

Issue 3 - June 2021

# MILIBUD



# JUSTICE REINVESTMENT: DERBY AND FITZROY CROSSING

**Olabud Doogethu, Social Reinvestment WA (SRWA) and Western Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS) travelled to Derby and Fitzroy Crossing to discuss justice reinvestment and share learnings with the local communities.**

On 23 and 24 June 2021, Olabud Doogethu, Social Reinvestment WA (SRWA) and Western Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS) travelled to Derby and Fitzroy Crossing to discuss justice reinvestment with the local communities.

The trip included Dean Mosquito, Arron Little, Margaret Glass, Dennis Chungulla and Larry Smith from Olabud Doogethu; Sophie Stewart from Social Reinvestment WA; and Louise Giolitto from WACOSS.

Since Olabud Doogethu began its journey two years ago, it has led to a transformation in Halls Creek, which has caught the attention of communities throughout Australia.

The latest data from the WA Police in May 2021 has seen a 63% reduction in burglaries (aged 10-17) in 2017-20; 43% reduction in oral cautions (aged 10-14) in 2019-20; 69% reduction in arrests (aged 10-17) in 2017-20; 63% reduction in Juvenile Justice Team referrals (aged 10-17) in 2018-20; 59% reduction in motor vehicle thefts (aged 10-17) in 2017-20; and 64% reduction in the number of Aboriginal persons admitted to police custody (aged 10 and over) in 2017-20 in Halls Creek.

Across the Kimberley and Pilbara region in particular, many communities have been interested in learning about Olabud Doogethu, given the shared challenges of young people getting in trouble.

It was the first time Olabud Doogethu visited Derby and they were excited to see how they could support the Derby community.

'We went to Derby and met with the Shire of Derby, local organisations, the Headmaster of the local school, as well as communities from the surrounding Derby area, such as Mowanjum,' said Arron Little, Olabud Doogethu's Alternative Education Coordinator.

'They wanted to hear about Olabud Doogethu's approach, how it has been successful and how they can potentially incorporate a program in their own community, similar to our Youth Engagement Night Officers (YENO),' said Arron.



(From left to right: Arron Little, Louise Giolitto, Dean Mosquito, Margaret Glass, Dennis Chungulla, Larry Smith, and Sophie Stewart)

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the land of Australia and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We particularly acknowledge the Kija and Jaru people, the traditional owners of the Country upon which the Shire of Halls Creek is located.

Sophie Stewart, Campaign Coordinator from SRWA, was also involved in meeting with the Derby community.

'The workshop in Derby was well attended by multiple organisations in town who also want to see a better future for young people. They are exploring on how to embark on their own place-based social reinvestment journey. The Olabud Doogethu leaders were able to share their experiences and expertise to help guide Derby on the next steps they could take. We hope to continue sharing resources, learnings, and support as they collaborate on a new way forward and forward and grow together,' said Sophie.

Following the Derby meetings, Social Reinvestment WA and Olabud Doogethu travelled to Fitzroy Crossing the next day.

'In Fitzroy Crossing, we met with the Fitzroy Womens Resource Centre Marninwarntikura, and it was impressive to hear of the work they are already undertaking in their community - from running a women's shelter, a legal centre, an arts centre and art therapy program, and a family space for healing, as well as walking alongside young people with cognitive impairments and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). They were really interested in Olabud Doogethu's Alternative Education TAFE Certification work (Mibala). We plan to continue to share ideas, research, and models which have worked across respective communities,' said Sophie.

Following the series of meetings, Arron reflected on how he felt: 'I felt a sense of pride for my community and for my town knowing that we're not turning our backs away from anybody else. We want to share our knowledge and our experiences and hopefully that can help better their communities.'



(Arron Little, Alternative Education Coordinator, Olabud Doogethu)



# — IMMERSION TRIP — ON COUNTRY

Olabud Doogethu hosted Social Reinvestment WA, an Aboriginal-led coalition of 25 not-for-profits working to end the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia's justice system.

(Main Image: Springvale, Kija Country)

**The Olabud Doogethu and Social Reinvestment WA immersion trip was an opportunity for not-for-profits to visit Halls Creek, WA and learn directly from the Olabud Doogethu leaders about the justice reinvestment opportunities and challenges in the Shire of Halls Creek.**

From 28 June to 1 July 2021, partner organisations from Social Reinvestment WA travelled from all around Australia to meet with Olabud Doogethu in the Shire of Halls Creek.

The not-for-profit partner organisations from Social Reinvestment WA's coalition included Wungening Aboriginal Corporation, Amnesty International, Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee, Outcare and Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia.

The immersion trip included travelling out on to Kija and Jaru Country with Olabud Doogethu leaders, such as Springvale, Lumuku (Osmond Valley), and Palm Springs.

Olabud Doogethu leaders had the opportunity to share about the future direction and their next steps, including the establishment of the Men's Tribal Centre, the Kutjungka ('as in one' in Kukatja) human rights project, and the alternative education pathway, Mibala ('Us Together' in Kriol), which will be launched later this year.



I loved how the Olabud team were happy to share their stories, Country, knowledge and the connection they have to culture. They are truly making a change for their communities.

**Courtney Collard**  
Case Manager, Outcare



(Clockwise - left to right: Courtney Collard, Outcare, and Sophie Stewart, Social Reinvestment WA, making damper; Gabby Stretch, Olabud Doogethu, helping out at the camp fire; Maggie Munn, Amnesty International, sitting down)



(Left to right: Councillor Rosemary Stretch making damper; Lorraine Stretch, Olabud Doogethu, checking the damper)

Stefaan Bruce-Truglio, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer at the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, reflected on his time in Halls Creek:

'There were so many things that I learnt on this trip it is hard to decide what to mention. I guess the most important thing is that this trip reinforced my unequivocal belief that when Aboriginal communities are resourced to enable them to utilise their knowledge and other strengths to take action and make change, they can make such a difference in such a small period of time. Supporting Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Elders, and young

leaders to be able to place connections to culture, country and family at the heart of services for young people in their community is the most crucial component of healing,' said Stefaan.

'Decision makers, and all of us as non-Aboriginal Australians must walk this journey alongside Aboriginal people, by building the cultural understanding required to address the broader systemic issues (such as inadequate housing & healthcare and intergenerational trauma, racism and inequality), that continue to have a detrimental impact on the wellbeing and future

of Aboriginal young people across the nation,' Stefaan added.

'Only by listening, learning, and building relationships with our First Nations communities as well as supporting and complementing Aboriginal-led initiatives, rather than leading when it is not our place, can we truly work towards reconciliation. This trip strengthened my resolve and commitment to continue to support SRWA and Aboriginal-led initiatives such as Olabud Doogethu in their efforts to advocate for Youth Justice reform, including the campaign to raise the age and end the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system.'



Only by listening, learning, and building relationships with our First Nations communities as well as supporting and complementing Aboriginal-led initiatives, rather than leading when it is not our place, can we truly work towards reconciliation.

**Stefaan Bruce-Truglio**  
Senior Policy & Advocacy Officer  
Youth Affairs Council of WA



(A drone shot of the Social Reinvestment WA coalition and Olabud Doogethu taken at Lumuku on Kija Country)



It was wonderful, I really enjoyed meeting and spending time with everyone at Olabud and learning from them and their experiences. Going out bush was definitely the highlight for me, but I also really gained a lot from speaking with the YENOS about their work and heading out with them on one of the nights.

**Maggie Munn**  
Indigenous Rights  
Campaigner, Amnesty  
International

Sophie Stewart, Campaign Coordinator, from Social Reinvestment WA reflected on the future of justice reinvestment:

'Place based Social and Justice Reinvestment will look so unique everywhere- because the way Olabud is working is forged by the strong cultural and community identity of the Kija and Djaru people of Halls Creek. It is inspirational work in reducing crime, building locally led Self Determined solutions, and engaging the most vulnerable young people. But responding to crime can only take us so far, we now need to focus on resolving underlying social issues in the community: Housing, Engagement with Education, Connection to Country and Culture to heal and grow strong. Connection and collaboration with more people and organisations in the community will be critical for this next part of the journey.'

Gabby Stretch, Case Intervention Officer with Olabud Doogethu, enjoyed the opportunity to go out on to Country with the Social Reinvestment WA coalition:

'It was real good. Seeing the Country, going for a swim and welcoming everyone to the Country. That was my favourite part... If people are interested in our work, come check us out and get to know us and see what we do.'



Place-based social and justice reinvestment will look so unique everywhere because the way Olabud is working is forged by the strong cultural and community identity of the Kija and Jaru people of Halls Creek.

**Sophie Stewart**  
Campaign Coordinator,  
Social Reinvestment WA

A portrait of Jesse Bradshaw, a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a black cap and a patterned shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage. The text "JESSE" is in a purple box at the top right, and "BRADSHAW" is in a larger purple box below it. To the right of "BRADSHAW" is a purple box with "Case Intervention Officer". On his left sleeve is a circular patch with "OLABUD DOGETHU" and a central emblem. At the bottom left, "LABUD DOGE" is visible on his shirt.

**JESSE**

**BRADSHAW**

Case Intervention Officer

LABUD DOGE

### **Can you please introduce yourself?**

My name is Jesse Bradshaw and I'm a Case Intervention Officer. I joined Olabud Doogethu in January this year [2021].

### **For people who aren't a part of Olabud Doogethu, can you talk about your role and what you do?**

Well, I basically help young boys (aged 10-17) with one-on-one support and whatever they need or what is required from Department of Child Protection.

### **Can you talk broadly about the shared challenges that you have to deal with when working with the kids?**

One of the biggest challenges I face is helping the kids create a routine for their own selves, like going home early, staying off the streets, supporting them to go to school more. I basically try and provide any support I can give them with the challenges that they find difficult for themselves. The work is pretty broad.

### **Talk to me about your average day to day work life. What does that look like?**

In the morning, we meet up with the Olabud Doogethu Team. We'll come up with a plan, and then go out and look for our clients - catching up with them, see what they need, help them out. Some days are quiet, some days are busy, it depends on how the clients are and if they're in town. Some of our clients are out in communities or even in boarding schools.

### **How do the kids come to your team's attention?**

Some of the kids are referred to from Department of Child Protection, some of them from the Youth Engagement Night Officer crew, the police, or even referred directly from the community.

### **Can you talk about how it is working with different agencies and service providers?**

We work regularly with the Department of Child Protection, depending on the kids. If they require any further assistance, we'll probably meet up with them once a fortnight or once a week - depending on how much support the kid needs.

### **Can you talk about the biggest challenges the kids face in their lives?**

I think one of the biggest challenges that the kids face is getting an education - getting kids engaged with schooling. I think if we can help them or encourage them to go to school more, it would be a big tick for them. Some of the kids have no interest in school. If the kids get into a better routine, they could get to school on time, focus at school and so on.

### **In the coming months, we'll be launching the Mibala ('us together' in Kriol). Can you talk a bit about Mibala, what it's about, and what does Mibala mean to you?**

I think it's going to be a good program. We'll try to get the kids into a school routine. Get them learning in a different way and it might encourage them to go back to school. But it's also good for us because they'll have someone they know, they'll be comfortable with us and they'd come to us wanting to be a part of Mibala learning.

The kids we'll be working with are likely the kids that are totally detached from school. So we'll just try and encourage them to get back into it slowly... try to get them to transition back into mainstream education through culture and Country.

### **The idea of Mibala focuses on using the strength of connection to culture and Country. Can you talk a bit about how connecting to culture and Country can help the kids?**

Most of the kids here are too used to being in town... but it'll be good for them to get out on to Country and learn from the old people while they can. They might come back with a different perspective on life. They probably won't be stealing things if they proudly carry the knowledge of the bush and of the old people.

I think some kids have a connection to Country, but some of the kids who don't have transport or don't have support around them... but if they do have the chance, they'll take that opportunity and reconnect. The main thing is transport, getting back on to Country. If there were any means of support to get back on to Country, they'd be out on Country now.



**Olabud Doogethu**

For more information, please visit  
[www.olabuddoogethu.org.au](http://www.olabuddoogethu.org.au)