

**Yorgum Aboriginal
Corporation**

Annual Report

2009

John Pickett 2001

Content

Page	Content
3	Yorgum Profile
7	Chairpersons Report
8	Treasurers Report
9	CEO Report
11	Finance and Admin
12	Yorgum Programs
13	Statistical Data
16	Clinical Team
18	Clinical Staff
21	Building Solid Families/Link Up
31	Community Development
35	Auditors Report



Yorgum Profile

Yorgum's History

Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation is essentially an Aboriginal community-based organization which was established through a self-help group of concerned Aboriginal women and men in 1991.

The genesis of Yorgum was a group of women and children in women's refuges who were experiencing spiritual, emotional and psychological pain. There were no appropriate services available to them at the time. They decided on the need for healing rather than a continual 'patch up' approach. A training course was implemented in psychotherapy. Their consistent belief was that psychology and psychiatry professions are not culturally effective in producing healing results for Aboriginal victims and perpetrators of family violence and child abuse.

Yorgum representatives believe that 'huge numbers' of Aboriginal people are not being serviced and there are 'things' occurring in Aboriginal communities that members find difficult to talk about. Initially, there were two groups of women (approximately 25 each) and a group of men (about 12) who Eighteen years ago commenced a two-year cycle of study to do some fundamental personal healing around their own lives. ATSIIC provided the initial funding. At the end of the training course, the participants established Yorgum and the incorporation was accomplished in 1993.

This was a big step for the people involved, but changes in the external environment assisted in gaining a wide recognition of Aboriginal counsellors – the follow-up on the recommendations from the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report, the Bringing them Home Report and the Swan Mental Health Report. The 'Graduates' from the training course provided the core of the intellectual resource for the unique Yorgum counselling approach.

The Yorgum leadership developed relationships with funding organizations, such as World Vision. World Vision provided the funds for Yorgum's administration functions. Following this, Yorgum received minimal funding from the Department for Community Development to develop a child sexual abuse treatment service for families (focusing on the children) and then further funding for family violence counselling. Oxfam Australia funded the Community Development position.

There has been a concern for many years in the Aboriginal Community that family violence and sexual abuse issues are not being addressed appropriately for Aboriginal people and that the issues are highly attributed to alcohol and/or substance abuse. The affects of family violence and sexual abuse are enormous and are linked to many other issues such as; health, finances, employment, education, crime, deaths in custody, family fragmentation, loss of identity and the cycle continues.

In 2006, Yorgum was successful in gaining the Link-Up Program through OATSIH and the Office of Aboriginal Health. The Program offers family tracing and reunions to Aboriginal people removed under past government policies and practices.

Yorgum plays an integral part in the healing of Aboriginal people. Yorgum has 19 Aboriginal staff who employ a holistic approach and take into account historical issues which may affect the clients. Yorgum is governed by an all Aboriginal Management Committee which consists of a broad range of skills and expertise.

Yorgum provides an alternative and cultural approach to healing Aboriginal people who have been affected by family violence, sexual abuse and the underlying issues associated. The service operates metropolitan wide and works in a manner that is holistic and within Aboriginal Terms of Reference.

Yorgum is located at 176 Wittenoom Street, East Perth. Clients can access Yorgum by train (*the train station is within walking distance*); by bus (*the CAT bus*) or by car (*there is a parking area across the road*). East Perth is a central location and since relocating from Northbridge, the client numbers have increased.

Mission Statement

To provide a nurturing place and an environment which promotes the cultural strength of the Aboriginal people of Australia and their families through a healing process that supports their spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional well being.

Philosophy

The name “Yorgum” is a Noongar name for a large red flowering gum tree which has healing properties. Aboriginal people have used the Gum for many years in the treatment of numerous ailments, including diseases of the eyes.

The name is an expression of the life-sustaining image of the living tree. The deep roots, rising sap, branches reaching to the sky, the shelter given and the home provided to the many forms of life-insects, reptiles, birds and other animals. It is a symbol of connectedness and inter-dependence in the diversity of living beings. This image conveys the philosophy of the Yorgum staff and the way in which they work.

The underlying philosophy is the valuing of our diversity; in different individuals, different families; language groups and people from places who are included and respected; that human differences can be accepted as expressions of our uniqueness and capacity to survive.

Abuse can be compared to a tree with the root system being affected by some of the factors such as loss of culture, identity, low self-esteem, unresolved cultural traumatic experiences.

The lack of consistent, supportive and loving relationships and the absence of positive life enhancing values are like the soil in which the tree grows. A tree is an organic system. If the whole system is diseased, you can't just treat one of the roots and expect the rest of the tree to be healthy. You must treat the whole tree as well as the soil within which it grows.

Purpose

Yorgum aims to offer Aboriginal people an autonomous, Aboriginal-specific, community-based, counselling and referral service that acknowledges the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people. Yorgum provides an environment that enhances the healing process for Aboriginal individuals and their families experiencing emotional distress; and working towards empowerment collectively and individually. At all times, Yorgum operates within the framework of Aboriginal terms of reference.

Yorgum Aims To:

1. Maintain and provide a counselling service to Aboriginal people (men, women and children).
2. Provide a holistic response to Family Violence and Sexual Abuse in Counselling and Community Development.
3. Identify and apply counselling processes which embrace and acknowledge cultural diversity, values, beliefs, knowledge and skills.
4. Provide the opportunity for staff and management to access development programs which include ongoing training, education, debriefing and support.
5. Support staff to develop programs to deliver to Aboriginal men, women and children
6. Work towards positive outcomes for Aboriginal people (particularly children) who have been affected by family and sexual abuse.
7. Provide a Link-Up Service to the Metropolitan region and the Murchison, Goldfields, South East, Wheatbelt regions.

Objectives

The objectives for which the Association of Yorgum is established are:

- To promote a positive image of Aboriginal people in all places, ie. The family, community, workplace and society.
- To encourage Aboriginal people to recognize and value their heritage, traditional Aboriginal heritage and identity, ensuring it remains integral for the well-being and value of their place in society and the world.
- To assist Aboriginal people to deal with personal and social issues that they are confronted with in order that they may grow and develop within enhanced family relationships.
- To empower Aboriginal people to take their rightful place in their society by facilitating opportunities for them in education, self-development, awareness, participation, equality and any other way the Association sees fit to help Aboriginal people to gain self-dependency.
- To recognize and encourage the unification of Aboriginal people in common pursuits as a means of strengthening and supporting their actions and success in improving the quality of life for all.

- To research, plan and develop programs, workshops and seminars for Aboriginal people to address their needs.
- To identify gaps in opportunities, to establish networks, to create and encourage initiatives to address these gaps.
- To encourage community development and sensitive community issues relevant to Aboriginal people and social justice.
- To assist in the healing of Aboriginal people through their participation in obtaining training in the area of family counselling or by undergoing counselling either as a family or as an individual.
- To receive and expend grants or money from the government or the Commonwealth, the State or from any other source to support the Aboriginal community.
- Undertake the above objectives and where appropriate, encourage collaborative and close relationships regardless of culture, race or creed.

Strategies to Achieve Objectives and Aims

- To reduce further domestic violence and sexual abuse by providing counselling services and education programs in the prevention and treatment of family violence, sexual abuse and the underlying issues.
- Collaborate and negotiate with relevant funding bodies, government and non-government departments, Aboriginal community agencies and other key stakeholders to provide the best service possible to the Aboriginal Community.
- Encourage self-sufficiency and empowerment among Aboriginal people
- Collaborate and liaise with relevant agencies so that clients can be referred in an unproblematic manner as required.
- Respect and value clients accessing the service and at all times work in a highly confidential manner.
- Ensure that Yorgum works in a holistic framework towards the healing of each individual client under the Aboriginal Terms of Reference.
- Provide a range of services which are available and responsive to Aboriginal people's needs, by working in a respectful way, encouraging clients to help determine their own needs\



Chairpersons Report



Chair Person – Josie Maxted

This year has seen many changes and achievements within Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation. The Corporation has expanded their services to include new offices and training rooms within the service, Aboriginal professional people are being employed; plus we are updating and extending staff skills with training.

The Corporation has continued to grow and expand the services at a fast rate and we are looking to future needs within the organization. Overall we have an increase in the use of our services and with the increase our staff needs are continuing to grow.

Without commitment from the staff our clients would not gain the valuable help they do and with this in mind the committee would like to acknowledge and say thank you to the dedicated staff and Chief Executive Officer of Yorgum.

On another note we would also like to thank the many funding bodies associated with allowing us to get on and do the work; Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service (Commonwealth); Office of Aboriginal Health (WA Health); Department of Child Protection and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs, Oxfam Australia and Lotterywest.

Yorgum is currently attracting many qualified professional committee members and this is heartening to see as people become aware of the good work that is being achieved within the organization. For this I should like to thank my fellow committee Directors for their commitment and support throughout the year. I look forward to us growing the Corporation even further with the incoming committee to meet future needs of the Aboriginal community.

Josephine Maxted BSW

Chairperson Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation

Treasurers' Report



Treasurer – Craig Allen

Since 2006 I have been an active board member and currently fulfil the role of treasurer. In the last 12 months Yorgum has been working hard and this effort is reflected in the organisations capacity to grow while still managing to deliver an exceptional quality of services to Aboriginal people/communities. This momentum has seen Yorgum's obligations and workload increase notably however there has been significant recognition of this work and as a result Yorgum has been able to secure additional funding and expand to meet the increasing demand.

At this stage all finances are tabled and endorsed at the regular (monthly) Management Committee Meeting and show a true and accurate record of Yorgum's financial progress for over the last 12 months. If additional information is required then these documents can be made available upon request to the current CEO, Jade Maddox and/or the Finance Officer, Casey Holland.

This being said it is important to highlight the following...

- 1) In the last 12 months Yorgum has undergone an external audit. As stressful as the audit process was there was nothing but positive feedback from this process – well done to the Yorgum Team. The outcome of this audit was very impressive with the result being tabled in the Management Committee Meeting.
- 2) The outstanding work of Yorgum's finance officer, Casey Holland. The last 12 months the finances have been faultless. Any of the financial documentation has been prepared and ready for signatures in a timely and efficient manner before due dates and deadlines, this also includes all the banking (including staff pay, travel arrangements, office purchases) and other bank recs. This has made my job significantly easier this year and as result I would like to acknowledge Casey's tireless and meticulous work in this area – Thank You Casey.

The last financial year at Yorgum has proven itself to be an extremely positive and exciting period that, at this stage, shows little sign of slowing down and therefore next year should be another successful and inspirational year.

Craig Allen
Treasurer Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation



CEO – Jade Maddox

The last financial year has been an extremely exciting and productive year for Yorgum. The organization has gone from strength to strength through this growth period and we now have a total of 19 Aboriginal identified positions. Last year Yorgum had 15 Aboriginal identified positions.

I would like to take the opportunity to highly praise and thank the commitment of the Yorgum staff. The positive feedback received from clients, departments and agencies about the excellent service our staff provide, has been quite overwhelming this year. I would also like to thank the Management Committee directors and members for their commitment and support throughout the past year. There were many new staff who joined Yorgum through out the year and we welcome, Karen Ugle, Averil Williams, Joanne Woods, Jenny Dempster and Lloyd Wilkes to the Clinical Section; Leah Young, Kim Francis and Wayne Abdullah in the Link-Up Program and Beth Manchester as Receptionist. In addition we say goodbye to Carmen Lawson and Delphine Soet who retired and I would like to thank them for their service and commitment to Yorgum.

The year was full of exciting highlights, such as:

- NAIDOC Week stall at Ashfield and at Royal Perth Hospital
- Student visits x 12
- 3 Student Placements (2 medicine and 1 reception)
- Julie Potter and Millie Penny were successful in gaining a Certificate 1V in Leadership – first 2 staff to go to the Leadership Training
- National Indigenous Healing Questions – Yorgum response sent on 29th August 2008
- Presentation in Canberra National Indigenous Healing Forum Workshop on 16th September 2008 and attended Aboriginal Healing Foundation Workshops in Perth on 27th and 28th May
- Won an Excellence Award from the Health Consumers Council for outstanding service to Aboriginal families by a health provider
- Millie presentation at Conference, Our Mob, Our Mind, Our Spirit on Art Healing
- New Rules/Constitution for Yorgum through Office of Registrar for Indigenous Corporations (ORIC)
- Invited to Lotterywest in December 2008 for a Christmas lunch and gave a presentation. Lennett Sandy from Yorgum's Management Committee attended with the CEO.
- Family Violence Court training and on Aboriginal Reference Group
- Link-Up Counsellor Handbook Forum in December
- Pre-Planning day held on 27th August 2008

- Building Refurbishment downstairs finalized in Mid December 2008. Office space for Link-Up staff, kitchen facilities and Training room. Thanks to OATSIH, OAH and Lotterywest for funding the refurbishment
- 25/7 Masseur in for all staff to unwind
- Carmen retired in December
- Denise Palmer resigned for her position as Receptionist.
- Annual General Meeting held on 15th December 2008
- New Uniforms for staff. Shirts and Polo shirts through Westcoast Uniforms.
- Lorna injured her back in an accident returning from Training
- Carmen Lawson retired from her counselling role
- Oxfam Evaluation May

During the 2008-2009 financial year, Yorgum had the downstairs area of the building refurbished to include additional office space, kitchen and a Training facility so that Yorgum can hold workshops, support groups and events. The refurbishment was completed in December 2008 and has made a huge difference to service delivery, particularly for the Link-Up program who now have their own offices and a nice staff area.

Thank you once again to all the staff that are strongly committed to assisting Aboriginal people affected by sexual abuse, family violence, stolen generation and underlying issues. I am extremely proud of the Yorgum staff and the work that has been accomplished with individuals, families, communities and agencies to date. We certainly have come a long way and I know that the staff do more than what we ask of them.

Jade Maddox
CEO Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation

Finance and Admin



Finance Officer - Casey Grant

This year again had many staff changes with new staff coming and old staff moving on or retiring, we now have 18 full time staff which has made both finance and admin much busier.

It was great to see the refurbishment on our downstairs warehouse space into offices and a training room be finally completed after such a long delay. We received increases to both the DCP funding and the OATSIH Link Up funding which has seen both those teams expand and increase service delivery.

Again this year I have had assistance from Jenny Sala in preparing the financial statements, I hope in the next 12 months to be doing all the statements myself. I have also continued to be the minute keeper at the monthly Management Committee meetings.

On a personal note I got married in January of this year, and we are expecting our first baby in March 2010, I am very excited to be starting this stage in my personal life and look forward to the challenge of juggling parenthood and a career.

The growth within Yorgum over the past 12 months has been amazing; I am looking forward to being part of the continued growth in the coming years.



Receptionist - Beth Manchester

I started working here at Yorgum on May 09; I have always worked in the area of Reception and Admin work.

I have previously worked at DYHS and AADS in a similar role, I love working and being a part of an all Aboriginal organisation and helping and working with my people.

In 2006/2007 I completed a Diploma in Aboriginal Health Science & Community Development at Sydney University's Cumberland Campus. This year I will complete my Advanced Diploma in Aboriginal Studies through Tranby Aboriginal College in Glebe NSW, I graduate on the 13th of Nov 09 it was a 2 year course.

My job in reception is to monitor the Staff Movement Board, Answering Incoming calls, Mail Incoming/Outgoing, Taking Minutes at the Meetings and just general reception office duties down in reception.

Yorgum Programs

The Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Service

Aboriginal Children and their families

Counselling for Aboriginal Children Experiencing Family Violence

Aboriginal Children and their families

Family Violence Counselling & Advocacy Program

All ages.

Building Solid Families and Link Up Program

Re-connecting those Aboriginal people who were separated from their families by past Government policies.

Community Development Healing Program

Family Violence Workshops to raise awareness and enhance local solutions at a local level - The Workshops are facilitated by Yorgum and delivered to predominantly Aboriginal people in Nyoongar Country.

Support Groups.

Grandmother's Group.

Yarning Circle (with the Bringing Them Home Committee)



Program Statistical Data

Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Service 2009 (till Dec only)

	Adults	Children
Total Clients (621)	340	281
No of Females	289	174
No of Males	51	107
Type of Service		
Individual Counselling	155	
Couple Counselling	5	
Family Counselling	0	
Phone Counselling	75	
Assessment	222	
Information & informal referrals	103	
Access to other services	47	
Community education	11	
Telephone safety checks	57	
Court Reports	0	
Total:	675	
No of Groups	12	
Hours of Group work	34	
Number of Participants	72	
Cases:		
Carried over from previous reporting period	239	
Opened/reopened during reporting period	382	
Total cases worked on in reporting period	621	
Cases closed	389	
Carried over to next reporting period	232	
Total formal Counselling CSATS sessions	1839	

Children Experiencing Family Violence Counselling Service(FV) 2009

	Adults	Children
Total Clients (569)	331	238
No of Females	288	161
No of Males	43	77

Type of Service	Totals
Advocacy	569
Assessment	569
Assistance to access services	100
Court Support	2
Formal counselling	569
Informal counselling	166
Information only	79
Outreach	131
Support planning	569
Total	2754

No of Groups	13
Hours of Group work	45
No of Participants	78

Cases:

Carried over from previous reporting period	256
Opened/reopened during reporting period	313
Total cases worked on in reporting period	569
Cases closed	311
Carried over to next reporting period	258
 Total formal Counselling FV sessions	1980

Family Violence Counselling & Advocacy Program Statistical Data 2009

Number of Clients	255
Number of Telephone Enquiries	517
Number of Referrals*	80
Number of Current Cases	231
Number of Closed Clients	24
Number of Counselling Sessions	796

* This does not include self referrals or walk ins

Number Of Formal Counselling Sessions

FV Counselling and Advocacy	796
Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic service	1839
Counselling for Children Experiencing Family Violence	1980
Total	4615

Link Up/Building Solid Families Statistical Data 2009

Active clients	174
Inactive:	5
Closed	33
Non Clients:	596
Services Delivered (field, client, info & other visits)	127
Reunions	17
No of attendee's	1191
Referrals to other services	25
Client searches (family tracing & research)	117
Representational activities (community forums, conferences etc.)	24
No. of attendee's	873
MOU's	2



Clinical Team

The clinical team consists of:

Karen Strachan	Clinical Supervisor
Millie Penny	Senior Counsellor
Lorna Alone	Counsellor/Advocate
Jenny Dempster	Counsellor/Advocate
Averil Williams	Counsellor/Advocate
Lloyd Wilkes	Counsellor
Joanne Woods	Counsellor

This past year has seen the employment of a fulltime Clinical Supervisor: Karen Strachan (nee Ugle). We also employed 4 new counsellors; Joanne Woods CSATS, Jenny Dempster Family Violence and Advocacy, Averil Williams 50% Family Violence DCP and 50% Family Violence Advocacy Lloyd Wilkes joins the CSATS as the male counsellor

Millie is one of the original team members of the previous teams and therefore has a huge source of information and experience in the area of counselling and service delivery, as well as policy and procedure she is also one of the founding members of the organisation therefore with this knowledge and experience Yorgum CEO has given her a promotion to a Senior Counsellor.

The Clinical team are in the process of preparing for a file audit this will improve, maintain and change the system to ensure that the information is complete, accurate and the confidentiality of clients are of utter importance

Clinical will continue to raise awareness of Yorgum counselling services to agencies and the community at large in order to increase the number of referrals being made.

Some of the activities undertaken by clinical team members are as follows:

- Referrals from DCP slowly increasing as are referrals from Schools,
- Clinical Team Leader attended a Racism Roundtable with 40 National researchers – which resulted in a Declaration being created calling for an end to racism in this country, including the reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act.
- Two counsellors were accepted in Indigenous Leadership Program a gender balance of one male and one female
- NAIDOC celebration.
- Yorgum Sorry Day anniversary held on the 13th February Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service
- Picnic in the Park (annual event)

Clinical Staff



Karen Ugle – Clinical Supervisor

I am a Ballardong/Bibbulmun Yorga. I am also a Registered Psychologist, an Associate Member of the Australian Psychologist Society (APS) and Member of the Australian Indigenous Psychologist Association (AIPA). I am passionate about good Mental Health and I believe it was always my destiny to be able to assist my people in a very real and positive way.

I started working at Yorgum this year – in March 2009 as the Clinical Team Leader/Supervisor. I greatly valued the opportunity to join an all Aboriginal Organisation and was over the moon when I was offered the position. It is my role to support and supervise the counselling team, which itself has grown with 5 new members. I am looking forward to my future with enthusiasm.



Millie Penny - Senior Counsellor and Acting Clinical Team Leader

Throughout 2008/9 the clinical team has seen many changes staff leaving and new staff joining us, farewell to the staff that has left us Yorgum thanks you for your support and work commitments and congratulations to the successful applicants joining us. Throughout these changes the clinical team has focused on continual service provision of sexual abuse and family violence counselling for families and individuals whom have been victims, witnessed or are past survivors of some form of abuse.

My role as acting team leader has been an experience and I thank Yorgum CEO Ms Jade Maddox and Yorgum Management Committee for having the belief that I could do the job.

Role of Team Leader

- 1. Supervision of staff**
- 2. Collections of Statistical Data**
- 3. Attend meetings professional and community**
- 4. Progress report**
- 5. Meet with CEO and funding body**
- 6. Daily running of clinical team (these are some of the requirements)**

My role as a counsellor at Yorgum have been both challenging and rewarding, the counselling service to the Aboriginal community in the metropolitan region has been demanding at times however the successful stories and feedback is what makes Yorgum unique as an all Aboriginal service provider.

The art therapy workshops continue to be the most requested workshop within the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community.

Events Millie has participated in:

- October 08: Accepted Cert IV in Indigenous Leadership
- October 08: Picnic in the Park (annual event)
- October 08: Indigenous Women's Group/ Art Therapy @ women's camp
- November 08: Presentation @ Our Mob, Our Mind, Our Spirit Conference/Fremantle
- December 08: Graduated Cert IV in Indigenous Leadership
- February 09: Art Therapy Class
- March 09: Family Violence Workshop @ Rivervale
- April 09: Art Therapy @ Women's camp Point Walter
- May 09: Art Therapy Grandmothers group Whiteman Park
- June 09: Health Workshop@ Women's Health Service



Lorna Alone – Counsellor/Advocate

I have been working at Yorgum for five years and I enjoy working with our people and I believe that this is a good strong counselling service for them to come to for support.

I like working with all the clients that I have met since working here for I strongly believe that they should be talking to counsellors that they can trust, and who will listen to them and believe what they are saying and most of all relate to their issues.

It is not easy talking to counsellors telling them about their past and current problems and nightmares that wont go away, but by coming into Yorgum they are working their problems out and it is also making them stronger and looking at a better future.



Joanne Woods - Counsellor

I am one of the new members to the Clinical team of Yorgum, I started here in 2009.

My role is one of the Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Counsellors; I have enjoyed working with my people young and old, it has been a real eye opener to see that we have a lot of people out there that need healing, there are a lot of strength within Yorgum to help these ones especially because it is an all black fellow team.

In my short time here I have had the privilege of making new friends that are not only professional but know how to lift the spirits of even the down trodden.

I work in a team of 6 in the clinical department, who play a very important role in Yorgum, with assisting the aboriginal people from all parts of WA.



Averil Williams – Counsellor/Advocate

I am a Noongar Yorga, I am married with 5 children and a grandmother to 5 but have many other grandchildren as well. I come from four large family groups: they are Williams / Hayward's (Dad's) & Penny / Woods' (Mum's); peoples of the Koreng / Minang language groups: I am the third eldest within a family of 10 children; like my children & many grandchildren; all my family groups are very important to me.

My employment with Yorgum began in February 2009, so this makes me a new member of the Clinical Team. Initially I failed the interview and thus was not a successful candidate; though Jade had other ideas and provided an opportunity for me to be a part of the team, to that I am extremely grateful and appreciative. I hope in turn I bring a different approach and quality to the area that I work. My employment began as the Family & Domestic Violence Counselor working with adults, now I work with children. The highlights of working at Yorgum are the clients; I enjoy working with my clients to achieve goals they identify as their need, not mine. The benefits of working within an organization like Yorgum are the staff all being aboriginal; our journeys are very similar.



Lloyd Wilkes – Counsellor

I am a Nyoongar Marman Wadjuk from Perth I was Born in Boddington and lived in Williams as a young boy. We then moved to Perth (Gosnells) in 1969, I have lived here ever since. My Nyoongar ancestry is Wadjuk (Swan River) through my Grand Father on Dads side Dads Mother was a Wongutha woman, my Mums family came from the north, Her Father come from Roebourne and her Mother came from Turkey Creek (Warmun Tribe) near Wyndham. I grew up knowing as a Nyoongar (Aboriginal) and no one will take that away from me, slowly I learned that from all over Australia there were different clans or tribes if you want to call them that, such as, Murri, Koori, Yamatji, Wongi, and Nyoongar ...etc but we all are still the same, Aboriginal.

I am enjoying my work as a Male Counsellor so far at Yorgum, I have enjoyed meeting new work colleagues, they are great bunch of people I have also made friends through the Aboriginal network as well as mainstream organisations, I will take this opportunity to do my best to assist fellow Aboriginals find the right path in their struggle for a better quality of life. I have also enjoyed the challenge of working with younger clients finding out what they need and where they are heading and what it is that I can do to help them better understand themselves and the Community; I feel that without Yorgum Aboriginal Family Counselling Service the struggle for some Aboriginal men, young men and boys would be very hard. Aboriginals need to be able to sit down and be counseled when needed, it is a much needed service and it is good to see that people are accessing Yorgum especially the Young Men. I am hoping to keep learning at all times and gain a wealth of knowledge working here at Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation



Jennifer Dempster – Counsellor/Advocate

I am a 53 yr old Aboriginal woman, as a child I became a part of the stolen generation.

My mother is a Nyoongar from the Southwest and my father is a full blood from the Kimberly's in Western Australia. I value both my parent's locations and believe in both their cultures.

Throughout my years of education, I have completed yr 10 and also ventured onto 4yrs of TAFE, which opened a door to Churchlands University, which became the ultimate of my educational journey. However, I did not complete the course due to the loss of my father, which devastated me.

I took it upon myself to study and gather more knowledge to understand over the next few years so I could help the Aboriginal people through their grief, loss, pain and suffering just as I have experienced.

The biggest step which has opened my eyes was the 5 yrs which I have worked on the Nyoongar Patrol. My time at this location, also gave me the opportunity to study and achieve more credentials, along with the outreach work that I was seeing first hand with today's changing society.

Now Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation has also given me an opportunity to expand my knowledge and understanding and to broaden my horizon towards the needs for the Aboriginal people in our Community. I thoroughly enjoy helping our people both professionally and personally, nothing gives me greater joy than to see a person smile again.

I have always believed in myself and that persistence, motivation and determination can overcome any obstacle and it is the driving force for my achievements no matter what tasks I have encountered along my pathway of goals. I believe I am the kind of person who invites new challenges and also eager to allow this to lead me to learning new skills.

I am also thankful for what I have, as coming from humble beginnings has managed to help me keep my feet firmly on the ground. I am also passionate concerning my choices as to what door this leads me to open.

As an Aboriginal working Mother, Grandmother, I feel a firm foundation within myself as a human being, living in today's changing and challenging society is vital for the Healing of Aboriginal People within our Community.

We can reflect on our past, look towards our Future and stand firm in the Present.

Link Up and Building Solid Families Program

Background

In September 2006, Yorgum was successful in the tender process for the Link-Up & Building Solid Families program.

The Building Solid Families program provides social and emotional well being services including culturally secure information, support and advice services to the Aboriginal communities particularly those affected by trauma, grief and loss; affected by mental health problems; and at risk of self harm, in particular youth who are living in the metropolitan region.

What can Building Solid Families do?

- Client assessments and care plans;
- Provision of and referral to general counselling and support services. Establish counselling and referral protocols and support services networks
- Develop and support clear pathways for referral and receipt with Department of Health mental health services;

The Link up Program is more formally known as the *Access to Effective Family Tracing and Reunion Services Program*. It provides funding to organisations, not individuals, for the purpose of family tracing and reunion services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been separated from their families as a result of the past removal policies and practices of Australian governments.

What can Link Up Services do?

There are a number of core activities required from the Link Up Services under the Link Up Program, including:

- a. Client contact, assessment, referral and support and guidance;
- b. Support and Guidance – Initial Family Contact;
- c. Counselling, support and advocacy;
- d. Researching family history information and other relevant information;
- e. Secondary Link Up Service negotiation and liaison;
- f. Reunion management;
 - Phase 1. Pre-reunion (preparation);
 - Phase 2. Reunion; and
 - Phase 3. Post Reunion
- g. Post Reunion Support;
- h. Cultural and Family Value Awareness;
- i. Public Awareness (i.e. promoting the Link Up Services);
- j. Staff Training and Development;
- k. Representation on Government and Community Forums; and
- l. Administrative Management, including the development of Memorandums of Understandings.

The following activities are ineligible under this program:

- Native title, land rights, compensation or reparation claims;
- Return to Country reunions;
- Erecting of monuments;
- Relocation;
- More than one reunion;
- Funeral attendance (including funding for transport and other related costs);
- General community education;
- Genealogy assistance; and
- Locating missing persons.

Who can access the Link Up Services?

The people Link-Up Services assist include:

- People affected by past removal policies and practices and their families; and
- Individuals and families, who have been adopted, fostered or raised in institutions.

Funding need not be strictly confined to support only those who can demonstrate that they have lost contact with their families and communities as a *direct* result of the past removal policies and practices of Australian governments.

Link-Up Services can provide assistance to clients identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or who believe they have Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage. However, if records or research indicates Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage has not been documented, Link Up Services will be unable to assist further.

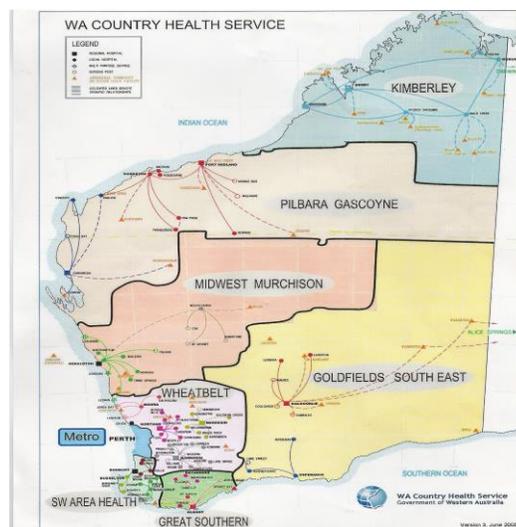
An appropriate referral agency will be recommended in this instance e.g.: Salvation Army - Family Tracing Unit, Jigsaw (SA) and Post Adoptive Resource Centre. The person is able to return to the Link up Service to become a client if they find documentary evidence of their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage.

An individual, who may or may not have already confirmed their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, may be trying to establish and document their family history – this is a genealogy or family tree exercise – not family tracing, and accordingly cannot be undertaken by a Link Up Service. Referral should be made to the State Museums, State Libraries or Genealogical Societies.

Staff and Regional boundaries

The Link Up program consists of a Coordinator and four Caseworkers, a Link up Counsellor and State-wide Research Officer covering the following regions; the Building Solid Families program consists of a caseworker who covers the metropolitan region;

- Midwest/Murchison – Mary Nannup (Caseworker)
- Bunbury Southwest – Melbourne Hart (Caseworker)
- Goldfields – Kim Francis (Caseworker)
- South East – Donna Pickett (Case Worker)
- Wheatbelt – Sandra Ryder (Caseworker)
- Metropolitan – All caseworkers
- Link Up Counsellor – Delphine Soet
- State-wide Research Officer – Leah Young



Previously there were five link-up sites throughout these regions, however, Office of Aboriginal Health decided to amalgamate these regions having the service delivery centralised.

Link Up Counsellor

On the 5th January 2008, Yorgum was allocated a further position to provide counselling and support for Link Up clients. This position was a result of a review of the Link Up, Bringing Them Home and SEWB programs. The report identified the need for Link Up service to have a dedicated counselling position for reunion purposes.

Delphine Soet was successful in applying for the position on a contractual basis and has a degree in Social Work. Delphine speaks Bunuba and Kriol language and her mother's grandmother is from the Nygina language group in West Kimberley. Delphine brings a wide range of experience and skills to the Link Up team.

State-wide Research Officer

On the 6th October 2008, Yorgum was allocated a further position to provide research and tracing support to WA Link Up services. This position was a result of reducing costs (travel & accommodation) to other Link Up services in accessing information metropolitan based. This position is also utilised on a National level by other interstate Link Up services.

Sub Offices

Link-Up Service has office space through the development of MOU's in regional areas, which are located at;

- Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service servicing the Murchison/Midwest region,
- Bega Garnbirringu Aboriginal Health Service servicing the Goldfields and South West region,
- South West Aboriginal Medical Service servicing the Bunbury and South west region,

Regional visits are conducted on a monthly basis to ensure that the regions are being serviced regularly.

Training – 2008/09

Link-Up staff have attended and completed the following training;

- Signs of Safety
- SARC – Another layer of trauma
- Yorgum – Family Violence workshop
- The art of healing of creative conflict
- Narrative Therapy
- CSTC – Stuck in the middle (post traumatic stress syndrome)
- Stepsoft - Foxtrot
- Winangali – Marumali program
- AIASTIS – Family History

Conferences

- National Link Up Conference
- National Coordinators meeting
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Library Research Network

Future Projects

Oral History Project

Link Up is currently in the initial stages of developing an 'Oral History Project' to preserve family history information. This project will be of benefit to the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities for future generations.

Healing Camps

A further project that is also in the initial development stages is healing camps for stolen generation people and their families. This project will focus on cultural activities, various forms of therapeutic practices, storytelling and family tracing workshops.

Yarning Circle

Yorgum Link Up, DYHS – Stolen Generation program and Bringing Them Home committee are also involved in coordinating 'Yarning Circle'. The purpose of this forum is for community people to come together and discuss issues around the development of healing programs, raising reparation issues and a support group. This forum also links in with the Stolen Generation Alliance (National rep body), through the Bringing Them Home committee were local issues that arise from this forum can be tabled at a National level. At this stage there have been three forums conducted.

National, State & Coordinators Link-Up Conferences

Yorgum Link-Up Coordinator attends the National Link Up conference and Coordinators meeting each year. Link-Up conferences focus on all levels of service delivery i.e. policy and procedures, program issues, identify and enhance training and staff development needs, administrative issues and networking.

These forums also give the Link-Up staff an opportunity to identify barriers, share information and have a collective voice about any issues or concerns relevant to service delivery to the funding agencies.

National Apology & Sorry Day

The Bringing Them Home committee in conjunction with Yorgum Link Up, Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services – Stolen Generation program continue to support and coordinate these events for all Australians to be a part of the National Apology & Sorry day.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I am very proud of the growth and the achievements that the Link Up team has accomplished during the financial year. The Link Up team consists of an all Aboriginal staff, which each individual brings unique skills and abilities. Yorgum Link Up will continue to implement 'Best Practices' to continue to improve the quality of service delivery to Stolen Generation people and their families.

Lionel Gregory
Coordinator



Lionel Gregory – Link Up Coordinator

I have been the Coordinator for the Link Up program since 2007. During this time I have been a part of the growth of the Link Up program. The Link Up programs staff has grown from 4 to 8 staff. Link Up also had a refurbishment occur and now have 7 offices, where previously staff were in a shared office space.

I have a very diverse team in Link Up, where all staff have strong links and connections throughout our region. All the staff are of Aboriginal descent and majority of the staff have an in dept understanding of the underlying issues that affect Stolen Generation people and their families.

I have been very instrumental in the development of the Link Up and Bringing Them Home programs Handbook, which is a policy and guidelines document. I have also been involved in coordinating training for WA Link Up services, coordinating WA Coordinator teleconferences to support and discuss service delivery issues and best practices; I am also a committee member on the development of the new Foxtrot database.

During my time with Link Up, the team has developed strong links with key service providers to provide a more collaborative approach to compliment our service. This is important for Link Up due to the vast regional area we cover and it's important to have the support from local services in particular Aboriginal services.

On a personal note I have been quite privileged to be a part of a growing program and organisation and to reflect on the hard work that staff have put into the service delivery of each program within Yorgum. Yorgum's philosophy says it all and all of the programs compliment each other.

I enjoy working in this field and the challenges that I have faced during this time, and will continue to ensure that Stolen Generation people are reunited with lost loved ones.





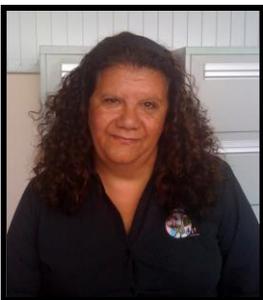
Delphine Soet – Link Up Counsellor

The role is preparing clients for meeting family they have never met via reunions, supporting them during a reunion and following up post reunion and where possible linking them into regional support and counselling. The clients are those people who prior to 1970 were separated under legislation by being institutionalized, fostered and adopted.

The issues that arise can be addressing the layers of trauma, such as grief& loss, cultural issues, identity, and abuse in all forms and drug & alcohol and mental health issues. A reunion is just another step in the healing process and journey.

The Link Up counsellor works closely with five caseworkers and helps develop healing packages with the local and regional service providers and Yorgum’s Community Development Officer. When possible clients are linked to local services, some of these services might be to Derbarl Yerrigan Aboriginal Medical Service, Aboriginal Alcohol & Drug Service, Community Drug & Alcohol Services, Southwest Medical Service, GRAMS, SARC, Mental Health Services, and many more regional services.

Perth Link Up assisted 20 primary clients and their extended families in the first 6 months. Reunions held were in Queensland, Albany, Geraldton, Perth, Moora, Carnarvon, and Broome on Pilbara stations, at gravesides, and at a Broome community. The counselor conducted regional visits with the caseworkers and spoke at several forums to advertise Yorgum Link up Services. The gatherings included community people, government and non government services, tertiary students, TAFE students’ schools, nurses and police. Notices were put in school newsletters and local papers and radio.



Leah Young – Link Up Research Officer

I am a Wongatha woman from the eastern goldfields, my family name is Cooper and my family land is Kalgoorlie. I am the proud mother of three beautiful daughters who are reaching very strongly into their futures. I have been the Research Officer for twelve months and am very passionate about Aboriginal Family Histories; therefore I find this position has a very exciting future and look forward to contributing to the community with it.



Mary Nannup – Case Worker

I am a Noongah woman from the Yuat/Wheatbelt area in WA. I was born in New Norcia and come from a family of twelve.

My previous employment was with Moora Campus. I have worked as an Aboriginal Student Support Officer for 7 years.

I commenced working as a Link-Up Caseworker at Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation in July 2006. Prior to that, the Building Solid Families Link-Up program was set up in the Wheatbelt town of Moora in 2001, where I took on the role as the Link-Up Caseworker.

I have attended various training courses over the years and networked with other local and national Link-Up sites to enable me to do my job effectively. The highlight of working as a Link-Up Caseworker is the joy and experience of organizing/supporting family reunions and traveling with members of the Stolen Generations to bring the families together to establish family connections and linkages to their parents past. By bringing the people together, they can reunite with family members and discover a journey of togetherness and create emotional and spiritual healing for themselves and their families.

In previous years I have organised 'Back to Country' visits for clients. This journey of healing for clients has been successful; it provides a culturally appropriate method of healing for people living with their grief, due to the extensive and ongoing loss in their lives. It gives them the opportunity to communicate with community elders and learn more about their traditional/cultural background where they originated from, and the communities that their loved ones were removed from. Most journeys are very emotional but joyful. The 'Return to Country' visits is fundamental to the healing and social and emotional well being for members of the Stolen Generations and their families. It is a Healing Journey for people to rediscover their cultural identity and express their feelings in their 'homeland' environment.

I enjoy my work as a Link-Up Caseworker. It is challenging and inspirational and it gives me a satisfying sense of feeling that I have achieved assisting our people find their way home.





Kim Francis – Case Worker

I am a Wongi woman on my Mother’s side, my Father’s family comes from the Eastern Kimberley region of Western Australia. I have lived and worked in remote, rural and urban settings in various Aboriginal communities throughout Australia.

It has been a great opportunity to work in the Link Up Program and help other members of the Stolen Generations find family members. It was a Link Up program from interstate that helped bring me home, and as a caseworker it is an opportunity to give something back.



Melbourne Hart – Caseworker

I’m a Noongar man from the South West region of Western Australia. I am the eldest of ten children.

I have been with Yorgum since 2007 as a Link-Up caseworker. Over the last 12 months I completed the Marumali Risk Management training and FOXTROT training. I have also helped out in client reunions. Due to my own personal experiences as a child being removed from my family my passion is to help Aboriginal people heal and move on with their lives.

I have been involved in starting up Yarning circles in collaboration with the Bringing Them Home Committee that enables people who have been taken away to work through their feelings in a group situation. I have also been part of National Apology and Sorry day events throughout the year.



Donna Pickett – Case Worker

My name is Donna Pickett; I am a strong black Noongar Woman from Perth, my role is the Case-worker for the Goldfields East region which covers Esperance, Norseman and surrounding areas. My Role is working in partnership with the Counsellor with the Stolen Generation families who is seeking or tracing their siblings, the Case-worker role is to support, and empower the clients in re-uniting the families together on a re-union.



Sandra Ryder – Case Worker

I take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am a Yuat person and my family on my grandmother side has lived in New Norcia since the 18th Century.

I grew up in New Norcia where I completed all my schooling. My parents are both from the Yuat region and were part of the Stolen Generation. I have four brothers and six sisters including me. We have a good family relationship and we are a close net bunch.

I am married and have three sons and twelve grandchildren, and thankfully no great grandchildren. Two of my sons reside and work in the Pilbara region and my youngest lives and works in Perth.

My previous employment consists of working in government and non-government agencies. I have worked with Centrelink for 12 years as a customer service officer and also in the Aboriginal Services Unit within Centrelink. After Centrelink I moved to the Pilbara and worked for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Services we worked in conjunction with the ATSIC Regional Counsellors.

On returning to Perth I started working for the Wonderer’s Aboriginal Corporation as administration officer for the CDEP program. The Corporation also had a very successful football team and most of my weekends were spent organising the day and making sure everything ran smoothly. I have been working at Yorgum Link-Up Service since May 2008 and I thoroughly enjoy working in an all Aboriginal organisation and I get great job satisfaction working in this role.

I have had the opportunity to be involved in several family and mission reunions and it is always a great privilege to participate and share their personal healing journeys. I have participated in several training courses over the last 12 months. Working within the Link-Up services has enlightened me to the enormity of the impact of how the past government removal policies have affected my people, and their plight and struggle to locate any of their family members.



Community Development



Julie Potter – Community Development Officer

Yorgum Community Development Healing Project 2008/ 2009

Purpose: to actively encourage healing and harmony for and between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians on Nyoongar Land (in the environment).

Outcomes:

- Aboriginal people will have greater access to healing and counselling support services, delivered by sensitive, support agencies.
- Aboriginal people will gain pride, confidence, recognition of their own ability and skills needed to develop and implement their own solutions to their issues.
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people will gain a greater understanding of their own collective history, oppression and how it manifests, as well as the individual and collective rights.
- Australian government agencies will increase funding and resources to Aboriginal lead healing initiatives.

Background:

Since 2004 Oxfam Australia has supported Yorgum to develop and expand its work. Yorgum community development and healing practices start from the premise that Aboriginal health issues are the result of ongoing cultural disruption (loss of family members, cultural knowledge, language, land and cultural identity) experienced over the last 200 years since colonisation.

These cultural and personal experiences impact on the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health of Aboriginal people in profound ways. The accumulative experiences of loss and grief for loved ones manifests in Aboriginal communities as anti-social behaviours such as family violence, substance abuse and crime causing and compounding related problems including fragmentation, chronic financial problems, low rates of employment. These factors feed on and feedback into each other in a cycle of disempowerment.

The Purpose of the Yorgum Community Development Healing Project in conjunction with Oxfam Australia seeks to:

Actively encourage healing and harmony for and between Aboriginal Australians on Nyoongar Land.

Activity:

October: Reconciliation Place – Town of Vincent Project

Met with members of the Vincent Reconciliation Group to help support/develop the concept for a place of remembrance and a place for reconciliation.

Provide Aboriginal people with greater access to healing and counseling support services, delivered by sensitive, support agencies,

Activities:

Training to enable to share knowledge and to raise awareness in workshop/training settings in regard to significant issues which impact on the community and Yorgum clients:

Mental Health First Aid - July

Marumali, Program (Needs of the Link-Up Client Group) August

Women's Leadership Program - July

Cert 4 – Indigenous Leadership- December

August: Resource Books – developed for internal use for Counsellors who work with clients regarding:

Understanding and responding to Grief and Loss,

Understanding and responding to Sexual Abuse,

Protective Behaviors,

Coping with Anger, Stress and Provocation

Provide a holistic model of community development to Aboriginal community to assist them to develop Aboriginal pride and recognition of their own ability to take steps to address family violence in their own community.

Activities:

July: Finalized printing of the **Family Violence Package.**

Community Network/Support/Engagement

October: Attended and participated in two Women's Meetings – Midland/ongoing

July/September/November: Lady Gowrie Centre – Elders Group/Granny Group/ongoing

Facilitate greater understanding among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people regarding their collective history the ongoing effects of that history and its relevance to the context of international rights,

Activities:

July/August: Facilitated two sessions on FV for the Case Workers in the Family Violence Courts (Dept. of Corrections). These sessions are information sessions to discuss Family Violence in the Aboriginal Context – (Armadale and Perth West).

December: Presentation to Indigenous Leadership Cert. 4 forum – promoting/training on how to use the Family Violence Training Package - Cairns

Attract increased funding and resource allocations from Government for Aboriginal-led healing initiatives and organizations

Activities:

September: *Jade Maddox and I were invited to attend the **Indigenous Healing Forum** in Canberra to do a presentation on Yorgum's model. The forum focused on healing for all Indigenous Australians, in particular Stolen Generations survivors and also to work on a definition of what "healing" encompassed for Indigenous people and to create a dialogue on the concept of a healing foundation.*

Yorgum have finally had renovations successfully completed to the building. Link-Up Workers have all moved into their brand new offices. We also have a brand new training room in which to run our programs.

January to June 2009

Three **Granny Groups** having been conducted to date and future sessions are planned for the last Tuesday of every month. These groups encourage the Elders to participate in crafts, yarn with each other and to seek counseling/support when required.

A family violence workshop was conducted with this group.

Family Violence and Mental Health Workshops are planned to be conducted bi-monthly.

Oxfam conducted an Evaluation/Research Project. This process involved two Oxfam Staff, Researcher – Janet Hunt, myself, Leah Young and Jade Maddox from Yorgum. The process was participatory which meant quite a lot of involvement from Yorgum staff. Findings are soon to be released and printed.

Oxfam have approved another 12 month of funding for the Community Development Work - to June 2010.

Achievements:

Oxfam Australia by funding the Healing Project has allowed me to be involved in promoting Yorgum's work on the national level with projects such as:

- Yorgum Launch of the booklet on the showcase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health projects;
- Yorgum were showcased in the 2007 Social Justice Report on Indigenous Programs who work consistently with Aboriginal Community to address family violence to encourage safer communities,
- Yorgum were invited to meet with other like-minded Indigenous people/agencies to discuss a Healing foundation model in Canberra;
- Yorgum workers were represented at the Women's Indigenous Leadership Program as well as achieving a Cert 4 in Leadership.
- Yorgum were instrumental in supporting the Closing the Gap campaign in WA.
- Oxfam Evaluation/Research Project completed.

Work Plan January – June 2009			
Objectives	Planned Activity	Actual Activity	Target Groups
1. Training	Family Violence Mental Health First Aid, Training for Counsellors		
2. Grannies Groups (in-house) Belmont group (10 week program) Granny group – telling our story in schools	Formulate a Yorgum granny group concept	Artwork, Discuss issues, Strong grannies, Group work, Therapy	
3. Healing	Healing Foundation – talking to politicians, what can we do ourselves, how can we get support, legislation, compensation, Healing Centre– (land/building) Get support of others without using ownership – contacts, funding, networks, vision	In house – linking in with other program areas – Link-up, CSATS, and FV Advocacy. Yorgum History Book for Launch of Building	
4. Friends of Yorgum Network	Develop a Reference group - involve friends of Yorgum Yorgum Planning – more purposeful Formulate concept – discuss at Yorgum – give plan to Board, Identify possible friends, Brainstorming meetings with possible friends, Link to healing centre Who would be the target group?		
5. Conference What issue – (Needs of the time e.g. post apology)	Practical details e.g. who, how, when where??		
6. Women’s Meetings	Shire of Swan – get involved in it – influence Elders/leadership for young women, Cultural leadership, Dialogue, protocols, Develop/advocate/support		
7. Interagency Meetings – BTH Committee	Yarning Circles		



STIELOW BELL
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

STIELOW BELL
ABN 29 948 018 426
Suite 1, 100 Hay Street
Subiaco WA 6008

PO Box 8162
Subiaco East WA 6008

Telephone (08) 9322 1622
Facsimile (08) 9322 1544

Email leon@stielowbell.com.au
Email shannon@stielowbell.com.au

Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation

Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009



Liability limited by a scheme approved under the Professional Standards Legislation.



STIELOW BELL
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

STIELOW BELL
ABN 29 948 018 426
Suite 1, 100 Hay Street
Subiaco WA 6008

PO Box 8162
Subiaco East WA 6008

Telephone (08) 9322 1622
Facsimile (08) 9322 1544

Email leon@stielowbell.com.au
Email shannon@stielowbell.com.au

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
YORGUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

Scope

We have examined the attached general purpose financial report for the year ended 30 June 2009. The Directors are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the accountability requirements under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and the Corporation's constitution. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any other purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our examination has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, the evaluation of the appropriateness of accounting policies and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the basis of accounting described in the Notes to the financial report.

We believe that the opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the basis in which audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion:

- (i) the Directors and the Corporation have complied with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations); and
- (ii) the financial report has given a true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2009 and of their performance for the year ended 30 June 2009.

Inherent Uncertainty Regarding Going Concern

Without qualification to the opinion expressed above, attention is drawn to the following matter. The financial report is prepared on the basis of the Corporation being a going concern. This is dependent upon continued funding from government agencies.



Liability limited by a scheme approved under the Professional Standards Legislation.

Compliance with the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006

In our opinion:

- (i) the Directors and the Corporation have complied with the obligations imposed by the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and the Constitution of the Corporation; and
- (ii) the balance sheet is based on proper accounts and records and is in agreement with those accounts and records.

Compliance with Commonwealth of Australia Grant Funding Conditions

In accordance with the Commonwealth of Australia's Terms and Conditions for Funding Agreements, and subject to the scope limitations above

In our opinion:

- (i) The Grant Income and Expenditure Statements give a true and fair view of the Corporations' financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2009 in accordance with the applicable Australian accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and is based on proper accounts and records.
- (ii) All assets with a purchase or construction cost exceeding \$5,000 (GST inclusive), acquired with Australian Government Funds have been insured with an insurer recognised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority or regulated by a State/Territory Auditor-General;
- (iii) The Corporation is maintaining an Asset Register of assets acquired with grant funds where the purchase or construction cost of the asset exceeds \$5,000(GST inclusive);
- (iv) The assets or services purchased with grant monies were purchased in fair and open competition and in accordance with the approved procurement methods for the acquisition of assets or services as set out in the Supplementary Terms and Conditions.
- (v) The Association is maintaining appropriate bank accounts as set out in the Supplementary Terms and Conditions and during the financial year all transactions in each of these accounts was found to be related to the grant the account was established for.

STIELOW BELL



LEON STIELOW
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
PARTNER

ASIC REGISTERED AUDITOR N# 270930

Dated this *25th* day of *September* 2009

Perth, Western Australia



STIELOW BELL
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

STIELOW BELL
ABN 29 948 018 426
Suite 1, 100 Hay Street
Subiaco WA 6008
PO Box 8162
Subiaco East WA 6008
Telephone (08) 9322 1622
Facsimile (08) 9322 1544
Email leon@stielowbell.com.au
Email shannon@stielowbell.com.au

24 September 2009

Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 236
NORTHBRIDGE WA 6865

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2009 there have been:

a) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

STIELOW BELL

LEON STIELOW
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
PARTNER

ASIC REGISTERED AUDITOR N# 270930

Dated this *24th* day of *September* 2009

Perth, Western Australia



Liability limited by a scheme approved under the Professional Standards Legislation.



STIELOW BELL
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

STIELOW BELL
ABN 29 948 018 426
Suite 1, 100 Hay Street
Subiaco WA 6008

PO Box 8162
Subiaco East WA 6008

Telephone (08) 9322 1622
Facsimile (08) 9322 1544

Email leon@stielowbell.com.au
Email shannon@stielowbell.com.au

24 September 2009

Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation (YAC)
PO Box 236
NORTHBRIDGE WA 6865

Dear Committee Members,

RE: YAC AUDIT MANAGEMENT POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Please note the following points for your attention:

1. Financial Controls

The organisation is maintaining adequate financial controls and these are working effectively. This has resulted in a high level of compliance with the funding body Terms and Conditions of Grant Funding. The controls currently in place should be maintained on an ongoing basis.

2. Ability to Repay Surplus Grant Funds/Complete Incomplete Activities with Available Funds

As at 30 June 2009 and to the date of this letter YAC has the ability to, if required, repay surplus grant funds or complete all incomplete activities with the funds on hand.

3. Taxation Liabilities & Court/Tribunal Orders

YAC has paid the June GST/PAYG liability during July and according to their ATO Integrated Client Account have no other outstanding liabilities or unlodged BAS as at the date of this letter. As at the date of this letter no court or tribunal orders have been identified.

4. Superannuation Entitlements (SGC)

The SGC liability identified in the Financial Report which related to unpaid SGC as at 30 June 2009 has been paid in full. YAC has complied with ATO legislation and met its obligations in relation to SGC.

5. Fees Paid to Directors

No fees were paid to Directors from Grant funds during the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

6. Current Liabilities

The amount required to meet current liabilities due in the 12 months to 30 June 2010 payable as a result of legal commitments entered into by AAC pursuant to the funding agreement is NIL.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully
Stielow Bell

Leon Stielow
Partner



Liability limited by a scheme approved under the Professional Standards Legislation.

YORGUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

OPERATING STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
OPERATING REVENUE			
Grants and contributions provided	3a	1,756,189	1,054,469
Interest received		2,310	-
Other operating revenues	3b	131,950	97,508
User charges & fees	3c	-	-
		<u>1,890,449</u>	<u>1,151,977</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Depreciation & amortisation	4c	26,117	18,407
Employee costs	4a	866,321	681,147
Materials & contracts		13,451	10,820
Other operating expenses	4d	483,487	400,452
		<u>1,389,376</u>	<u>1,110,826</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS		<u>501,073</u>	<u>41,151</u>

Notes to the financial statements are set out on the attached pages.

YORGUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

BALANCE SHEET
AT 30 JUNE 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and bank	6	757,060	753,199
Receivables	7	<u>27,942</u>	<u>5,963</u>
		<u>785,002</u>	<u>759,162</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors	10a	74,712	33,423
Provisions	10b	47,273	22,028
Unexpended grants	18	<u>446,844</u>	<u>565,734</u>
		<u>568,829</u>	<u>621,185</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>216,173</u>	<u>137,977</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	<u>462,978</u>	<u>40,101</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>679,151</u>	<u>178,078</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		<u>679,151</u>	<u>178,078</u>

Notes to the financial statements are set out on the attached pages.