kids and their families, Noongar Elder Yibinyung – Roma Winmar, Champion Centre City of Armadale, Play Mates After School Care Harold King Centre, the Principles, AEIO staff and Aboriginal students at Challis, Grovelands, Gwynne Park, Westfield and Neerigen Brook Primary Schools, Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program, Armadale Hospital, Minnawarra House Armadale, People Who Care Guildford, Ken Culbong Cultural Foundation Wanneroo, LiFE Academy Joondalup, Karla Hart Cultural Dance Group, Marr Koodjal Cultural Group, Fred Penny, Joe Collard and Sons, Kooda Cornwell, Fairbridge Farm, Kulbardi Productions Murdoch University, Communicare Cannington and Armadale Offices (SKHKAC Auspice Agency), CFC Community Partners, and most importantly, the Aboriginal families of Armadale, as without their and everyone's support, sharing their expertise and their commitment, we would not have been able to fully realise the program's potential and achieve the positive outcomes we have for Aboriginal families and their children living in the Armadale area.

Tjalaminu Mia – Managing Director – Cultural Healing Programs, SKHKAC/Communicare – Communities for Children – Armadale, WA

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