



ABORIGINAL  
CORPORATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017 – 2018





*At Yorgum we base our services on  
the life sustaining image of the living  
tree... The shelter and sustenance  
it gives to different forms of life...  
its deep roots, its rising sap, its  
blossoming flowers...*



ICN: 1747



### The Noongar Six Seasons

The Noongar seasonal calendar includes six different seasons in a yearly cycle. These are Kambarang, Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru and Djilba. Each of the six seasons represents and explains the seasonal changes seen annually. The flowering of many different plants, the hibernation of reptiles and the moulting of swans are all helpful indicators that the seasons are changing.

This six-season calendar is extremely important to Noongar people, as it is a guide to what nature is doing at every stage of the year. This knowledge promotes respect for the land in relation to plant and animal fertility cycles and land and animal preservation.



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## ABOUT US

### Our Vision:

A nurturing and safe place that promotes the strength and resilience of Aboriginal people through culturally appropriate healing.

### Our Mission:

Employ a competent workforce to deliver culturally appropriate healing services to the Aboriginal Community.



### Kambarang (Flowering)

The 'flowering' is the height of the wildflower season. Quandong trees were ripening, ready for harvesting later in the season, as well as other small shrubs that produced berries. Families moved towards the coast where frogs, tortoises and freshwater crayfish or gilgies and blue marron were caught. Snakes and goannas were also a source of food during this season.

Source: City of Melville - Piney Lakes



The founding Aboriginal women whose vision led to the establishment of Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation

Yorgum aims to provide a nurturing environment that promotes the cultural strength of Aboriginal people and their families through a unique culturally sensitive healing process, designed to support each individual's spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional wellbeing

## THE STORY SO FAR

In 1991, a group of Aboriginal women, some of whom worked in women's refuges, discussed their concerns about the lack of appropriate counselling support for Noongar women experiencing spiritual, emotional and psychological pain. They came to the conclusion that there was a need for a 'healing' approach rather than an ongoing, crisis-driven 'patch-up' approach.

Their vision led to the establishment of Yorgum.

In 1993, after a hard struggle to secure sustainable funding, Yorgum became incorporated. In that same decade, recommendations from the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report, the Bringing Them Home Report and the Swan Mental Health Report reinforced the importance of Yorgum, and the need for a strong team of Aboriginal counsellors, as a unique and essential service.

Since those early days, Yorgum has grown stronger and has played an integral role in our community by assisting and supporting hundreds of Aboriginal clients through counselling and other methods of support.

### Meeting the Real Needs

The issues faced by our communities are complex and interwoven.

The cyclical effects of violence and abuse, experienced by many, impact on a number of areas including health, finances, employment, education, crime and incarceration, family fragmentation and violence and loss of identity. Yorgum has strived to offer a holistic service that supports the whole person in the context of their family and community.

### The Service Grows

In June 2018, Yorgum was awarded two significant contracts with the Department of Communities (Child Protection and Family Support) to manage the Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS) in the Goldfields and Great Southern in partnership with Anglicare WA.

This growth has also seen us move beyond Noongar Boodja. Our Link-Up and WSU services go as far afield as the Pilbara and the Goldfields, while our clinical services remain focused on Aboriginal people living in the Perth Metropolitan area (Wadjuk Boodja).

We have faced many trials and tribulations since we were founded by those visionary women but, two decades on, we are proud to be a strong, mature Noongar service, playing a crucial role in the healing of Aboriginal people in Perth and Western Australia.



### Birak (Hot and Dry)

The 'hot and dry' was characterised by the onset of easterly winds. The signals of this season were the Christmas and paper bark trees blossoming. Noongar people burnt mosaic sections of scrubland through fire-stick farming. This forced animals into the open to hunt and opened the canopy to the November rains, which increased germination of summer foodstuffs. An abundance of food was found along the coastal lakes and river estuaries. The mullet, bream, marron and crabs were fat and ready for harvest.

Source: City of Melville - Piney Lakes

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Wayne Flugge (Chairperson), Ursula Swan (Treasurer)\*, Lennett Sandy (Secretary)  
\*Ursula resigned from her position on the 8th of June, 2018

Our 2016 – 2019 Strategic Plan has provided the foundation from which to leverage our vision of providing a nurturing and safe place that promotes the strength and resilience of Aboriginal people through culturally appropriate healing and to employ a competent workforce to deliver culturally appropriate healing services to the Aboriginal community.

We have committed to developing and maintaining alliances which have resulted in meaningful partnerships with other not-for-profit organisations, State and Federal Governments. These partnerships are aligned with our values and ensure better outcomes for Aboriginal people and the community we serve.

The Yorgum Board will continue to steer the organisation towards a sustainable Aboriginal

Community Controlled Organisation and make sure Yorgum has adequate resources to advance our Vision and Mission.

The Board would like to extend our thanks to the CEO, Laurel Sellers and every employee of Yorgum for their dedicated delivery of culturally appropriate healing services and support to our people and communities we serve.

The Yorgum Board of Directors and staff are committed to working collaboratively with partners and the community to achieve lasting positive outcomes for the Aboriginal Community.

Yours sincerely,  
Wayne Flugge

I am proud to present this report to you in the Noongar season of Kambarang, the season of birth. Koolbardies (magpies) are out protecting their nests and new babies and snakes and lizards are on the move. Already we can see the “Mooja” or Western Australian Christmas Trees (Nuytsia) bursting with orange blossom, reminding us that Christmas and the hot weather is approaching.

2017- 2018 has been an exciting year of unprecedented growth for Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation with new partnerships developed, new contracts awarded and existing services further enhanced and consolidated.

I am excited to report that in June 2018, Yorgum was awarded two significant contracts with the Department of Communities (Child Protection and Family Support) to manage the **Intensive Family Support Services** in the Goldfields and Great Southern in partnership with Anglicare WA. These are new services and form part of a comprehensive suite of services developed as part of the State Government’s Building Safe and Strong Families: Earlier Intervention and Family Support (EIFS) Strategy. The Strategy aims to divert families away from the statutory child protection system and safely reduce the number of children entering out-of-home care.

The Intensive Family Support Service will include the coordination and provision of general life skills, education, safety and protective skills which will support children to remain safely in their home, as well as support reunification.

Underpinning the delivery of the Intensive Family Support service is a comprehensive Partnership and Support Plan negotiated by Yorgum and Anglicare WA. The plan is designed to strengthen and support the professional and cultural knowledge and skills base in both organisations to better meet the needs of Aboriginal families.



Laurel Sellers (CEO)

Yorgum has partnered with Mercycare and Communicare in their successful tenders for management of the enhanced **Family Support Networks** at Mirrabooka/Joondalup and Fremantle/Rockingham. The Family Support Networks also form part of the EIFS Strategy and aim to help families:

- Improve parenting skills to safely care for their children at home.
- Receive an integrated and coordinated service response to divert them from the child protection system.
- Develop and strengthen culturally safe support networks.

At Yorgum, we are proud to deliver these important services to regional and metropolitan communities and to share our considerable cultural expertise with community and our service partners.

Planning for the delivery of these services gave us a timely opportunity to further develop the Yorgum Family Support Model, which will underpin service delivery as part of these new contracts.

Yorgum’s investment in services aimed at preventing children moving into out-of-home care is closely aligned with our commitment to focus on preventive action and early childhood interventions as a key to better mental health and other benefits across the life course. We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children have a much higher recorded prevalence of exposure to stressful life events than non-Indigenous families and children, and that **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids are seven times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services.**

(Reference: National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing 2017-2023).

We look forward with excitement to building services that support and empower families to raise strong kids and work in integrated, connected ways so that children and their families get the information and support they need, when they need it.

Yorgum has partnered with Wanslea Family Services to implement the Towards Independent Adulthood Trial operating in the Perth, Peel, Wheatbelt and South West regions of WA. The trial is about supporting young people as they transition from state care to independent living.

This year, we have built a strong social media presence, with posts promoting social and emotional wellbeing, self care, Aboriginal culture and information about key community events and developments. In Australia, Indigenous people now use social media at a greater rate than non-Indigenous people, using it as a platform for cultural and family connectivity.

As per Yorgum’s Strategic Plan 2016-2019, we are committed to embedding trauma-informed principles, processes and practices at all levels of

the organisation. To that end we have continued to ensure that our clients experience a service that is trustworthy, reliable, culturally safe and appropriate, and person-centred. This is evident and ‘felt’ from the moment people walk in our door for the first time and every contact after.

Also outlined in Yorgum’s Strategic Plan is our commitment to maintain quality improvement accreditation standards. I’m pleased to report that in July 2017, Yorgum achieved three year Quality Improvement Council (QIC) National Accreditation.

**‘From the evidence gathered in this accreditation assessment report it is clear that Yorgum has a cohesive organisational approach to continuous learning and improvement and works hard to ensure service standards are met and positive outcomes for clients, families and staff are delivered.’**

Assessment Report: QIC Standards 11-13 July 2017

Like other relatively small organisations, Yorgum faces challenges such as loss of skill and experience when staff leave, a high dependence on a few key staff, short term funding cycles, and difficulties in achieving economies of scale in areas of compliance. However, with the commitment of Yorgum’s Board, Leadership team and staff, we have embedded a culture of continuous quality improvement. The significant achievements of the past year are testimony to this positive culture.

I extend my deep thanks to the Board of Directors for their ongoing leadership and support, to our hard working and committed managers and to our dedicated staff who continue to deliver culturally appropriate healing services to the Aboriginal community. I also thank Yorgum’s funders and strategic partners for your belief and investment in the important work that we do.

## OUR PEOPLE

Yorgum's most valuable asset is its people. Developing and supporting our staff to provide professional, culturally appropriate and trauma-informed care is a key strategic priority for Yorgum.

In 2017-2018 Yorgum has continued to invest in its staff's professional development through participation in:

- The **Marumali Program®**: helping staff to realise the widespread impact of forcible removal and understand the potential paths for recovery; recognise the signs and symptoms of trauma associated with forcible removal in clients, families and others involved with their service; and to avoid re-traumatising members of the Stolen Generations. The program is based on Marumali Journey of Healing Model developed and delivered by Aunty Lorraine Peeters, a survivor of the removal policies herself.



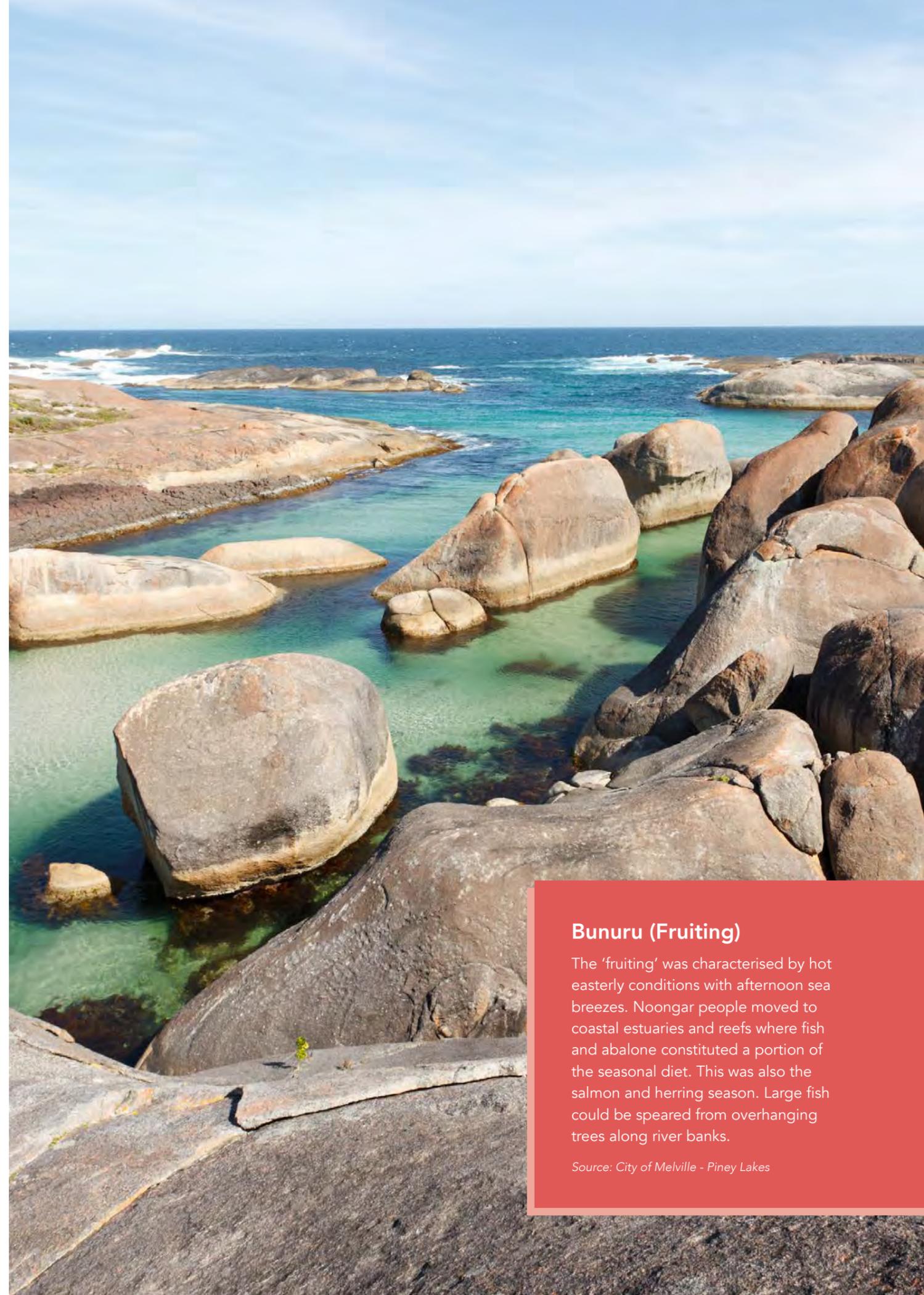
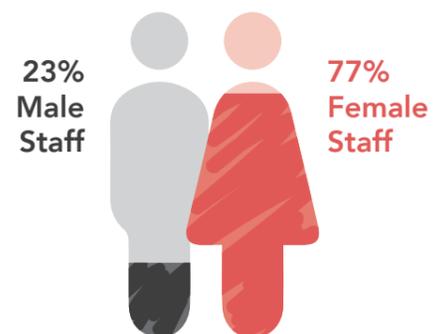
### Staff Members of Aboriginal Descent

Yorgum consciously chooses to source training for its staff that is developed and delivered by Aboriginal people, increasing its impact and meaning for our staff.

Yorgum has also sponsored a number of in-service and accredited external training opportunities for its workforce including:

- Certificate IV in Mental Health
- Certificate III in Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Diploma in Counselling
- Complex Trauma and the use of Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy
- Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid
- Suicide Prevention

Yorgum continues to support staff with individual and group clinical supervision through a contracted provider. Supervision is highly valued by all Yorgum's staff given the emotional intensity of their work.



### Bunuru (Fruiting)

The 'fruiting' was characterised by hot easterly conditions with afternoon sea breezes. Noongar people moved to coastal estuaries and reefs where fish and abalone constituted a portion of the seasonal diet. This was also the salmon and herring season. Large fish could be speared from overhanging trees along river banks.

Source: City of Melville - Piney Lakes



### Djeran (First Rains)

'First rains – first dew' began when the weather became cooler with winds from the southwest. Fishing continued, the emus were fat and the zamia palm nuts, bulbs, and other seeds were collected and prepared for food.

Source: City of Melville - Piney Lakes

## NAIDOC HOMELESS LUNCH

At Yorgum we have continued to serve the homeless community by hosting an annual NAIDOC lunch in NAIDOC Week.

The 2017 theme Our Languages Matter emphasised and celebrated the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in both cultural identity, linking people to their land and water, and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song.

The annual Homeless Community lunch was attended by over 100 people who enjoyed a barbecue lunch and culturally appropriate food. Activities during the event included live music, singing and connecting with family and friends.

Each client who attended the event received a self-care pack, sleeping bag and winter merchandise.

Yorgum would like to thank all staff and volunteers who assisted with the event. Without your support, the event could not achieve the successes it does.



## WHAT WE DO

Yorgum offers Aboriginal people an autonomous, Aboriginal-specific community-based counselling and referral service that acknowledges the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people.

We provide 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 we operate within the framework of Aboriginal Terms of Reference and the principals of trauma-informed.

### Clinical Service

Yorgum's clinical service consists of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal counsellors who provide counselling and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adults of all ages within;

- Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Service
- Family and Domestic Violence and Advocacy Service
- Grief and Loss Counselling and Support Service
- Royal Commission Community-Based Support Services

### Link-Up

This service provides support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people separated from their families as a result of past governments' removal policies and practices. The service aims to help the members of the Stolen Generation to trace their families and be reunited where possible and deliver culturally appropriate healing services where required.

### Workforce Support Unit

Provides support and professional development to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff who work in the area of social and emotional wellbeing and alcohol and other drugs. Service areas include, Pilbara, Goldfields, Perth, Murchison and Gascoyne Regions.

### Family Support Service

This service will provide intensive in-home family support services to families who are most at risk of child protection intervention or families who require support to reunify children back to their care.

The service will also support families currently working with the Department of Communities, Child Protection and Family Support (with an existing open case) and where there is a need for extra support to be provided to improve family wellbeing and safety.



### Makuru (Cold and Wet)

During the 'cold and wet' Noongar people moved inland from the coast to the Darling Scarp to shelter from the cold coastal winds. The flowering sheoak trees meant the kangaroos were ready to eat. Wild carrots and several species of wild potato were ready for harvesting.

Source: City of Melville - Piney Lakes

Yorgum’s counselling service continues to provide a culturally safe, trauma-informed and integrated service to the Aboriginal community. We provide a nurturing and safe place that promotes the strength and resilience of Aboriginal people through culturally appropriate healing.

The counselling team is comprised of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal counsellors. During the year we welcomed three full time provisional psychologists to the team to work with children and young people who have been sexually abused and with our Redress clients.

### Presenting Issues Related to

- Family Violence
- Sexual Abuse
- Complex Trauma
- Unresolved Trauma
- Grief & Loss
- Stress & Anger
- Anxiety & Depression

### Clinical Governance

The clinical counselling team have continued to focus on best practice in regards to the clinical governance of the counselling service to ensure clients receive care that is culturally safe, effective, appropriate to their needs, timely and efficient. Clinical governance refers to the systems for managing, maintaining and improving client safety and quality of care. Four areas on which good clinical governance is built include:

1. Workforce effectiveness
2. Clinical performance and evaluation
3. Clinical risk management
4. Client participation

As part of the team’s ongoing commitment to uphold clinical governance they:

- Use evidence based therapies
- Use assessment tools to monitor client outcomes
- Undertake continuous quality improvement activities
- Undertake professional development
- Conduct clinical file audits
- Follow and evaluate team procedures

All of these improvements were borne out of a collaborative planning process involving counsellors and management. Ultimately, these improvements have led to a sharper focus by the team with greater clarity about their purpose and functions.

### Challenges and Achievements

In addition to the quality improvements outlined above, Yorgum has also made considerable enhancements to its physical environment. The clinical team now has a dedicated play therapy space providing a child focused setting for counsellors to see children. The room is equipped with specialist play therapy resources such as puppets and sand play kits. Our flower essence therapy treatment room has been beautified with the addition of a full wall mural with an image of a rainforest adding to the sensory experience for clients.

The clinical team has noted an increasing number of individuals and families seeking counselling who are dealing with multiple complex social and emotional wellbeing issues. This increased complexity necessitates working in partnership

with other services providing specialist support such as legal and alcohol and other drug counselling. Yorgum is committed to working in collaboration with other stakeholders for the benefit of clients.

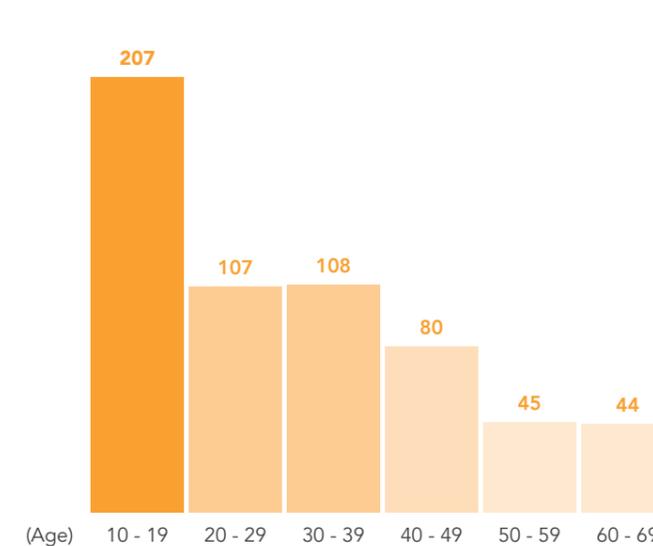
In the 2017-2018 year, the clinical team provided counselling services to 591 people. Following the trend of recent years, young people between 10 and 19 years represent the largest age group serviced by our counsellors. These young people have often been impacted by sexual abuse, family and domestic violence and or grief and loss, and therefore are given high priority by the clinical team. As we increasingly focus our work on the needs of children and young people the organisation is taking steps towards becoming a Child Safe Organisation.

### Continuing the Work

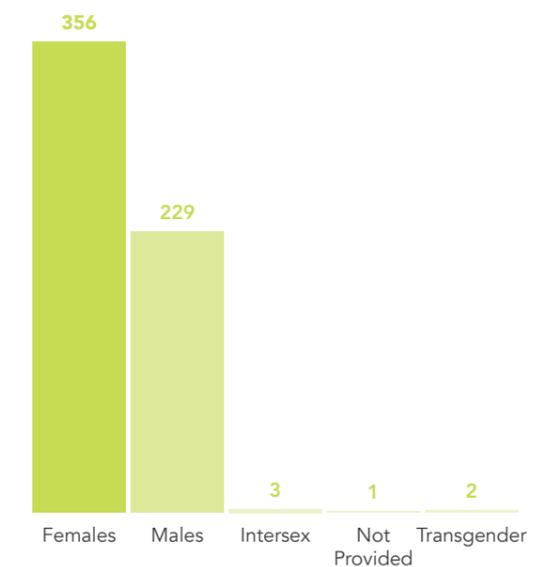
In line with Yorgum’s Clinical Governance Framework, the clinical team has worked diligently and professionally to plan and implement a host of quality improvements including enhancing the effectiveness of our workforce and clinical risk management.

Over the next year, the team looks forward to focusing on evaluating clinical outcomes and, in particular, measuring the impact on the lives of those who access of our services to ensure we are making a positive change in the lives of Aboriginal people.

Age Breakdown of Clients Accessing Clinical Services



Gender Breakdown of Clients Accessing Clinical Services



**591**  
TOTAL CLIENTS

## LINK-UP

Link-Up continues the important work with survivors of the Stolen Generations from bases in Perth, Kalgoorlie and South Hedland, with priority given to those clients who are First Generation Stolen. Our team of caseworkers, counsellors and researchers are highly skilled and passionate about assisting clients on their individual healing journeys, coordinating reunions, healing camps, healing groups, conducting family research and other cultural events. On some occasions, clients who have attended reunions, have continued working on their own personal and family healing by maintaining ongoing connections and returning to Country.

Link-Up continues to provide flower essence therapy to clients, adding a cultural and traditional dimension to the holistic healing journey for our clients, complementing the counselling role.

To coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report (BTH report), The Healing Foundation produced a report, Bringing Them Home 20 years on: an action plan for healing where they outlined actions to meet the continuing and emerging needs and rights of the Stolen Generations.

This report supports the importance of the vital work that Yorgum's Link-Up team do in delivering men's and women's healing camps, conducting family research and reuniting families who have been separated through past government policies.

Another report released in 2018 by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations and descendants: numbers, demographic characteristics and selected outcomes) found that:

- The Stolen Generations proxy population experienced a range of adverse health, cultural and socioeconomic outcomes at a rate higher than the Indigenous population that had not been removed. These differences are a higher likelihood of:

- Being incarcerated in the last five years (3.3 times)
- Being formally charged by police in their lifetime (2.2 times)
- Having government payments as their main income source (1.8 times)
- Not being a home owner (1.7 times)
- Being more likely to have poor general health based on a composite measure (1.6 times)
- Western Australia has the highest reported rate of removal (23.8% in 2014–15). This rate is nearly twice the rate of removal at the national level (13.5% in 2014–15).

This compelling evidence, brings a sense of urgency to the important work that Link-Up does in reuniting families throughout the state of Western Australia.

### Our Efforts

Link-Up prioritises the needs of survivors who are First Generation Stolen, given many of the clients are elderly and experiencing chronic or acute health issues. Our service remains client-focused and culturally appropriate and safe, and is based on trauma-informed principles and practices.

Self-reported qualitative feedback from clients after they have attended healing camps and groups or experienced a reunion, overwhelmingly indicates a significant improvement in their social and emotional wellbeing.

*"I got to see my grandmother's country, womens sites and rock carvings."*

*"Learning things about my land what the Elders done back then"*

*"Yes going back to Country gives me peace"*

*Feedback collected from the Lyndon Reunion and Back To Country in May 2018.*

## LINK-UP HIGHLIGHTS



Kilometres Travelled



9

Reunions Conducted



27

People Reunited



212

Referrals Received



150

Family History Kits Handed Out



24

Family History Research Packages Completed



346

Clients Engaged with Link-Up



19

Healing Groups with 167 Attendees

A debriefing process has been developed and implemented, following the return of staff from an event. This is an important practice as it provides the Link-Up worker(s) an opportunity to reflect on their work, to acknowledge any challenges and to celebrate their achievements.

**Significant Events**

The 13th February 2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the Australian Government's National Apology to the Stolen Generations. Yorgum's Link-Up team collaborated with Yokai (Healing Our Spirit), and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to host a community event at the Perth Cultural Centre in honour of the occasion.

The Hon Ben Wyatt, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs said "Commemorating this significant event is an important part of the reconciliation process. Australians need to be able to remember the past with openness and honesty if we are to move forward together". Many of Link-Up's clients attended the event, representing another part of their healing journey.

Yorgum's Link-Up team proudly collaborated with the Bringing Them Home Committee and Yokai in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the former Moore River Native Settlement (later known as Mogumber Mission) on Sorry Day on 26 May 2018. Many Stolen Generation survivors attended and participated in a special ceremony at Yagan Square, culminating with a lunch at Burt Memorial Hall in Cathedral Square. Approximately 180 survivors of the Stolen Generation and their families attended this historical event.

At the invitation of the Healing Foundation, Yorgum's Link-Up Manager and Senior Researcher participated in a Knowledge Circle held in Canberra in June 2018 regarding the needs of Stolen Generation survivors. Priorities identified at the meeting included improving access to family records and training for record holders and decision makers on the impacts of trauma. Yorgum is proud to contribute to policy at the national level. At an organisational level, Yorgum has started the process of digitalising family records, ensuring their safety for future generations

**The Year Ahead**

As in previous years, all Yorgum's Link-Up staff came together in June 2018 for a four day planning event, where priority cases were presented and discussed. This planning forms the basis of a comprehensive plan for the coming year including scheduling travel arrangements, reunions, regional visits, healing camps and groups, and allocation of counsellors. This collaborative planning process, involving the whole team, is vital to ensuring that the right people are in the right places at the right time.

As our service continues the important work with survivors of the Stolen Generation, the Link-Up team will continue to provide timely, quality services to our clients, remaining client-centred, culturally safe and trauma informed.

**G N O W A N G E R U P  
M I S S I O N**

In November 2017, seventeen survivors of the Stolen Generation went back to the Gnowangerup Mission where they were placed following forced removal from their families. This Mission Reunion was coordinated and facilitated by the Link-Up team. Working with a trauma-informed approach, a number of healing activities were facilitated by Counsellors and Caseworkers over the course of the week and included a grief and loss session where wreaths, bouquets and twig crosses were fashioned from bush items for graves at three nearby cemeteries. Dolly-making and sharing of stories, relating to the clients' time in the Mission and visiting significant sites in and around Gnowangerup and the Porongurups allowed group reflection and yarning. The Mission reunion was an emotional experience for the clients but all reported that it was a positive healing experience.



**Feedback**

*"Healing is coming to grips with the past – cannot undo the past, Healing is a lot of process, takes time. Takes time to be able to have people around to talk about things. Laughing and humour is healing"*

*"Mission Family – Stories – Sharing – listening"*



The Workforce Support Unit (WSU) has continued to respond to the personal, professional and cultural learning and development needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce working within the Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) programs. The SEWB Workforce is made up of staff employed in Bringing Them Home, Link-Up, Mental Health and Substance-Use positions and funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Essentially the WSU is here to support those providing care to families and communities impacted by past trauma, dispossession, separation of families, ongoing social disadvantage, racism and other historical, social and cultural issues. Our clients are those who work in this challenging space; they come from diverse backgrounds, and it is our job to work in partnership with them, to listen and respond to their development needs.

Over the past year, the WSU has continued to empower and support the SEWB workforce by encouraging personal strength and resilience through culturally appropriate initiatives such as:

- Enhancing, learning and sharing self-care yarning strategies.
- Connecting and inspiring new ways of working through the SEWB Workforce forums.
- Accessing formal and informal learning and development opportunities.
- Promoting and accessing professional and cultural supervision.

Yorgum's Workforce Support Unit hosted two residential forums in 2017- 2018. The two day December 2017 Forum was held at Ascot Quays, and key highlights included:

- Welcome to Country by Dr Richard Walley.
- Learning about the new National Indigenous Critical Response Service, presented by Kevin Cox.

- Best practice stories shared by Yorgum Link-Up team members.
- An inside look at clinical supervision.
- A visit to Sister Kate's Aboriginal Corporation
- A cultural tour of Kings Park, led by Marissa Verma, Bindi Bindi Dreaming.

### Participant Feedback:

*The information presented by colleagues and visiting presenters was very informative. What stood out for me was the presentation by Millie Penny. It was interesting to hear about her contributions made to Yorgum over the years and her current work. I liked the concept of the 'Dilly Bag' and how it is used in a practical way for healing trauma. I also love how counsellors incorporate culturally appropriate resources into healing programs for the Stolen Generation clients.*

*This was a fascinating afternoon - Marissa is a beautiful and knowledgeable young lady. I really enjoyed the walk looking at bush food and learning more about how the Noongar people found their food in Kings Park. I learnt more about the Six Seasons and the Noongars travelled through Kings Park. We need more excursions like this.*

The May 2018 forum was held at the Orchard Glory Farm Resort, Bindoon over three days in the Noongar season of Djeran. This venue provided a great base from which to visit Mogumber Mission (ex Mogumber Native Settlement), the New Norcia Mission and the Gravity Discovery Centre and Observatory. Highlights of the Forum included:

- A full day visit to Mogumber Mission, previously known as the Moore River Native Settlement where we were hosted by Elder, Mr. Kevin Barron, an ex-resident of Mogumber.

- Group learning sessions on Mindfulness Healing, Vicarious Trauma, Aboriginal Terms of Reference and Cultural Frameworks.
- A day visit to New Norcia Mission, where we were hosted by ex-residents, Mary Nannup and Margaret Drayton.
- An evening at the Gravity Discovery Centre and Observatory - Aboriginal Astronomy Night at Gingin.

Participants appreciated the opportunity to see and feel the Missions, gaining insight into the experience not only of their clients, but their own family members. The self-care activities provided opportunities for personal reflection and re-charging.

Training brokered by the WSU:

- Two-day Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid workshops x 2, attended by a total of 20 participants.
- Certificate IV in Mental Health through Marr Moorditj Training Aboriginal Corporation.

During the past year the WSU has developed and implemented an email strategy, sending fortnightly emails to SEWB workers regarding self-care strategies.

Looking to the future, the WSU agenda will be further aligned with the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing 2017-2023. The Framework outlines a stepped model of care as we move towards providing culturally safe, responsive, person-centred services provided by a culturally competent and confident workforce.



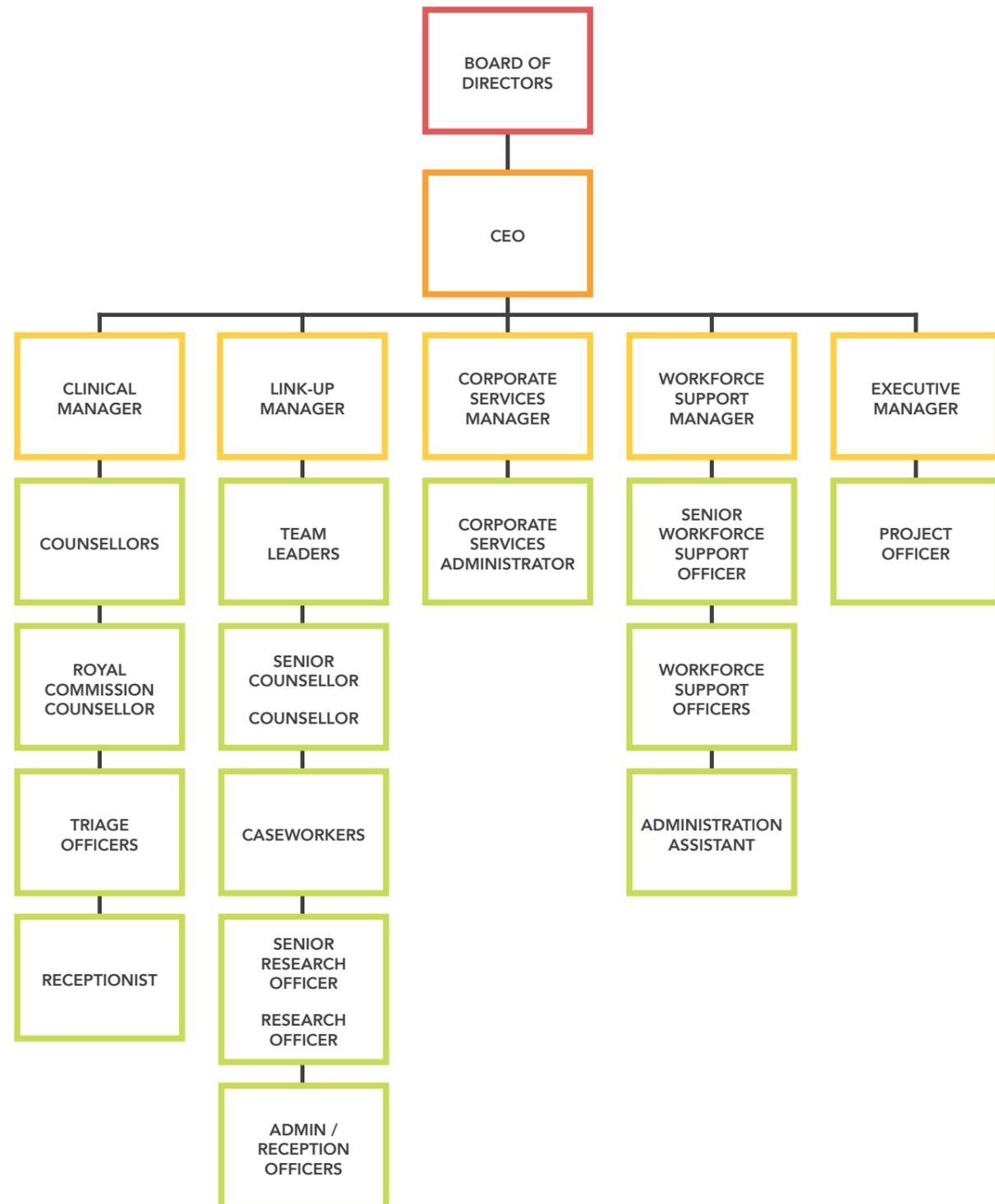
Source: West Moreton Health

### Participant Feedback

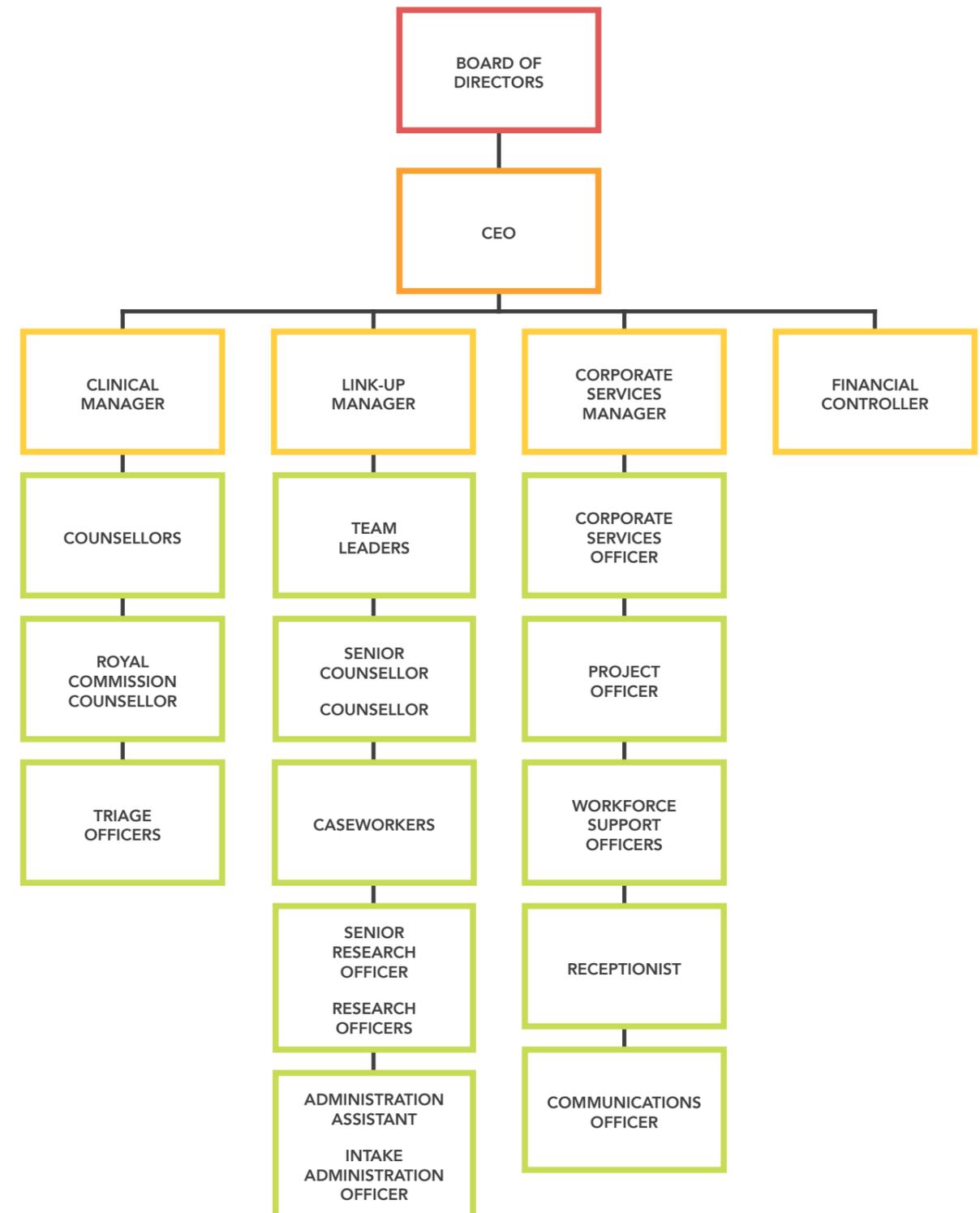
*"The SEWB forum was an opportunity to explore my real self from the psychological and spiritual perspective. Invaluable for me to keep exploring myself and also my own personal journey"*

*"I am feeling now I have reflected, feel renewed and restored"*

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2017



# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2018





### **Djilba (Warmer)**

As the weather started to get 'warmer' Noongar groups moved to the drier Guildford and Canning-Kelmscott areas. This calmer weather allowed the bush to rejuvenate and plants begin to bloom. Eggs from water fowl, emus, swans and ducks were collected. Tortoises, berries and roots also supplemented the larger game of kangaroo, emu and ringtail possum.

*Source: City of Melville - Piney Lakes*

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

YORGUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ABN: 37 427 225 301

ICN: 1747

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018



**Anderson Munro & Wyllie**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, REGISTERED COMPANY  
AUDITORS AND REGISTERED SMSF AUDITORS

**Postal Address:**

PO Box 229, JOONDALUP DC WA 6919

P: 1300 284 330

E: reception@amwaudit.com.au

ABN 59 125 425 274

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**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 339.50 OF THE  
CORPORATIONS (ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER) ACT 2006 &  
SECTION 60-40 OF THE CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT  
2012**

**TO THE DIRECTORS OF  
YORGUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

As lead auditor for the audit of Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2018, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 or the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October 2018.

AMW (AUDIT) PTY LTD

*Anderson Munro & Wyllie*

ANDERSON MUNRO & WYLLIE  
Chartered Accountants

*Martin Shone*

MARTIN SHONE  
Principal  
Registered Company Auditor

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Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018.

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*Martin Shone*

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF YORGUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation ("the Association") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by Board of Directors.

In our opinion:

The general purpose financial report of Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date;
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements (Including Australian Accounting Interpretations), the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2007*, The *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*; and
- (iii) The Association has kept financial records sufficient to enable the financial report to be prepared and audited; and
- (iv) The Association has kept other records and registers as required by the CATSI Act.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibility* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter

Without qualification to the opinion expressed above, attention is drawn to Note 1p which explains that the Association is dependent upon continued funding from government agencies in order to be able to continue as a going concern.

#### Director's responsibility for the financial report

The Directors of the Association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and the Corporation's own regulations and rules for such internal control as the Directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors' either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative to do so.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report.

The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.



We conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Association to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Association's audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Directors regarding, amongst other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements. We also provide the Directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the Directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

*Anderson Munro & Wyllie*

**ANDERSON MUNRO & WYLLIE**

Chartered Accountants

Address: Unit 8, 210 Winton Road, Joondalup, Western Australia

*Martin Shone*

**MARTIN SHONE**

Principal & Registered Company Auditor

Dated at Perth, Western Australia this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October 2018

**YORGUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>			
Grants and contributions provided	3a	4,225,808	4,270,401
Interest received	4b	484	504
Other operating revenues	3b	825,591	906,246
User charges & fees	3c	-	4,280
		<u>5,051,883</u>	<u>5,181,431</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Depreciation & amortisation	4c	186,924	137,711
Employee costs	4a	2,512,585	3,355,401
Other operating expenses	4d	1,916,115	2,158,899
		<u>4,615,624</u>	<u>5,652,011</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<u>436,259</u>	<u>(470,580)</u>

**YORGUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AT 30 JUNE 2018**

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	2,602,773	1,287,819
Trade and other receivables	7	22,000	42,744
Prepayments		146,518	-
Total current assets		<u>2,771,291</u>	<u>1,330,563</u>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	8	4,157,870	4,233,055
Total non-current assets		<u>4,157,870</u>	<u>4,233,055</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>6,929,161</u>	<u>5,563,618</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	552,819	804,745
Borrowings		4,604	-
Provisions	10	140,616	140,616
Unexpended grants	2	1,404,540	240,374
Total Current Liabilities		<u>2,102,579</u>	<u>1,185,735</u>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Borrowings		12,440	-
Total Current Liabilities		<u>12,440</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>2,115,019</u>	<u>1,185,735</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>4,814,142</u>	<u>4,377,883</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		<u>4,814,142</u>	<u>4,377,883</u>

**YORGUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
Accumulated funds at the beginning of the year		4,377,883	4,848,463
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		436,259	(470,580)
Accumulated funds at the end of the year		<u>4,814,142</u>	<u>4,377,883</u>

**YORGUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Grants		5,391,474	4,121,434
Receipts from Other income		52,276	906,246
Interest received		484	504
Interest paid		(706)	
Payments to suppliers and employees		(4,069,291)	(5,019,874)
Net cash generated from operating activities	11	<u>1,374,237</u>	<u>8,310</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		195,364	294,495
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(271,691)	(351,209)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(76,327)</u>	<u>(56,714)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from loan		19,590	
Capital loan repayments		(2,546)	
Net cash generated from financing activities		<u>17,044</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>		1,314,954	(48,404)
<b>CASH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>	6	1,287,819	1,336,223
<b>CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	6	<u>2,602,773</u>	<u>1,287,819</u>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FUNDING



None of the important work we do would be possible without funding, and we genuinely appreciate the trust shown in us by our primary funding bodies.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the  
Prime Minister and Cabinet**



**Government of Western Australia**  
**Department of Communities  
Child Protection and Family Support**



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**



**Government of Western Australia**  
**WA Country Health Service**



**Australian Government**  
**Indigenous Land Corporation**



**HealingFoundation**  
Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People



*Yorgum acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (particularly the 'Whadjuk' people of the Noongar Nation) as the Traditional custodians of this country and its waters. We wish to pay respect to their elders past and present and extend this to all Aboriginal people.*





1800 469 371

[www.yorgum.org.au](http://www.yorgum.org.au)