

The background of the cover is a collection of traditional Aboriginal healing tools and natural elements. At the top center is a large, cylindrical, yellow-orange brush made of many fine, pointed fibers. Below it are two wooden pestles with dark, vertical stripes and leopard-spotted tips. To the right is a large, flat, reddish-brown wooden board. At the bottom, there are colorful Aboriginal dot paintings on a circular surface, including one with red, yellow, and white dots and another with blue and white dots. The entire scene is set against a backdrop of green leaves and brown animal fur.

2021-2022
ANNUAL
REPORT

Yorgum acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are cautioned that the following publication may contain images and stories of deceased persons.

Cover Image

The main image on the cover is of a Buka and a Yandi. Buka is the Nyoongar name for the kangaroo pelt cloak. Today Buka's are used for ceremony and other important occasions, they can also be a calming, tactile resource to support people to yarn about difficult stories. The Nyoongar name for Coolamon is Yandi, used at times to hold food and medicines and can be used in healing for people to put their worries or fears in to.



ICN 1747

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Our Story

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.

Yorgum was established in 1991 by a group of Aboriginal women, some of whom worked in women's refuges, who were concerned about the lack of appropriate counselling support for Aboriginal people experiencing spiritual, emotional and psychological pain. They founded a service with a 'healing' approach rather than an ongoing, crisis-driven 'patch-up' approach.

Over the years Yorgum has grown in size and scope of its services, to become a well-respected Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation.



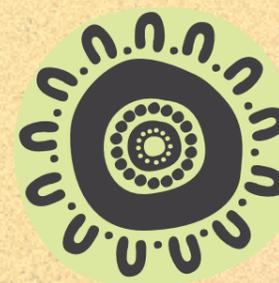
Our Values

Our ways of engaging with our clients and each other are underpinned by our values and behaviours:

Our Mob First
We put Aboriginal people first in our priorities



Aboriginal Culture
We base our work on Aboriginal culture and practices



Safety
We provide safe, welcoming, culturally secure, trauma-informed services



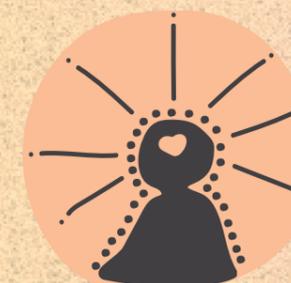
Respect
We believe in the dignity and worth of all people, and this underpins our behaviour



Integrity
We are honest, do what we believe is right, are transparent and reliable



Knowledge
We value knowledge and seek to build up our understanding



Our Vision

Aboriginal people, their families and communities are empowered and have the skills and supports, to improve and maintain their social and emotional wellbeing.

Our Mission

Provide all Aboriginal people and their families with a wide range of culturally secure, community-based healing services that utilise a trauma-informed approach to positively impact their social and emotional wellbeing.

Our Strategic Objectives

Healing Services

Provide community-based healing services to Aboriginal people that work within an Aboriginal Family Worldview.

Evidence-Based Reform

Drive evidence-based policy and systemic reform that benefits the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

Partnerships

Partner with other organisations to develop culturally secure, trauma-informed services that address the underlying drivers of social challenges for Aboriginal people.

Sustainable Organisation

Yorgum grows in a sustainable way into an Australian leader in delivering healing services to Aboriginal people.

Meeting of 18 Aboriginal women at Annawim Women's Refuge



Staff at Aberdeen Street, Northbridge



2020
Yorgum commences Targeted Counselling Service funded by the Department of Social Services to support people affected by the Disability Royal Commission.

2000
Yorgum moved to a property in Aberdeen Street, Northbridge.

Rapid growth in demand for counselling after the move.

2002
Jade Maddox commences as Yorgum's first CEO.



2005
Yorgum relocated to Wittenoom Street, East Perth.

2006
Link-Up Service begins, funded by Office of Aboriginal Health.

2008
Apology to the Stolen Generations. Closing the Gap targets established.

2008
Building refurbished to allow for clinical rooms and service delivery for clients.

2018
Yorgum delivers Intensive Family Support, funded by the Department of Communities.

Yorgum commences Redress Support for Indigenous Australians in WA, funded by the Department of Social Services.

2019
Yorgum's name changes to Yorgum Healing Services.

2020
New partnership agreement on the Closing the Gap targets released based on historic agreement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

2021
Lotteries grant awarded for refurbishment of the Wittenoom St premises.

2022
Engagement of Mayi Kuwayu Research School of Population Health at the Australian National University for validation of the Aboriginal Family Worldview Model.

2019
Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability started.

2018
100th Anniversary of Moore River Mission. 10th Anniversary of the Apology.

2017
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse published. Uluru statement from the Heart. 20th Anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report.



2014
Laurel Sellers joins as CEO.

2011
Yorgum celebrates its 20th Anniversary.

2009
Workforce Support Unit established across Australia funded by the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

2012
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse started.

Yorgum staff at the first Sorry Day event held in Perth



1998
First National Sorry Day.

1997
Bringing Them Home Report issued.

1995
Royal Commission into Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

1993
The Native Title Act 1993 was introduced.

1987
Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

1997
Department of Children and Families funding for sexual abuse counselling.

1996
Name change to Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation to be more inclusive.

1994
Yorgum Aboriginal Counselling Service established at Sister Kate's with volunteers who graduated from the counselling course.

1993
Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation for Women incorporated.

1991
Yorgum's vision established by group of Aboriginal women.

Two year Aboriginal counselling course began which was funded by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

Founding Members

We acknowledge and honour our Founding members for their foresight in identifying the need for a culturally secure healing service and pay our deepest condolences to family of founding members who have passed.

- ◆ Cheryl Augustsson
- ◆ Christine Moses/ Bell (Deceased)
- ◆ Delphine Soet
- ◆ Gweneth Baldini (Deceased)
- ◆ Julie Potter
- ◆ Lennett Sandy
- ◆ Lynette Nelson (Deceased)
- ◆ Lorna Alone (Deceased)
- ◆ Muriel Bowie
- ◆ Millie Penny
- ◆ Mary Drandich
- ◆ Norma Morrison
- ◆ Rose Narkle (Deceased)
- ◆ Tracey Saylor
- ◆ Vanessa Corunna

The list of founding members may not reflect the entirety of all involved. Readers of the report are welcome to call 1800 469 371 to advise of founding members who may not have been listed.



DAWN WALLAM, Chairperson

Dawn is a Bibbulman Wadandi woman of the Nyoongar Nation who has been working to improve the lives of Aboriginal children, youth, families and communities for more than 40 years. She has been the CEO of Yorganop Association since 1997.

Dawn served as a SNAICC Board member for over 20 years, and is a founding member of the Nyoongar Outreach Services and the Nyoongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council who also served as the elected representative for the Karlkarniny Regional Council of ATSIC, and is the current chair of West Coast Language Development Centre.

Dawn was the 2018 recipient of the Community Services Excellence Award for 'Excellence in Leadership' and a finalist for the Aboriginal Award in the 2019 West Australian of the Year Awards. Dawn joined the Yorgum Board in June 2018.



LENNETT SANDY, Secretary

Lennett is a Bibbulman woman of the Nyoongar Nation who grew up on the Moora Reserve with her extended family. She completed her Bachelor of Applied Science (Indigenous Community Management and Development) at Curtin University.

She is proudly committed to the Aboriginal community, and was a founding member of Yorgum. She is also a Board member to Maar Mooditj Training Aboriginal Corporation and Moorditch Gurlongga Association (MGA).



FARLEY GARLETT, Director



Farley is a Wadjuk Nyoongar Elder who was raised on Ballardong country. He belongs to the Ballardong Elders group and is a committee member of the Nyoongar Elders Group for the City of Perth. He has been NAIDOC Elder of the year and was awarded a Silver Star by the Governor General of Australia.

Farley worked extensively in the transport and mining sectors but his passion was working with Aboriginal people. He was Manager of Palmerston's Men's Night Shelter, then Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Cyril Jackson Senior High School.



Dawn's Report

I want to start by thanking Wayne Flugge for his 5 years of service to Yorgum as Chairperson and wishing him well in his retirement. Wayne led our name change from Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation to Yorgum Healing Services to better reflect the culturally secure, trauma-informed healing services Yorgum provides. He also instigated the major refurbishment of our Wittenoom Street premises in East Perth, which is still in progress although our recent walkthrough has brought to life how culturally secure the new space will be.



I want to thank my colleagues on the Board, Lennett Sandy and Farley Garlett, for their ongoing commitment to guide and steer Yorgum. I also want to acknowledge Lorna Alone, Founding Member who passed this year, without whom Yorgum would not have come to life.

Yorgum continued to deliver its healing services from Perth and regional bases in Albany, Kalgoorlie and South Hedland. It has been particularly challenging this year to find staff in the Goldfields and Pilbara, owing to the competitive job market, housing shortages and cost of living pressures in these locations. Nevertheless, Yorgum maintained quality service delivery in all locations.

Laurel Sellers, Yorgum's Chief Executive Officer, continues to lead the organisation with steadfastness and determination to deliver our strategic priorities. I want to highlight Laurel's ongoing valuable contribution to our sector reform priority as a Founding Member of the Noongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council. We look forward to revisiting and refreshing Yorgum's strategic plan with Laurel and her management team after the Wittenoom St refurbishment is complete in 2023.

On behalf of the Board, I want to say thank you to Laurel, her managers and her whole team for your continued effort and dedication over the last year and we look forward to journeying with you in the year to come.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Wallam

CEO's Report

Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) like Yorgum are the embodiment of Aboriginal people's right to self-determination. Yorgum was established over 30 years ago by a group of visionary Aboriginal women concerned about the lack of **culturally effective** services for women and children escaping family violence and abuse. Sadly, this remains an area of concern: we noticed a significant increase in the number of referrals for women and children affected by family violence, which seems to correlate with the negative impacts of COVID-19. We are actively looking for ways to grow our services to support, to empower and heal these families.



Healing Services

Yorgum plays a pivotal role for Aboriginal people all across WA by delivering **culturally secure, trauma-informed healing services**. We adopt a 'no turn away' policy that strengthens our role and importance in the Aboriginal community. Our early intervention services divert people away from the child protection and justice systems. Our recovery services work to rebuild resilience and connections, reunify or strengthen families and empower individuals. We help people to heal from the long-lasting effects of current or historical trauma arising from a range of challenges, including child removals, sexual abuse, family violence, incarceration and substance abuse. Working in this way, Yorgum contributes to Closing the Gap on the disparity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal life courses.

Yorgum works with clients using our **Aboriginal Family Worldview** (AFW) and demonstrates its impact by measuring client outcomes within this framework, encapsulated as 'Strong Spirit, Strong Family, Strong Culture and Strong Community'. This year, we were honoured to start working with Mayi Kuwayu Research School of Population Health at the Australian National University to validate our AFW framework and tools. We are working to upgrade our client management system to not only record all service performance indicators required by our funders, but consistently collect client outcome data related to the AFW.

Sustainable Organisation

Without a sustainable staffing pool, Yorgum would not be able to offer the services we do. We invest consistently in staff development, particularly training in trauma-informed culturally appropriate counselling methods. We appointed an **Aboriginal Cultural Advisor** this year, to ensure staff apply a cultural lens to all their therapeutic activities and to provide cultural supervision to all staff. The work our staff do is often emotionally hard and vicarious trauma is a real risk, so professional, clinical and cultural supervision, as well as personal support remained paramount.

We are eagerly awaiting completion of the Wittenoom Street refurbishment in East Perth, enabled by a substantial Lotterywest grant. We are excited that the refurbishment will provide a more culturally appropriate, safe and healing environment for clients. Recently, Yorgum changed its organisational structure to add another tier of responsibility under managers, which will allow managers to work more consistently on strategic activities alongside the CEO and provide more career development pathways for staff, opening staff opportunities and enable better succession planning.

Sector Capability

Yorgum is a partner with the **Pursuit of Excellence** in Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect (PERCAN) Project in Western Australia. The project's research partner is the University of South Australia, who are developing evidence-based therapeutic models for preventing and responding to abuse and neglect resulting in complex trauma.

Partnerships

Yorgum continued to work with 10 other ACCOs to co-design the ACCO Strategy 2022-2032 with the Department of Communities. This will provide a framework for how we will work together to achieve self-determination, safety and health for Aboriginal families and communities.

Yorgum remains an active member of the Noongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council, meeting regularly with the Minister for Child Protection, Women's Interests, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services, as well as the Director General, Department of Communities. The involvement of other Council members and support from the Aboriginal community enables us to **advocate collectively and more effectively** for necessary sector reforms.

Yorgum continues to be a supporter of the ground-breaking Walkern Katadjin Rainbow Knowledge a national research project that aims to understand and promote the mental health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Asexual + (LGBTQA+) community and to work with services to develop appropriate interventions. We are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ mob.

Acknowledgements

I thank all of Yorgum's staff without whom we would not be able to serve the Aboriginal community. We are especially grateful for their willingness to embrace change and for their ongoing resilience during disruptions caused by the Wittenoom St refurbishment and COVID. We remain committed to your wellbeing and your professional development.

Yours sincerely,

Laurel Sellers, Chief Executive Officer



Building our Workforce

We value our people — they're at the heart of our Organisation. We invest in each other's success and share the fundamental values of our mob first, safety, respect, integrity, and knowledge. The shared values of our Organisation are breathed through our behaviours and underpin how we work.

The impact of our values and behaviours go beyond internal work practices, and ensure we are constantly and collaboratively working towards achieving our vision. We invest in our people, technology and resources to ensure we continue to provide positive social and emotional wellbeing outcomes.

1,745 hours of professional development completed

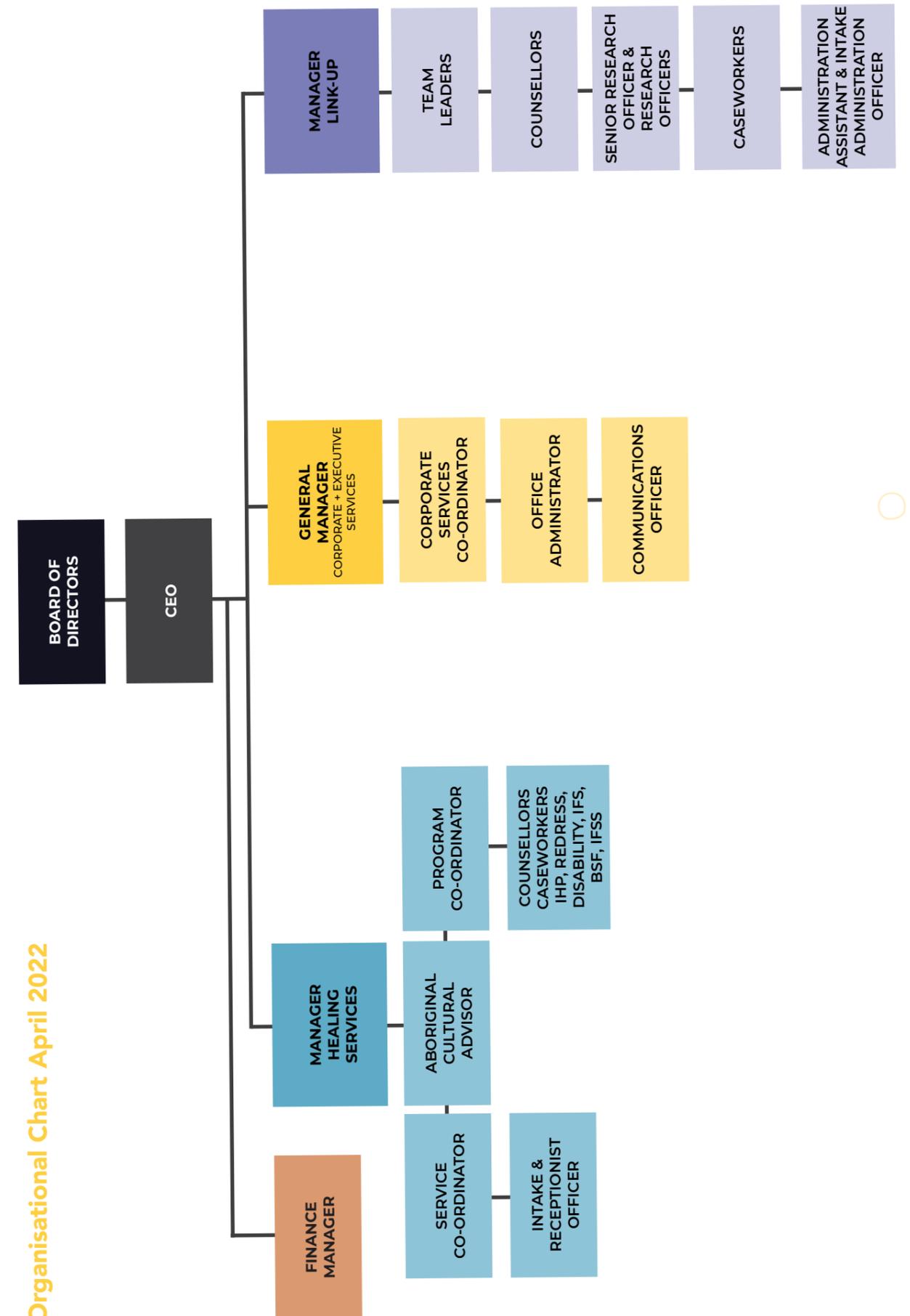
Professional Development occurred in the areas listed below:

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<div style="background-color: #f9c94d; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">40</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Staff</p> </div> </div>	<p>Workplace Health & Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 4WD Training ◆ First Aid and CPR Training ◆ Mental Health First Aid Training ◆ Fire Warden Training ◆ Workplace Emergency Response 		

COVID Safe Operations

During 2021-22 Western Australia saw the arrival of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, this included a significant increase in cases in Western Australia from March 2022. Our team has continued to work professionally, flexibly, and within the guidelines set by Government and the Chief Health Officer. During this period we have dispensed personal protective equipment to all our clients, families, and staff as needed and adapted our ways of working to ensure services continued to be delivered safely.

Organisational Chart April 2022



Our services embed the following 6 principles.



Trauma Informed
Understand underlying issues through a causation lens



Healing Focused
Healing harm from traumas, injustices and relationships



Culturally Secure
Welcoming, culturally secure services that strengthen cultural identity



Client Centred
Individualised, flexible, needs specific services



Collaborative
Partnerships to learn and collaborate in the best interests of Aboriginal people



Outcomes Focused
Ongoing evaluation to underpin real and sustained change

Culturally Secure, Trauma Informed and Healing Focused

Aboriginal people have experienced significant inter-generational trauma arising from colonisation and adverse policies that eroded our cultural identity, language, spirituality, kinship, knowledge, cultural practices and connections (to family, community and country). Many Aboriginal people continue to be traumatised by racism, identity issues and abuse. Trauma impacts people’s ‘social and emotional wellbeing’ (SEWB) in multiple areas: health, relationships, education, lifestyle, finances, livelihood and identity.

Yorgum welcomes any Aboriginal person who comes to us for help, acknowledging that it is often difficult to reach out and engage with any service. **We treat everyone with respect and dignity**, avoiding making judgments based on how a person sounds, presents or behaves.

Healing from trauma is hard, emotional work and often involves grieving for your traumatised self. Going to these deep places can feel like you are dying and it is easy to fall into despair, so making a client feel culturally, emotionally and physically safe and in control is really important.

We provide a culturally welcoming environment and patiently work at the pace our clients feel comfortable with, allowing them to disengage and reengage with us when it feels right to them.

‘Dadirri’, or the cultural practice of ‘deep listening’ allows us to tune in to a client’s deep pain, even if they are not talking about it directly. We offer a heartfelt, ‘human to human’ response to this pain. Part of our

therapeutic approach can be to use cultural artefacts, for example, a client may sit and stroke a kangaroo skin to soothe themselves, or a child may use a coolomon (bowl) to ‘capture’ their worries. To heal from trauma, a person needs to reconnect with themselves through tuning into what their head, heart and stomach are saying. We help clients understand the underlying causes of their trauma and how it propelled them into ‘fright-flight-freeze’ survival mode. We help clients learn ways to soften intense emotional response when trauma is triggered, to think more clearly and consciously respond differently.

Many of our services help **clients heal through reconnecting with family, community and culture, using traditional healing methods**. Yorgum counsellors help clients reconnect with country, by being or walking on country during counselling sessions, as well as encouraging clients to do that. We also encourage clients to **connect with cultural practices like art, dance, yarn-ing, walking or camping on country as part of the healing journey**.

Healing is not a ‘quick fix’ – we help clients gather the knowledge, skills and strategies to empower clients to continue their healing journey beyond engaging with Yorgum.

“HEALING IS NOT A ‘QUICK FIX’
WE HELP CLIENTS GATHER THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND STRATEGIES THAT EMPOWER CLIENTS TO CONTINUE THEIR HEALING JOURNEY BEYOND ENGAGING WITH YORGUM.”

Cultural Supervision and Training

Yorgum’s workforce includes Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff, each of whom have extensive professional and personal experiences to deliver culturally secure services. All staff are provided with training in cultural awareness and understanding, culturally appropriate trauma-informed principles and healing approaches and how to work with complex trauma. Yorgum staff are provided with a **reflective practice space to further develop their trauma-informed approach**. Kathy Pickett, our Cultural Aboriginal Advisor, provides cultural supervision to staff which encompasses cultural safety, practices, protocols and spirituality. Kathy may advise staff on culturally appropriate resources to use with clients and stimulates team discussions about Aboriginal cultural and community issues.

KATHY PICKETT, Aboriginal Cultural Advisor



“I am a Noongar woman: my family groups are Yued, Ballardong, Whadjuk and Wagyl Kaip. My passion is working to improve the wellbeing of my people and community. I started work at Yorgum as a counsellor 7 years ago, became Link-Up Manager, Clinical Service Manager and then an Indigenous Healing Service counsellor. I now work with all Yorgum teams to help them embed cultural practices and offer cultural supervision.”

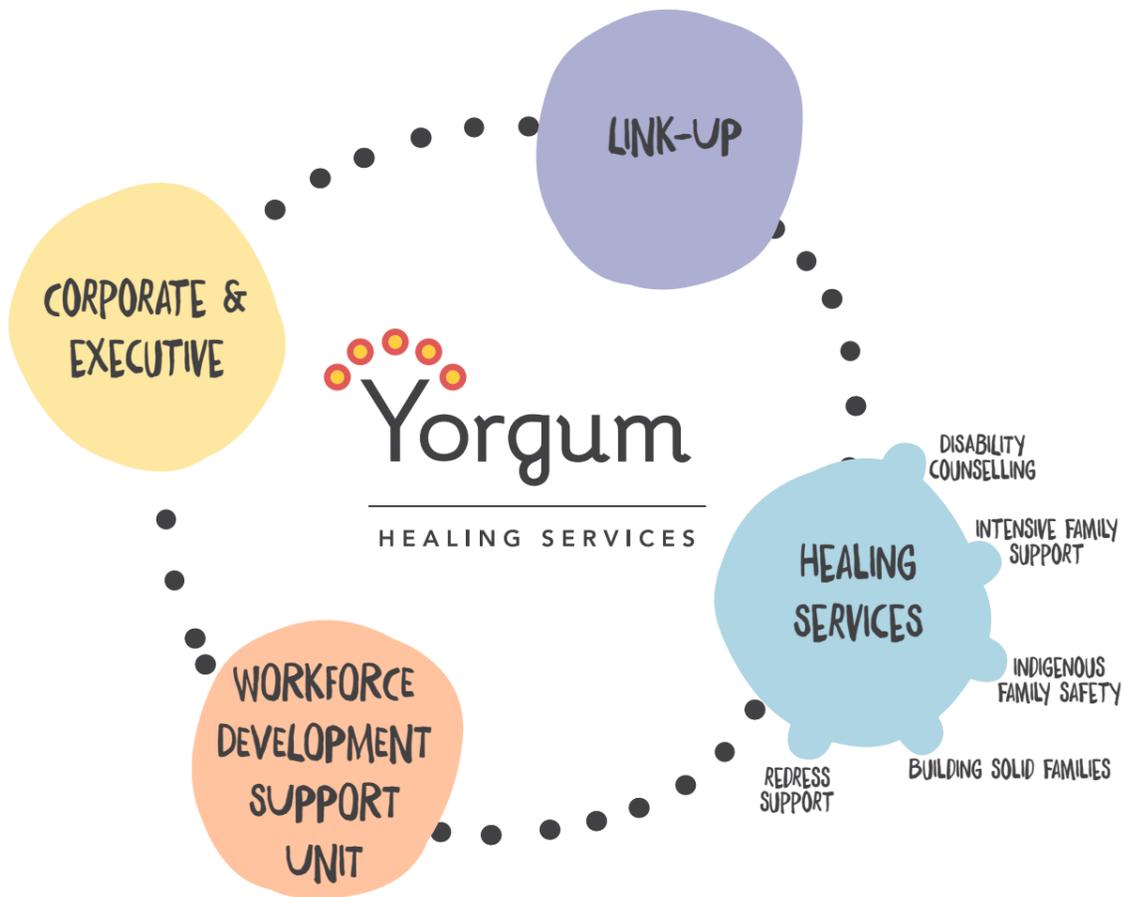
Why We Exist

The social challenges faced by Aboriginal communities are complex and interwoven. We understand the significant inter-generational trauma Aboriginal people have experienced arising from colonial history, adverse policies, racism, incarceration, identity issues, exploitation and abuse.

The effects of trauma impacts on people's social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) in areas such as health, relationships, education, lifestyle, finances, livelihood, law and identity. Aboriginal concepts of wellbeing highlight the importance of country, language, culture, spirituality and ancestors.

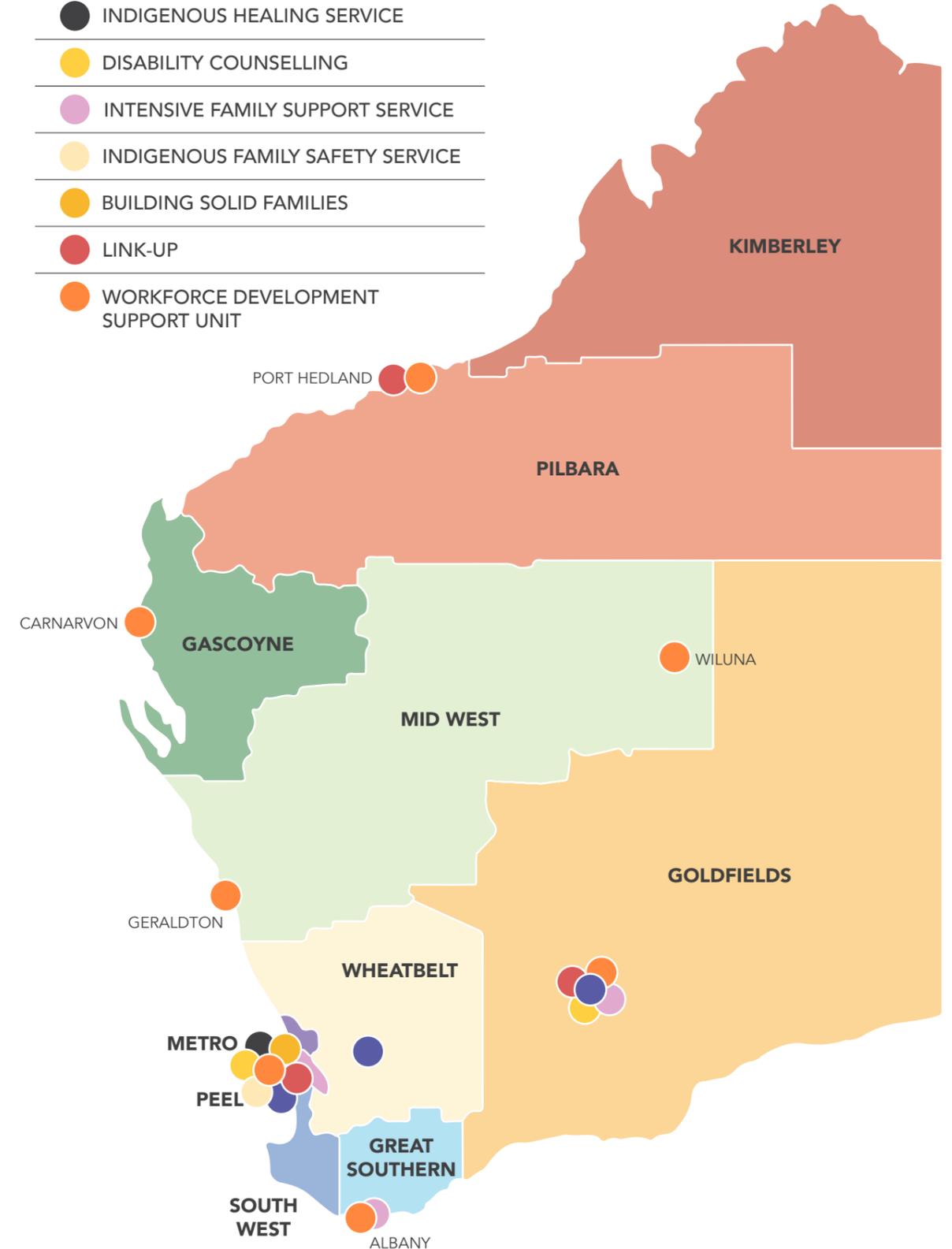
Our Services

Yorgum provides all Aboriginal people and their families with a wide range of community-based healing services funded through government grants and free to all our clients.



Yorgum services operate across all areas of WA except for the Kimberley region.

- REDRESS SUPPORT SERVICES
- INDIGENOUS HEALING SERVICE
- DISABILITY COUNSELLING
- INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE
- INDIGENOUS FAMILY SAFETY SERVICE
- BUILDING SOLID FAMILIES
- LINK-UP
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT UNIT



Purpose

The National Link-Up Service was established in 1998, to support and assist Stolen Generations survivors (including children who were fostered and adopted) who are affected by past governments' removal policies, to trace genealogy and family history, and **reunite with families** where possible. Yorgum has been delivering the Link-Up Service within WA (outside the Kimberley region) from bases in Perth, South Hedland and Kalgoorlie since 2008.

The Link-Up Service is funded by the National Indigenous Australian Agency.

Our Team

Yorgum's Link-Up Service is managed by Cheryl Augustsson. Cheryl's team comprises team leaders, an intake administration assistant, counsellors, caseworkers, an administration assistant and family history researchers. All employees play an important role in the **healing journeys of our Stolen Generations** clients.



CHERYL AUGUSTSSON, Link-Up Manager

"I am a Yinggarda woman from the Gascoyne region. As a founding member of Yorgum, it has given me great pleasure to witness its growth and the unique healing service it has become, made possible by the staff's diverse skills and vast experience. I have been employed by Yorgum for the last 7 years, as a counsellor then as Link-Up manager. It is inspiring and an honour to work with Link-Up clients who so generously share their stories and journeys."

Our Approach

All of our clients experienced trauma from being removed from their families, so our clients are supported throughout their healing journey by **culturally secure and trauma-informed counsellors**.

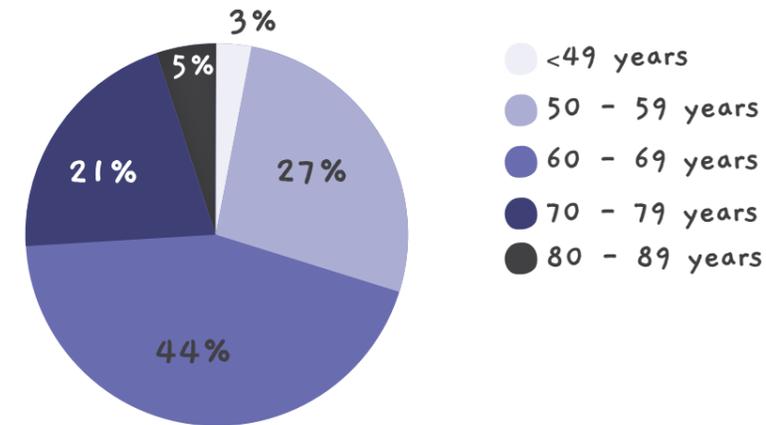
Our offices are culturally welcoming, with Aboriginal artwork and pictures of the Noongar six seasons on the walls. All our events open with an Acknowledgement of Country and meetings involve a minute's silence for Stolen Generations survivors who have passed. We consult Elders and community leaders whenever we visit another person's country, to ensure we follow cultural protocols.

This year, our publications for survivors incorporated cultural designs and we worked with Noongar Elder Vivienne Hansen to incorporate cultural products made from native bush plants into our healing events.

Our Clients

Yorgum actively supported 145 Stolen Generations survivors over the last year; most were aged 50-80 years old. We remained in touch with another 71 former clients, who are invited to various events.

Client Ages (July 2021 - June 2022)



Activities

We conduct **family history research, offer counselling support, coordinate reunions, healing events** and community events across WA (outside of the Kimberley region). During 2021-2022, the team travelled 35,971km as part of this work.

Family History research enables our clients to connect with their ancestry, country and members of their extended family: knowing who you are and where you come from is culturally important and healing. Our specialist researchers investigate official records, libraries, websites, newspapers and maps to search for people, grave sites, missions, towns and stations of significance.

Mission reunions are very healing for clients: they bring together people who grew up together on missions and give people time to share a meal, stories and cultural activities, and remember those who have passed. This year, we held one mission reunion in Carnarvon.

Healing Events (camps, days and healing circles) can be an important part of our clients' healing journeys and are facilitated by our counsellors. We organise self-care activities, encourage yarning and bonding, share cultural knowledge and undertake cultural activities to promote healing, build self-confidence and reconnect to culture. These small, closed groups offer safe spaces for clients to share their stories. Healing circles take place over 12 sessions, allowing more time for clients to understand historical trauma, discuss their own trauma and develop strategies to deal with it while supported by counsellors.

The Link-Up team hosts several community events for Stolen Generations survivors and their immediate families around WA: a Christmas Lunch, plus morning teas on National Apology Day (13th February) and Sorry Day.

The Link-Up team actively promotes the service and engages members of the public through Family History Days, NAIDOC Week and other Yorgum events.



CLIENT FEEDBACK

Congratulations to staff on your incredible work Yorgum does and kindness shown to our people.

You made me feel safe. Thank you from me, and from my people.

It was good for me. I got a lot of respect and was able to do lots of talking.

You have been great. You took a big weight off me. I appreciate it.

I feel lighter, lost some baggage. It made me feel good, relaxed, and open.

Thank you, Yorgum, for today and past events to help in the Stolen Generations journey of healing.

The Yorgum service was great. Because of you (the counsellor) it was great.

Healing Services

This year, Yorgum merged its Clinical, Family Support and Disability Services into one service area: Healing Services now encompass all of Yorgum's services apart from the Link-Up Service. On average, around 565 Aboriginal people of all ages were engaged with our services at any one time.

Yorgum provides culturally secure, trauma-informed support to Aboriginal children, young people and adults affected by grief and loss; traumas such as sexual abuse, family and domestic violence (FDV), involvement with the child protection and justice systems; mental health, drug and alcohol challenges; sexual and gender identity challenges; and all types of disability.

Our Team

Yorgum's Healing Services is managed by Peta Hart. The team comprises team leaders, counsellors and case workers, most of whom are located in the Perth metro area, with smaller teams in Kalgoorlie and Albany, plus one worker in the Wheatbelt. The team is supported by a Service & Program Coordinator, Intake and Assessment Officer, plus an Aboriginal Cultural Advisor.

PETA HART, Healing Services Manager

"I come from Mullewa, which is on Yamatji country, I am passionate about driving positive social and emotional wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal people. It's been an honour working with Yorgum and delivering culturally secure, trauma-informed approach to healing."



Our Approach

Our service uses a trauma-informed approach to ensure our healing services are **culturally secure and healing focused**. We support clients to identify their strengths, build skills, capacity and resilience to heal from adverse life experiences, so they can thrive socially and emotionally. We ensure our clients, their families and carers are at the centre of what we do, by supporting a holistic way to strong connections to spirituality, family, community and culture. Counselling improves our clients' social and emotional wellbeing.

Counsellors work with their clients using a range of healing methods as part of a holistic approach to healing, including using cultural artefacts (such as **tapping sticks, kangaroo skins, coolamons**), flower essence therapy, narrative therapy, art therapy; these methods complement mainstream therapeutic approaches such as cognitive behavioural therapy, emotional regulation and self-soothing techniques.

Redress Support

We provide timely and seamless access to trauma-informed and culturally appropriate community-based support services for Indigenous Australians in the Perth metropolitan region to engage with the National Redress Scheme (formerly known as the Royal Commission Community-Based Support Services).

The Redress Support Service is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

Activities

Most of our clients are Stolen Generations survivors who also survived child sexual abuse in the institutions they were removed to. We work with trauma-informed principles to provide them with information and guidance on how to access the Redress Scheme. **Our counsellors support their clients** throughout the application to help them identify and disclose their story. We provide warm referrals to other Yorgum healing services that can provide longer-term counselling and specialist supports.

Many clients require emotional support to tell their story of abuse, which has usually caused lasting impacts on their health, mental health and general wellbeing. Yorgum offers a culturally secure and trauma-informed healing approach that takes into account their complex trauma and needs. **We work at the pace our clients feel comfortable with, to ensure they feel safe and in control.**

Our Clients

436 clients living in Perth, Peel, the Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions have accessed the Redress Scheme, where most of our clients were aged 50-70 years old, with an increasing number of young adults (18-25 years old). 55% of our clients were women and 45% were men.

Redress Support



21
Outcomes
from Scheme



58
Lodged
Applications



436
Clients
Supported

Purpose

We provide culturally secure healing, counselling, therapy and support to Aboriginal children, young people and adults in the Perth metropolitan region to help recover from the harmful impacts of child sexual abuse and/or Family and Domestic Violence (FDV).

The Indigenous Healing Service is funded by the Department of Communities.

Activities

Our clients have commonly experienced multiple traumas, often within the context of their close family relationships, **our counsellors work sensitively to build safe, trusting relationships** and provide medium to long-term client-centred care.

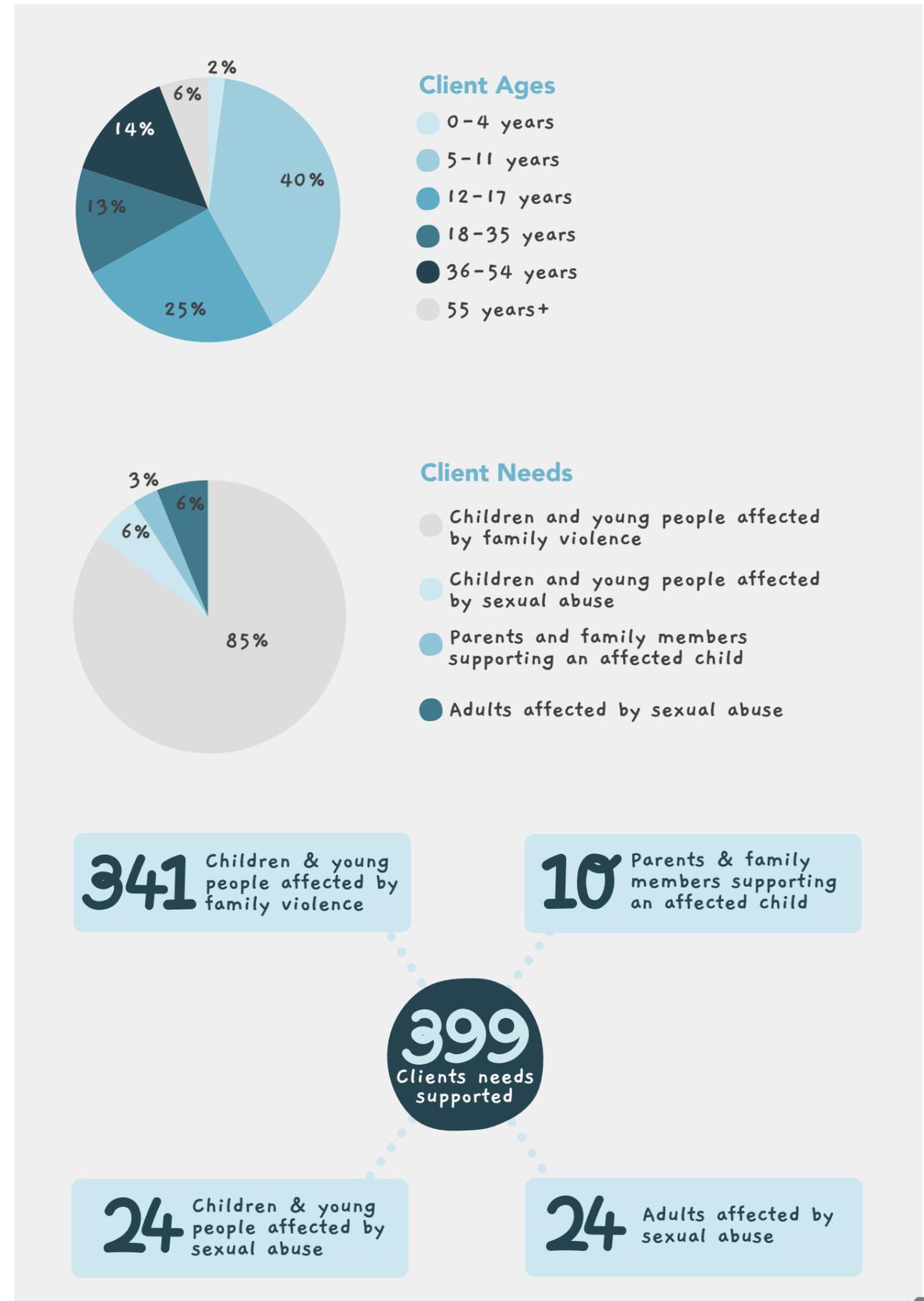
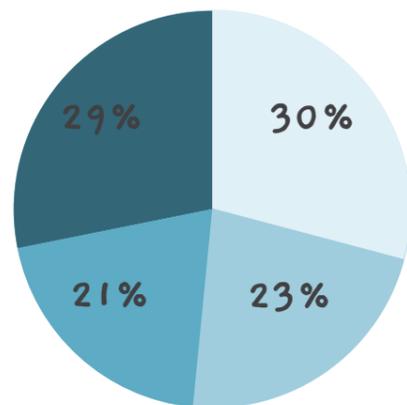
A significant component of the education and counselling support Yorgum provides focuses on **safety, personal boundaries and protective behaviours**. Counsellors discuss feelings, emotions, listening to our bodies, early warning signs and the right to say 'no', in an age-appropriate way.

Our Clients

We supported 116 existing and 111 new families over the last 12 months. Yorgum continued to receive self referrals due to our service being culturally secure and trusted. We noted a significant increase in referrals for children who have experienced family violence, which seemed to correlate with the impact of COVID-19 on their families.

Source of Referrals

- Dept of Communities
- Other Gov Agency
- Non-Gov Agency
- Self-Referral



Family Support Service

We provide social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) services including culturally secure information, support and advice to Aboriginal communities in the Perth metropolitan region, particularly those affected by trauma, grief and loss, mental health challenges and at risk of harm.

Building Solid Families is funded by the WA Country Health Services' Aboriginal Primary Health Care Program.

Activities

Aboriginal people naturally build strong families, in line with cultural and community values. However, some children and families require extra information and support to develop the skills and tools needed to thrive.

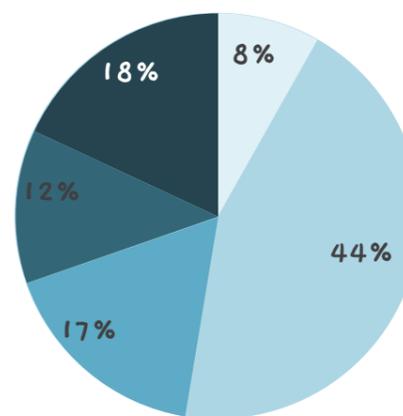
A significant component of Yorgum's work was counselling and advocacy support to individuals and families, focused on social and emotional wellbeing, plus grief and loss. Counselling took place in schools, in clients' homes, or at our East Perth premises. This year, Yorgum was approached by Palmerston Association to provide counselling and advocacy support to Aboriginal clients in the **Connect Wanju** court diversion program.

Yorgum staff are trained to deliver the Mooditj Program (originally developed by Sexual Health Quarters), which covers resilience, relationships and sexual health, to Aboriginal high school students aged 10-14. In 2021, Yorgum delivered two 8-week programs in 2 high schools in Perth: Mooditj Me – helping young people be strong in themselves; and Mooditj Mates – helping young people develop solid friendships. Unfortunately, school restrictions due to COVID prevented Yorgum from running these programs in the first semester of 2022.

Our Clients

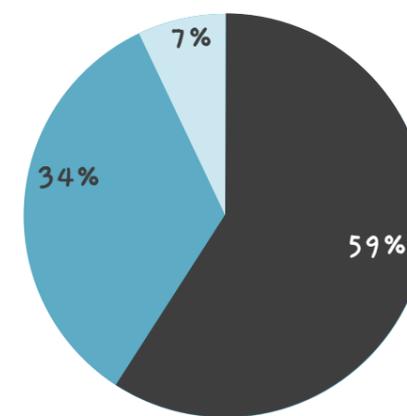
273 clients over the last 12 months, covering a wide age range. Most of our work involved individual counselling with a focus on grief and loss.

Client Ages



- 0-9 years
- 10-19 years
- 20-29 years
- 30-49 years
- 50 years & over

Types of Support



- Counselling
- Advocacy
- Education



Purpose

Provide an integrated service to Aboriginal families in the Perth metropolitan region, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged families, to improve child wellbeing and development, safety and family functioning, and to help build stronger, more resilient families and communities.

Indigenous Family Safety is funded by the National Indigenous Australian Agency.

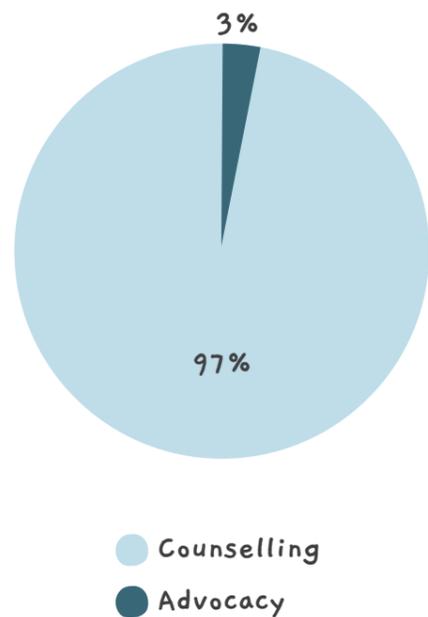
Activities

Yorgum helps families improve **safety, wellbeing and resilience**. A significant component of our work involves counselling and advocacy support to individuals and families who are dealing with the impacts of sexual abuse, family and domestic violence, trauma, grief and loss. At times we are asked to provide specialist support to parents who are looking to reunify with their children, including liaising with different agencies and services to establish family safety and stability.

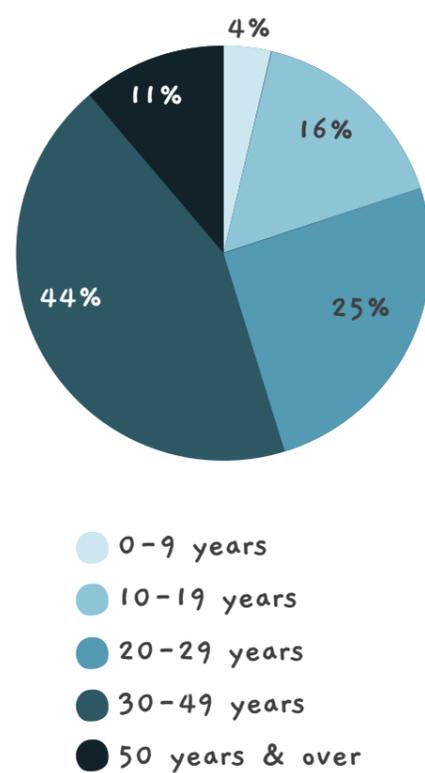
Our Clients

110 clients over the last 12 months, covering a wide age range: 20% were children, over half were parents (or grandparents) over 30 years old. Almost all our work involved individual counselling.

Types of Support



Client Ages



Purpose

Provide intensive in-home practical support to parents and families, to enhance the **safety of children to remain safe at home** and/or support families who are working through a reunification process.

Intensive Family Support is funded by the Department of Communities.

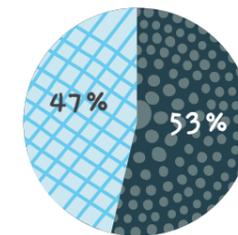
Activities

Yorgum is the **lead agency for Intensive Family Support in the Great Southern and Goldfields regions**, working from offices in Albany and Kalgoorlie. We work intensively with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families who are referred by the Department of Communities.

We work positively with families to improve capacity and resilience to develop and maintain safe family and community networks. While we assist families to access other agencies and services and engage with culturally safe support services.

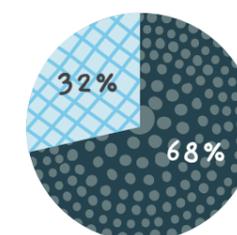
Our Clients

47 families with children, we supported 102 children, almost 70% of which were Aboriginal families.



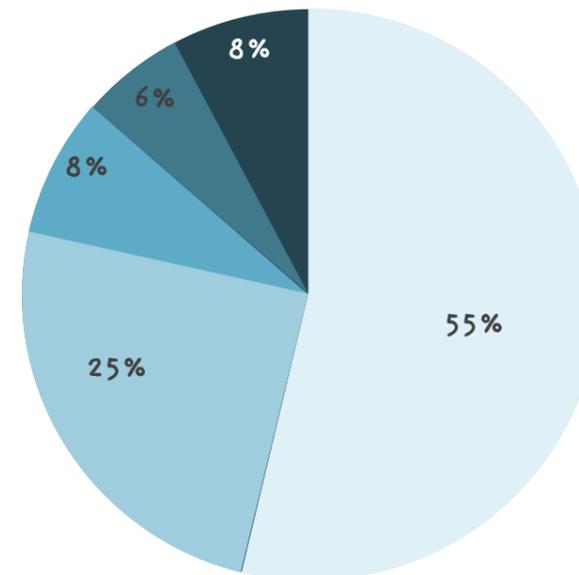
Family Situation

- At risk
- Reunification



Ethnicity

- Aboriginal
- Non-Aboriginal



Children Supported

- 0-4 years
- 4-9 years
- 10-12 years
- 13-14 years
- 15-17 years

Purpose

We provide targeted, culturally appropriate, trauma informed counselling services to support Indigenous Australians living with disability in Western Australia (except the Kimberley), their families and carers, who are affected by the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

The Royal Commission started in April 2019 and will continue until September 2023. Disability Counselling is funded by the Department of Social Services.

Activities

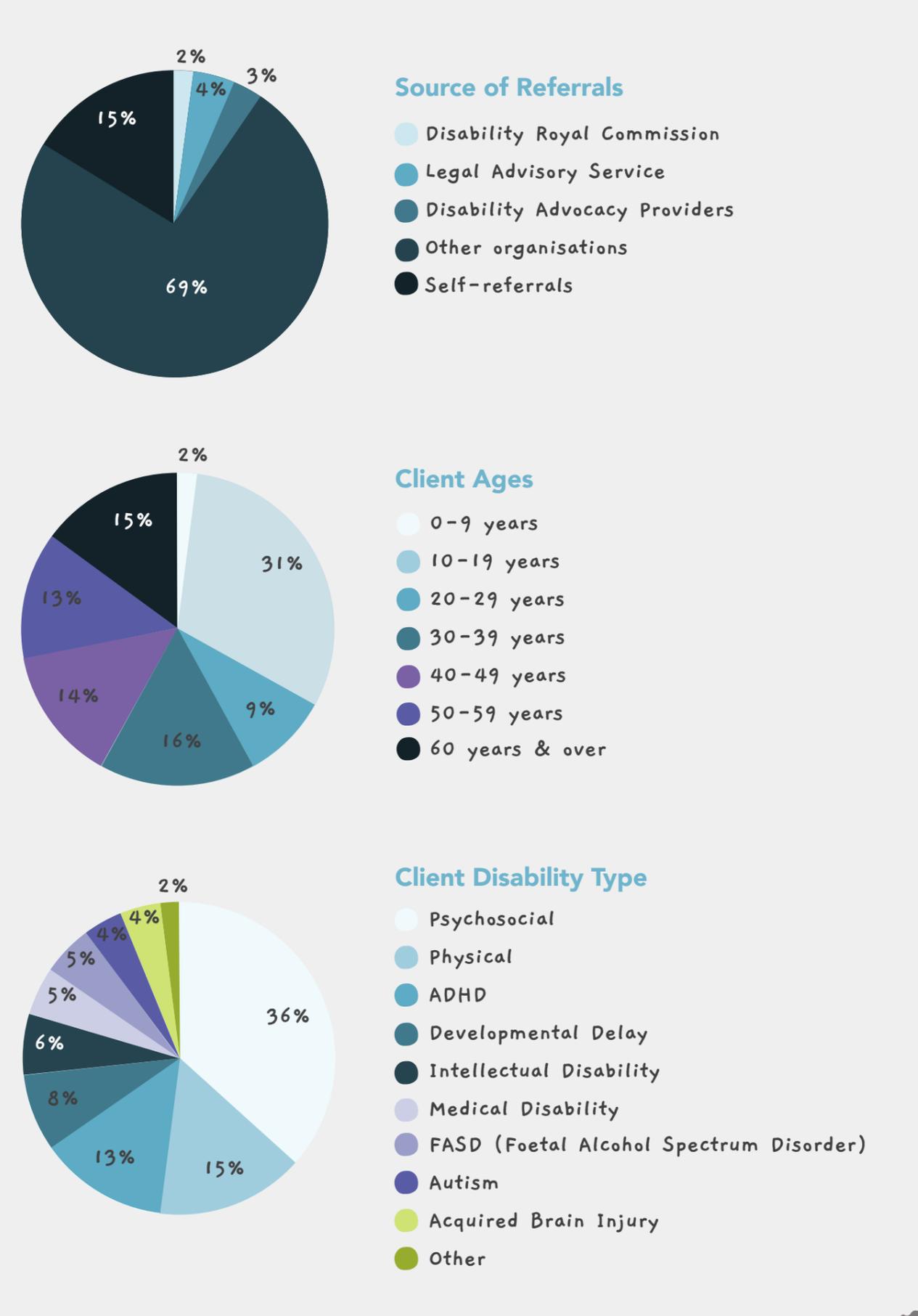
Aboriginal people with disability commonly experience housing insecurity, financial hardship, poor health, poor nutrition or social isolation; may have suffered from violence, trauma and exploitation; and are often unable to participate in cultural practices. **We provide individualised, trauma-informed counselling to help heal.** We can support clients to tell their stories to the Disability Royal Commission, and can also provide access to interpreting or cultural translation services for clients who need it.

Yorgum disability counsellors work from Perth and Kalgoorlie; providing services in person, as well as using phone or video-conferencing. We introduced online play therapy with some children: this stimulated engagement and focus, as well as improved parent bonding.

Community engagement was undertaken in the Pilbara, Mid-West, Goldfields and Great Southern, including some prison visits, to meet local service providers and discuss referral pathways and service gaps.

Our Clients

153 people over the last 12 months, including 115 new clients, mainly from the Perth metropolitan region. A third of our clients were children living at home with their parents.



Purpose

The Workforce Development Support Unit (WDSU) commenced in 2010 to develop and support the capacity and responsiveness of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce throughout Western Australia (excluding the Kimberley), who work in Social & Emotional Wellbeing and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) programs funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

Activities

The WDSU supports frontline staff, supervisors and managers from ACCOs, government and nongovernment organisations that provide primary health care, allied health care, Social and Emotional Wellbeing and AOD services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities in Western Australia.

Yorgum delivered two Social and Emotional Wellbeing forums in consultation with our client organisations. We embedded cultural principles and practices into the program. Each element of the program was linked to one or more of the **9 Guiding Principles** from the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Well Being (2017-2023).

'Working with our Indigenous Clients' – Social and Emotional Wellbeing Forum in 2021:

- Aboriginal Worldview (Terms of Reference), the history and impact of colonisation, and cultural identity
- Sharing best practice stories, networking and yarning
- Healing discussions and activities
- Cultural healing activities

21 participants from **5** organisations:

- Wiluna (Martu country)
- South Hedland (Kariyarra country)
- Kalgoorlie (Wongai, Wongatha country)
- Albany, Geraldton and Perth (Noongar country)

'Caring & Healing for Country, Community and Self' – Social and Emotional Wellbeing Forum in 2022:

- Family Violence, vicarious trauma, stress, anxiety and cultural supervision yarning workshops
- Sharing best practice stories, networking and yarning
- Healing discussions and activities
- Family history research workshop and Link-Up connections
- Cultural and knowledge sharing of significant Aboriginal sites in Menang country

24 participants from **4** organisations:

- Wiluna (Martu country)
- South Hedland (Kariyarra country)
- Albany, Geraldton and Perth (Noongar country)



Photos: SEWB Forum Albany
The fish traps were built by the Menang Nyoongar people and have been sitting in Oyster Harbour for an estimated 7000 years. The traps and the sacred area of land near the site were officially returned to traditional owners in 2009 to protect and conserve its heritage
The area is now an important historical tourist location.

9 GUIDING PRINCIPLES For Social and Emotional Wellbeing

1 HEALTH AS HOLISTIC

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is viewed in a holistic context that encompasses mental health and physical, spiritual, and cultural health. Land is central to wellbeing. Crucially, it must be understood that while the harmony of these interrelations is disrupted, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ill health will persist.



2 SELF DETERMINATION

The right to Self Determination is central to the provision of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services.

3 THE NEED FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Culturally valid understandings must shape the provision of service and must guide assessment, the care and management of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health problems generally and mental health problems.

4 THE IMPACT OF HISTORY IN TRAUMA AND LOSS

It must be recognised that the experiences of trauma and loss, present since European invasion, are a direct outcome of the disruption to cultural wellbeing. Trauma and loss of this magnitude continue to have intergenerational effects.

5 RECOGNITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

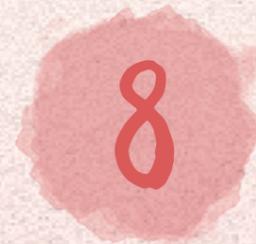
The human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must be recognised and respected. Failure to respect these human rights constitutes continuous disruption to mental health (as against mental ill health). Human rights relevant to mental illness must be specifically addressed.

6 THE IMPACT OF RACISM AND STIGMA

Racism, stigma, the environmental adversity, and social disadvantage constitute ongoing stressors and have negative impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's mental health and wellbeing.

7 RECOGNITION OF THE CENTRALITY OF KINSHIP

The centrality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family kinship must be recognised as well as the broader concepts of family and the bonds of reciprocal affection, responsibility and sharing.



8 RECOGNITION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

There is no single Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture or group but numerous groupings, language, clan kinship and tribes, as well as ways of living. Furthermore, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples may currently live in urban, rural areas or remote settings, in urbanised, traditional, or other lifestyles, and frequently move between these ways of living.

9 RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINAL STRENGTHS

It must be recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Islander peoples have great strengths, creativity and endurance and a deep understanding of the relationships between human beings and their environment.



(National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Well Being 2004 -2009, Page 6)

NAIDOC

Staff attended events in Merriwa, North Metro Tafe, Kalgoorlie, and Belmont. Yorgum staff spoke to over 300 people at these events, sharing stories and delivering activities growing spiritual, physical, intellectual, and emotional well-being. Yorgum is proud to celebrate NAIDOC and to see all our families enjoying these events!



ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLOGY

Held on 13 February this is important event for our Stolen Generation to commemorate and acknowledge the pain and suffering caused to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders by the forced removal of their children. One of the first steps in healing trauma is the recognition and acknowledgement of truth. This is an important event for our families and community to connect and celebrate the resilience and strength of Stolen Generations members.



CARNARVON MISSION REUNION

Held at Aboriginal Heritage Gwoonwardu Mia, Cultural Centre, Carnarvon. The reunion was a deadly day where community came together to yarn, connect, and be involved in healing activities. Reunions are an important opportunity for connection and reconnection. We thank the Stolen Generation members and families for attending. We look forward to holding another reunion in Roebourne in the coming year.

SORRY DAY

Our annual sorry day events bring community mob together to acknowledge the survivors of the Stolen Generation. Our show of support through these events plays a part in the healing process for our people. Big thank you to Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service Aboriginal Corporation for their ongoing support and partnership for the Sorry Day event. There has been a lot of positive feedback from attendees.



31ST ANNUAL SILENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MEMORIAL MARCH

Held in December, at Forrest Chase, the silent march is the longest running family and domestic violence march in Australia. Through our participation and sponsorship, we honour all who have lost their lives as a result of family and domestic violence, and show our mob we here to support you and your family.



STOLEN GENERATIONS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Held in December, in Perth, South Hedland, and Kalgoorlie. These events are a great way for our families to relax and enjoy a special time of year together, further building strong spirit, strong family, strong community, and strong culture. Our Christmas party goers had a deadly time!



ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY

14,6k Followers

13,9k Likes

SCHEDULE 1 - APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person residing in Western Australia and would like to become a member of Yorgum please visit www.yorgum.org.au to complete an application form for membership or call 1800 469 371

I, _____ (first and last name of applicant)
Of, _____ (address of applicant)
Suburb, _____
Email Address, _____
Contact Number, _____

Apply for membership of the corporation.

I declare that I am eligible for membership.

- At least 21 years' old
- Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander
- Residing in Western Australia

Signature of applicant _____

Date _____

Corporation use only

Application Received	Date:
Application tabled at directors' meeting held on	Date:
Directors consider applicant is eligible for membership	Yes / No
Directors enter name, address and date on register of members	Date:
Directors have sent notification of directors' decision to applicant	Date:

OUR SERVICES ARE ACCESSIBLE BY:

-  Walking in
-  Calling us on 1800 469 371
-  Online at yorgum.org.au/counsellingreferral/

FINANCIAL REPORTS

YORGUM HEALING SERVICES ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ABN 37 427 225 301

ICN 1747

EXTRACTS FROM THE GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Full audited financial reports are available on request

YORGUM HEALING SERVICES ABORIGINAL CORPORATION STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	NOTE	2022 Actual \$	2021 Actual \$
Revenue			
Grants and contributions	2(a)	5,710,496	5,601,726
Interest earnings	2(a)	6,851	7,728
Other revenue	2(a)	243,576	91,188
		5,960,923	5,700,642
Expenses			
Employee costs	2(b)	(4,183,852)	(3,780,950)
Depreciation on non-current assets	7(c)	(269,933)	(184,312)
Interest expenses		(1,983)	(1,188)
Other expenditure		(1,450,093)	(1,461,254)
		(5,905,861)	(5,427,704)
		55,062	272,938
Net result for the period			
		55,062	272,938
Other comprehensive income			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	7	0	(1,682,534)
Total other comprehensive income for the period			
		0	(1,682,534)
Total comprehensive income for the period			
		55,062	(1,409,596)

YORGUM HEALING SERVICES ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	NOTE	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	2,938,529	4,350,130
Trade receivables	4	59	1,000
Financial assets	6	1,025,382	0
Other assets	5	13,328	6,937
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		3,977,298	4,358,067
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	3,210,470	2,685,215
Right of use assets	8	0	61,908
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		3,210,470	2,747,123
TOTAL ASSETS		7,187,768	7,105,190
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	355,986	289,828
Contract liabilities (unexpended grants)	16	2,301,414	2,335,727
Borrowings		91	1,287
Lease liabilities	10	0	61,050
Employee related provisions	11	283,458	240,075
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,940,949	2,927,967
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee related provisions	11	40,213	25,679
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		40,213	25,679
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,981,162	2,953,646
NET ASSETS		4,206,606	4,151,544
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		3,972,932	3,917,870
Revaluation surplus		233,674	233,674
TOTAL EQUITY		4,206,606	4,151,544

YORGUM HEALING SERVICES ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	NOTE	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS \$	REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	TOTAL EQUITY \$
Balance as at 1 July 2020		3,644,932	1,916,208	5,561,140
Comprehensive income				
Net result for the period - as per 2021 Financial Report		272,938	0	272,938
Other comprehensive income	7	0	(1,682,534)	(1,682,534)
Total comprehensive income		272,938	(1,682,534)	(1,409,596)
Balance as at 30 June 2021		3,917,870	233,674	4,151,544
Net result for the period		55,062	0	55,062
Total comprehensive income		55,062	0	55,062
Balance as at 30 June 2022		3,972,932	233,674	4,206,606

YORGUM HEALING SERVICES ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	NOTE	2022 Actual \$	2021 Actual \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Grants and contributions		5,676,183	6,471,287
Interest received		6,851	7,728
Other revenue		175,888	224,561
		5,858,922	6,703,576
Payments			
Suppliers and employees		(5,482,202)	(5,544,164)
Interest expenses		(1,983)	(1,188)
		(5,484,185)	(5,545,352)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	12	374,737	1,158,224
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for purchase of property, plant & equipment	7(a)	(1,034,821)	(595,580)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	7(b)	336,111	331,134
Financial assets acquired		(1,025,382)	0
Net cash provided by (used in) investment activities		(1,724,092)	(264,446)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of lease liability	10(b)	(61,050)	(40,851)
Repayment of borrowings		(1,196)	(5,811)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		(62,246)	(46,662)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(1,411,601)	847,116
Cash at beginning of year		4,350,130	3,503,014
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	12	2,938,529	4,350,130

Our important healing work would not be possible without funding.

We sincerely appreciate the trust and confidence shown in us by our funding partners.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service



Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



Australian Government
Indigenous Land Corporation



The ILC GROUP

PEOPLE. LAND. OPPORTUNITY.



Australian Government
Department of Social Services





1800 469 371

www.yorgum.org.au

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