

.....ABORIGINAL VOICES *of* ARMADALE.....

community engagement

creative expression

cultural identity

place of belonging

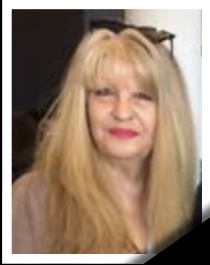
revisited
.....
2015-2019

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

Directors: Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation



Cultural Perspective



“I feel quite happy that we are again able to share what SKHKAC has achieved with delivering our cultural healing, empowerment, capacity building/ leadership and community engagement programs and events for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families living in and around the Armadale area over these last several years; since our last edition of the Aboriginal Voices of Armadale book published in 2014 - as this gives us an opportunity to show both the successful collaboration between SKHKAC/Communitcare Communities for Children as well as the benefits the program and community events have given our families”.

Tjalaminnu Mia

CEO, Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation, Perth WA

Family and Community Perspectives



“Working within the community developing programs for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait families, their children and the wider community has always been rewarding.

In Armadale over the past years, Sister Kate's Aboriginal Corporation through the Communities for Children program has given me the opportunity to connect with many families living in the Armadale and surrounding areas, we have been able to form great friendships and watch the growth of a community.

Community to me is a sense of belonging to a village of people, but being able to share our culture and perspectives enhances our community and gives us a place of belonging.”

Alta Winmar

Program Coordinator, Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation

Voice of a Noongar Elder Sister Kate's Home Kids



“It is important to remember what our ancestors and our old people went through in the early years of white control of our families and countries, and though those times were very hard and sad for us all as I was there and remember some of the things that happened along the way.

I feel we need to keep moving forward in a positive way because that's the only way we can go, and I also feel that if everyone extended a positive hand in friendship to all those who they come into contact with from other cultures who have now made our countries their home, then this will make the journey easier for us and help to regain our place of belonging in the scheme of things, especially for our young people and our children, as they are our future leaders when we Elders pass away. They need to know their culture and be proud of who they are but also be open to sharing their cultural heritage with others and this is better to be carried out in friendship than not.”

Beryl Dixon

(SK Homee parent of the Dixon family)

92yrs: Senior Noongar Elder - Menang, Goreng and Wardjari people, South-West Great Southern WA

Voices of our Elders Armadale



“The SKHKAC programs have been very valuable to all our families in the Armadale area as they have been delivered for a long time now, I think over the last six or seven years, and they have brought our people together to share culture. This has also been good for the other people in our community who come along to participate too because they get to meet our people, have a yarn and get to know some of our Stories.”

Aunty Madge Hill

Noongar Elder – Armadale, WA



“I have worked alongside SKHKAC staff for a few years now in my role with the Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Services at the Armadale Hospital, where we have collaborated on a series of community programs, and I have found it to be a great working relationship for our families because they love and have benefited from the programs and events we have delivered together as a partnership and this is what I feel our community is about - helping each other.”

Aunty Eunice Bynder

Noongar Elder – Armadale, WA

Cultural Events

In 2014, SKHKAC worked alongside Sue Fielding, who was at the time the Communicare SKHKAC Communities for Children Program Line Manager, to aid securing funding for the Home Interaction Parent Participation for Youngsters Program (HIPPY) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families living in the Armadale and Gosnells area.

To celebrate the success and the first funding year of the program, SKHKAC designed an end of year community event that showcased the importance of community service agencies working in collaboration to bring a wide range of cultures and groups together as a show of commitment to community solidarity and unity for their children - where SKHKAC as Lead organisation, worked with HIPPY, SAVE the Children and the City of Armadale - Champion Centre.

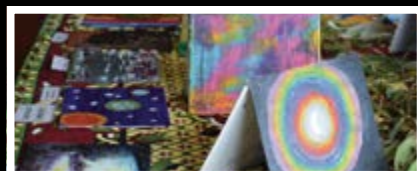
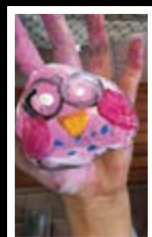
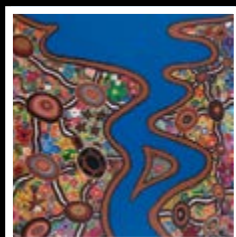
The event was also supported by the CEO of HIPPY, who flew to Perth for the event, which was a first in her role as this had never happened before in Australia; she also officially opened the event to a traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony and looked on in awe at the great accomplishment of community members and their children who under the direction of SKHKAC staff, wrote and acted in a community theatre play - a wonderful opportunity to showcase their creative talents and inspire their children and youth to be proud of their cultural heritage and cultural and social expressions.



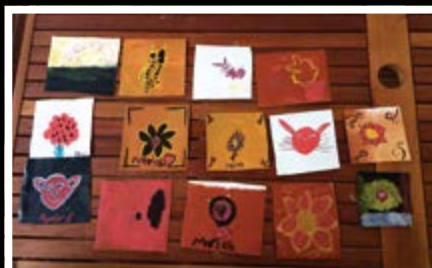
Community Events



Community Events



Community Events



Community Events



Community Events



NAIDOC School Banner Project

As one of a series of SKHKAC/Communicare Communities for Children Program initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander younger generations and youth in the Armadale and surrounding region, a program was devised to enable young people to share their creative talents, their voices and work in a team building environment - to create a series of art works depicting their culture, the suburbs they lived in and their interpretation of their world.

Five schools participated where children from each school - boys and girls, ages ranging from 8 to 12 years, worked together to produce an art work that became their school's NAIDOC Banner.

SKHKAC has recently revisited some of the children, who are nearing teenage and young adult years - to see how and where they have traveled; to share with us some of the journeys they have made in the in-between years since the project.



Where Are They Now?



“I was 10 years old when the School Banner Project was at my school; Grovesland Primary. I enjoyed being a part of this program and loved that our Banner was displayed by the City of Armadale as part of NAIDOC in 2013.

I learned a lot about culture and how important it was to celebrate it and to keep it alive. It also gave me an opportunity to talk with others about what our culture represented and how we could learn from everyone.



I have been playing softball ever since we moved to Perth (about 10 years ago), where I started at club level as an 8 year old, as I was playing in the same team with my sister. When I was 11, I decided to try out for a team which was going to Manila to play and I made it and was voted in as Most Valuable Player (MVP) for my Team.

I then tried out for the State Under 15s Team in 2013, though I didn't make it the first year, so I trialled again the following year and made it and we went to Queensland.

Since then, I have been to Jakarta Indonesia, Bangkok Thailand, Sydney (twice) and Queensland (twice). I am now in training for the Friendship Games which will be held in Queensland in July this year.

If I was asked to say anything to our younger generations it would be ...“Make the most of what you can and believe in yourself, then you can achieve anything you want...”

Mirinda Papertalk



Families Engaging with their Children

SKHKAC has provided a wide range of community engagement events for families in the SKHKAC/ Communicare Communities for Children Program we have delivered in the Armadale area since 2012, where children, their parents, carers and extended family members have participated in both community interactive and engagement activities within both the annual National Aboriginal Events calendar as well as a series of individual cultural teaching/learning activity programs that address cultural identity, knowledge sharing, and capacity building in several proven ways of healing, empowerment and leadership resulting in some great outcomes for the families.

One of the focus points is to support parents or carers to engage with their children in child-parent-carer activities that nurture a child's growth, confidence in engaging with other children and a wider audience other than family members, and to aid their development and capacity to explore their individual and personal interests in activities that will enable the child to develop social engagement and life skills.



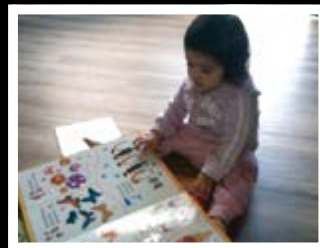
Maria & Alicia



My Name is Alicia Cumming.



I love being with my mum and playing outdoors.



I love to play with Lego building blocks.

I love to look at the pictures in books.

Jayden & Mattiece



My name is Mattiece Dodd, I am 6 years.



I love being with my family, this is me with my mum and brother Teejay.



I love playing and spending time with my baby brother and watching him grow.

I love being outdoors and going for walks, singing and drawing.

Sarah & Olivia



My name is Olivia Farmer.



I love my mum and dancing and my culture. I love my younger sisters Ally (Allison) and baby sister Tiffany. I have a big sister named Jaylee.



I love the outdoors playing on the swings going to beach and doing lots of things.

Sally-Anne & Salyne



My Name is Salyne Cross.

I love playing with my babies and when I go out with mum my baby always follows us.

I love my mum and love doing things with her – drawing, singing and dancing,
going to the beach and outdoor things.

I love my family.



Amanda & Tahlia

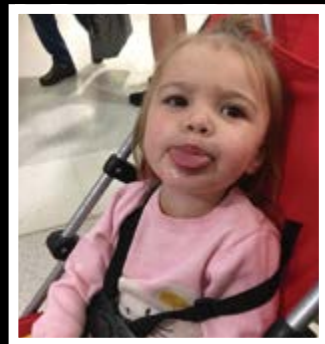
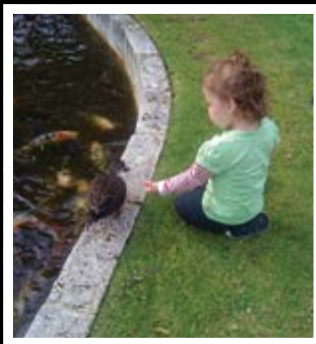


My name is Tahlia Hart.

I have 4 brothers and 1 sister.

When I was younger I loved to feed the ducks and be outside with my family.

I have a baby sister, her name is Aariah who I love to take for walks in her pram.



Amy & Alirah



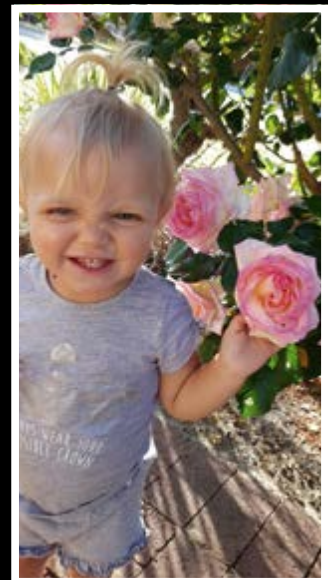
My name is Amy and my little girl's name is Alirah, she is three years old, and we are both SK Homee descendants.

Alirah and I love supporting and participating in the programs and activities that Sister Kate's provides, through Communities for Children. These programs give us moments to bond and strengthen our connection, but also gives my daughter the opportunity to develop and learn hand, eye and colour coordination.

Alirah loves dancing as a Ballerina. She recently joined her first dance class and is enjoying making new friends.

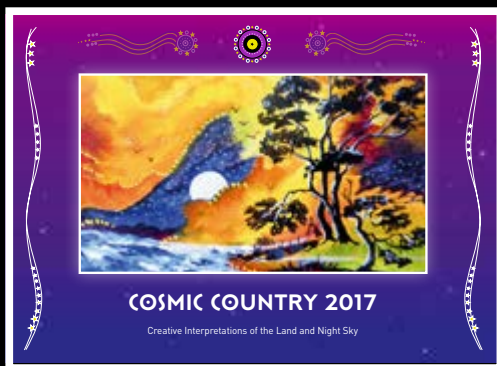
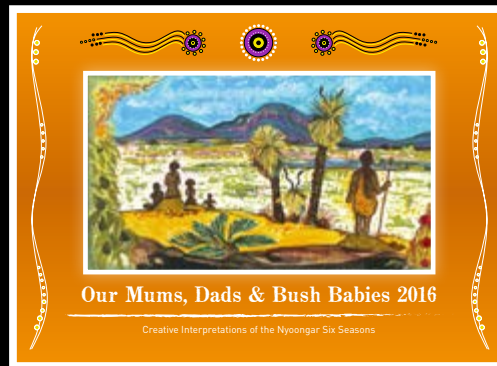
She created her own fairy garden and loves watering her plants every morning. Alirah loves to be outside in the sunshine. But most of all, Alirah loves cuddles with her family.

I am pleased to be participating in this book, to share with everyone a small insight to my daughters growth and the cherished memories with her, I will have always.



Community Creative Expressions

SKHKAC produced a range of calendars over a number of years, where SK Homee families collaborated with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families living in the Armadale and Gosnells area for the Communicare/SKHKAC Communities for Children Program; a creative expression and caring for country initiative, resulting in some wonderful artworks by the families that were both the main body content in the calendars which framed the team work to achieving these great outcomes.



Commemoration Wall: Memorial Garden Project

SKHKAC collaborated with the Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Services at the Armadale Hospital to construct a wall in the Memorial Garden that is attached to the hospital, which commemorates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families living in and around the Armadale area; families who are clients of both the services of support that Boodjari Yorgas Family Services offer and the care and support by the Hospital.

The concept of the wall is built around the idea of both commemorating the memory of children who have passed away, as well as to acknowledge the parent's pain and sadness experienced with the loss of a child - but it also is to celebrate their and their family's survival in getting through the trauma associated with their child's passing.

The Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Services has been operating attached to the Armadale Hospital for a number of years now and has provided both a safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families as well as providing a series of community engagement and family activities that are focused on pre-post natal and child care, support structures, community engagement and various provisions whilst children and family members are under the hospital's care or staying as patients at the hospital.

The working relationship between SKHKAC and Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Services is a strong alliance in enabling various forms of support for our families in Armadale inclusive of cultural protocols and context, which has resulted in working together on a number of community initiatives for over eight years since our Corporation introduced our cultural healing, empowerment and capacity building/leadership programs in Armadale in 2012 for the SKHKAC/Communicare Communities for Children Program. This program has proved over the years, to be both a great union as well as a beneficial community engagement support vehicle to our families.

Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Services are of great value and benefit to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and it is hoped that the services it provides will continue to develop further in the coming years, and SKHKAC look forward to working with the services in the future once our Place of Healing is operating on the Bush Block in Queens Park.



Women's Program

Memorial Garden Opening and Unveiling of the Commemoration Memorial Wall



In the beginning, I had the full support of Boodjari AKMH Yorgas through my 3 youngest daughters and their Antenatal development, also, when I gave birth to my only son, he came 20 weeks early. Shattered, I found strength and comfort in yarns with Christine Parry and also aunty Alta Winmar. I would use any kind of excuse to never go to Armadale Hospital because of how traumatic it was losing my baby. Then I was told about the Memorial Garden Project for women who have lost a baby/babies through miscarriage and early term of life.

I am one in four women who is proud to be a survivor and to make sure our little angels are remembered.

As an Indigenous dancer and also a mother who has lost a baby boy, I was privileged to perform at the opening of the Memorial Garden Ceremony at the Armadale Hospital.

At the time, I felt I had to interpret the sudden grief and heartache of losing a baby to relate to the other mums who had similar experiences. Being a part of the Memorial Garden Project also made me feel proud, I am that one in four who has lost a baby and that myself along with others will make sure that our Stories are heard and that through our Stories we strengthen one another.

Sarah Kearing



Women's Program

Memorial Garden Opening and Unveiling of the Commemoration Memorial Wall



“As an Elder of Armadale, I am privileged to be part of the Boodjari Yorgas Maternity program and also be working with Alta and Sister Kates. It’s great to see and hear many Noongar women sharing their stories about their life and also their families. My hope is that this wonderful program will continue to serve the needs of our pregnant Aboriginal women and also that Alta will always be a big part of our program.”

Aunty Madge Hill

Noongar Elder – Armadale, WA



“My journey of being involved with the Memorial Garden Project has been special, heart-warming, emotional, satisfying, and it has been a privilege to work with some amazing women who have shared their Stories about their grief and love of losing a loved one. It has brought us together as mums, aunties, nans, and cousins, to share with each other and support through our skills of putting together an amazing piece of artwork for our Memorial Garden.”

Christine Parry

Noongar Elder

Sharing Their Voices

There have been a high number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who have attended and participated in the SKHKAC/Communicare Communities for Children program delivered over the last eight years in the Armadale and Gosnells area, which has resulted in a group of dedicated Elders and community members active involvement over the years - and their voices shared in this component of the book, highlight their thoughts of the value and benefits of the program and events to them, their own and other families who have participated in a wide range of community engagement activities.



"I welcome miracles into my life."

Aunty Madge Hill



"Life supports me in every possible way."

Aunty Eunice Bynder

Sharing Their Voices



“I am deeply fulfilled by all that I do.”

Christine Parry



“Always tell someone you love them and praise them for the positive things they do.”

Alice Muir



“I wake up and smile, this lifts my spirits and everyone around me.”

June Mader

Sharing Their Voices



“When life gets hectic, I be still and become calm. I just breathe and think about and surround myself with positive thoughts. I feel good.”

Maria Penny



“I grow stronger each day. Love, and happiness fill my world through the love I have and receive from my beautiful children.

I am truly blessed.”

Jayden Peck



“Within the eyes of my children is where I found Love.”

Sally Anne Parfitt

Sharing Their Voices



“I believe I have the patience to get me through to help my kids everyday.”

Amanda Hart



“An obstacle in life is just another detour, have patience and you will get back on the right track.”

Sarah Kearing



“Find the positive in every situation.”

Pam Logue

Sharing the Sister Kate's Home Kids Story

The Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation is a Not-For-Profit Stolen Generations organisation and has been incorporated since 2008, but only delivering its cultural healing, empowerment and leadership programs since 2011.

Though a fairly young Aboriginal organisation compared to other major Indigenous organisations in the metro area, it has risen to a high performance level operative since its inception due to the hard work and commitment of its Board of Directors, who the majority are Sister Kate's Home Kids and descendants, as well as its dedicated staff and members.

At the onset of developing our programs various focus themes, the SK Homees and their families came together in a Yarning Circle to discuss what was both affecting them and missing in both their and their families lives, as well as other Stolen Generations groups, and from there, we workshopped a range of identified trauma issues that still impacted our lives and that of our younger generations.

From that point, SKHKAC developed a series of cultural healing, empowerment and leadership programs that nurtured our capacity in dealing with the trauma we still suffered and that of our families, resulting a powerful program that built our individual and collective capacity to meet head on the suffering felt in the collective lives of our members and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Since the early days of delivering our programs, the benefits to not only SKHKAC members but to the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community living in the Armadale and Gosnells area, has been strongly felt and this has been shared by Elders in a wide range of community events, which has heightened SKHKAC's commitment to keep our programs at the fore-front of our services to aid our collective community's healing.

Cultural Healing and all that this entails as SKHKAC see it, is the foundation of our cultural heritage and practices and needs to be recognised for the benefit and value that cultural healing offers to our people and families.

Cultural Practices





Cheryl Phillips

SK Home Kid and
SKHKAC Director

The essence of Aboriginal spirituality is in
the strength and connection to your family
Knowing who you are and where you've
journeyed strengthens your sense of
cultural belonging

Nyoonak Noongaral wirn moordawin
moortang dandjoo koorl
Kaadadjiny noonadar maat-bidi baalang
djinang noonook nyin

Authors: Cheryl Phillips and Carmel Culbong.



Carmel Culbong

SK Home Kid and
SKHKAC Director





ODE TO OUR PEOPLE

The Invaders came
to our shores
people, culture, country
maimed

Our Old People
looked on;
with horror and sadness
reflected in their eyes
our people oppressed
but not tamed

Many years have passed
hollow of happiness and joy
bewilled!! shamed!
made to conform
in our own land
relationships to the other - strained!

But we of the land
kept extending our hand
to the new Australians
And, in the face of adversary
we looked to our ancestors
for answers - which still stand
strong in their support
to all people who can
live together - in harmony
acceptance and respect
to nurture prosperity
in self, family and community (unity)

Author: Tjalaminu Mia,
Noongar South-West WA and CEO, Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families living in the Armadale and Gosnells area, who have both supported and participated in the SKHKAC/Communicare Communities for Children Program since it's inception (2012) to the present day (2019).

This publication is the second book we have produced, with the first published in December 2014 covering a wide range of programs and events that focused on cultural healing, empowerment, capacity building and leadership of our collective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who either lived in Armadale or were transient families living between the suburb and various towns throughout Western Australia.

We would especially like to acknowledge and thank the Elders who were in most instances, older family members of our participants - who actively supported our programs and events, and who were lead community members of a wide range of initiatives.

A shout out also go to several non-Indigenous Elders and families, who are married into Aboriginal families of the region and who wanted to be both part of the programs, and to learn more about Noongar and Aboriginal culture so they were well versed to encourage their grandchildren and great-grandchildren to learn more about their cultural heritage.

The Elders were of great value to the success of the program and events and we are sincerely grateful to them for their individual and collective cultural knowledge sharing, expertise and support:

Special Thank You:

- Aunty Madge Hill, Noongar Elder, Armadale
- Aunty Eunice Binder, Noongar Elder, Armadale
- Aunty Beryl Dixon, Noongar Elder, Great Southern, WA
- Aunty Margaret Culbong, Noongar Elder, Perth
- Aunty Roma Winmar
- Uncle Mort and Aunty Vivian Hansen, Noongar Elders, Armadale
- Aunty Cheryl Phillips, Noongar Elder and SK Home Kid
- Aunty Carmel Culbong, Noongar Elder and SK Home Kid
- Uncle Albert and Irene MacNamara

We sincerely appreciated their support over the past decade to make the program and the community events the success they were.

Following this, SKHKAC would also like to thank the various service provider agencies who supported the program and were collaborators of several major events:

- City of Armadale
- Communicare Cannington and Armadale Offices
- City of Gosnells
- Communities for Children Community Partners (metro area and regional/state offices)
- Home Intergration Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY)
- Play Mates After School Care - Harrold King Centre, Kenwick
- LiFE Academy, Joondalup
- Boodjari Yorga Family Care Services, Armadale Hospital
- Mungart Nyoongah Yongah Arts Enterprise Group
- Champion Centre, City of Armadale
- Minnawarra House, Armadale
- SAVE the Children Services, Armadale
- Marr Kudjul
- Koodah Boodjah
- Hope Community Services, Armadale
- Sathya Sai International Organisation
- Community Newspapers, Kenwick

Finally - we would like to thank the SKHKAC Board of Directors, staff, members/families and all who have become strong and active supporters and advocates of the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation and all that it represents: Healing, Empowerment, Self-determination, Indigenous Human Rights and owners of our Destinies.

Tjalaminu Mia - CEO, Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation

Author/Photography: Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation

ISBN: 978-0-9876446-1-9

Graphic Design: Dessein

Printer: Daniels Printing Craftsmen

© Compilation copyright -
Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation.
Individual pieces copyright © individual contributors, 2019



The Aboriginal Healing Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services delivered by Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation.