

STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

#4 - September 2019



KIMBERLEY

Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial

Unprecedented commitment to reducing suicide in the Kimberley

Over the course of two days in late August, more than 65 community members and leaders, health and social services organisations, and Federal and State Government representatives reaffirmed their commitment to suicide prevention at two landmark meetings.

A Youth Wellbeing Workshop, a joint initiative of the Western Australian Government and the Australian Government funded Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial (the Trial), was the first of several opportunities for community input on the State Government's Statement of Intent on Aboriginal Youth Suicide.

A subsequent meeting of the Trial's Working Group, co-chaired by Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt and attended by Western Australian Deputy Premier, Roger Cook, Honourable Josie Farrer, MLA Member for Kimberley, and recently appointed National Suicide Prevention Advisor, Christine Morgan, was an opportunity to further build on this momentum, receive feedback from the preceding day's youth forum, and hear more about the Trial's progress, as it enters its fourth and final year.

[Read more](#)





Wirriya Liyan

The Broome Community Project, Wirriya Liyan, has established a social and emotional wellbeing basketball team, the Jarnlangoodoo Wamba men's group, and a life promotion art competition in schools.

Regular community events are organised as part of the project including Picnics in the Park, the Town Beach Fun Day, NAIDOC week activations, and Start the TALK, Take the WALK Against Suicide for World Suicide Prevention Day.

Camps on Country

Halls Creek Community Project have successfully led two camps on country, one for men and one for women. These camps were tailored to meet the needs of attendees and to offer cultural and therapeutic supports.

The camps explored language and concepts around cultural healing, allowed attendees to meet service providers in a relaxed environment and explored resilience and connectedness. These camps are about creating hope and a space for the community to feel safe talking and expressing feelings.



Yiriman Women continue strong

The Yiriman Women's Project in Bidyadanga is continuing from strength to strength, with a workshop this month to build on the traditional healers' model.

The project involves the design and implementation of traditional healing modalities to complement and work alongside western approaches to treating mental health issues. It is helping to build the evidence base for the role of traditional healers, as part of a holistic approach to treatment.

Commissioned projects underway

These are a selection of projects discussed at the recent Working Group meeting, with more incredible activities underway. The Community Liaison Officers are all highly engaged in their communities and are implementing projects such as equine therapy, cultural mapping, a self-harm protocol, the Empowered Young Leaders Forums, GP capacity building and more.



Wot 'Na Wot Kine

Wot 'Na Wot Kine is an awareness campaign launching on television, radio and social media this year.

The campaign aims to:

- Encourage people to help themselves, each other and to get professional help if required, when they have problems that impact their social and emotional wellbeing
- Decrease the stigma/shame associated with talking about these problems
- Positively role model ways to stay strong and well, including the importance of community, Country and culture
- Ultimately, reduce the risk of young people taking their own lives.

These aims are made possible through the support of all the community members involved in the planning, filming and production of the campaign.

Wot 'Na Wot Kine features Kimberley community members to showcase people making a difference in the region, such as Empowered Young Leaders Bianca Graham and Jacob Smith, and Community Liaison Officer Michael Haji Ali.



Community Spotlight - Bianca Graham

As an empowered young leader in the Kimberley, Bianca Graham is using her platform to advocate for young people in her community, helping to build a network of culturally strong and empowered Aboriginal people.

Bianca is a hard-working young woman to say the least. At 24 years of age she is already a Yawuru Youth Development Officer, the female West Kimberley delegate for the Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial, a member of the headspace National Youth Reference Group and has been a key member of multiple Empowered Young Leaders Forums.

Bianca said these forums were her most positive experience through the Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial so far and the results were even more powerful than she had hoped.

Designed to empower young people through a series of workshops and skill development projects, these forums aim to change the story for young Aboriginal people in the region and increase their uptake of mental health and social and emotional wellbeing services.

"I didn't realise just how impactful it would be and how strong the core group of young people were," Bianca said.

"On day one, we had 30 young people come in who didn't know how to recognise themselves as leaders. On day three, they left feeling empowered, with a sense of pride in what they do. They wanted to go back and make a change not just in their communities but the whole of the Kimberley, East and West.

"That for me was the best part of the whole experience. On the last day of the forum, all of the working group just looked at each other and said 'Wow, we did it!' We left with a network of young empowered leaders and it worked."

Bianca Graham took part in the filming of Wot 'Na Wot Kine.