

Issue 7, April - June 2022

# MILIBUD





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## 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 Gija and Jaru people, the traditional owners of the Country upon which the Shire of Halls Creek is located.



# 'Tis the season...

## Gija

The calendar months of April, May and June touch both Lintharrg and Warnkan for Gija people. Lintharrg marks the end of wet season. The thunderstorms stop and the weather begins to cool down; rivers and creeks slow their flow. During Warnkan night temperatures can get very cold, but the days are cool and pleasant. The night skies are clear and the stars are bright.

Common plants and animals at this time of year are:

**jabayiny**, the river fig

**joomooloony**, the boab tree fruit

**jaliijgel**, the freshwater crayfish

**jamerndal**, white-ant larvae

## Jaru

Common plants and animals at this time of year are:

**Buwura**, the yam/bush potato

**Mardiwa**, the gum from various trees

**Giringgaji**, the blue tongue lizard

**jandura**, the bush turkey

For Jaru people this time of year is Wurr gala, when the green grass comes out and the rain stops, and into Malirrila, the cold weather time when the temperatures are low and the air is dry. Lightening grass fires clean up country and promote growth of grasses and other plants. It is also a good time of year for hunting with clear, cool days, and animals are well-fed and in abundance.

# Social and Justice Reinvestment

## What does it mean in 2022 and beyond...

Justice reinvestment is a strategy to reduce the number of people in prison by investing funds drawn from the corrections budget into communities that see recurring issues with offending and subsequent incarceration.

From simple beginnings, Olabud Doogethu formed the Youth Engagement Night Officer team; the initiative saw local people having a presence on the streets at night in locations where offending was prolific. The initial impact was a significant drop in crime in the streets of Halls Creek.

Now three years on, Olabud Doogethu is working to a justice and social reinvestment model, employing local indigenous people to assist in addressing local indigenous challenges and issues. The justice and social reinvestment strategy is not 'quick fix' strategy, but a long term journey to affect change across all levels of indigenous affairs including whole of life cycle, familial and cultural complexity, and education and well-being with self-determination and Aboriginal leadership being a basic requirement.

By marrying cultural competency, knowledge and tradition in a contemporary setting with local, state and federal government allows for an understanding of government probity and business acumen enabling indigenous people to use their own voice for their own people while navigating modern government models, frameworks, systems and practices. In this way we can deliver culturally safe and sensitive services while adhering to statutory governance and compliance requirements.

Olabud Doogethu is held up as Western Australia's first Justice Reinvestment site. While this is an accolade, it also means we are still in the early stages of our journey; still learning, developing, upskilling and adapting. And still very much in need of broader government and community support. It is not a journey to be walked alone. We now have a Case Support program, Alternative Education program and a functional space for boys and men to meet in a culturally significant space, known as the Men's Tribal Centre. These programs are in addition to our original YENO program. We are also rolling out a Family and Domestic Violence support program known as Make a Change.

In this way we aim to provide a holistic, whole-of-family model with wrap-around services that compliment each other. It is now widely recognised that current justice systems, particularly in the youth space, do not enable intervention, rehabilitation or behavioural change services. It is a centuries old punitive model, which in many cases causes more harm to young people, who typically offend because of significant cultural, social, emotional and economic complexities. These offending and re-offending patterns are more often than not perpetrated by those from the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in communities. Services and supports delivered in a culturally appropriate and trauma informed manner will be more effective in reducing offending and re-offending than prison sentences.

The social and justice reinvestment vision is to divert funding away from Justice and Police, and reinvest in place based, Aboriginal led services to enable self-determination for adults and build positive futures for young people through appropriate services and support. Services should not simply be reactive, but aim to address underlying behavioural, emotional and socio-economic factors present in communities, delivered in and by local community members.



# Halls Creek: the current situation



Our staff have worked extremely hard over the last 3 years to help affect positive change, with our YENOs out every night to engage young people on the streets, and handing over to our day staff who provide follow up visits, offer alternatives to mainstream education, family support and case intervention.

This task has not been easy, and the outcomes are not perfect. We now have a significant amount of data that informs us, despite our best efforts, some of our young mob are still ever-present on the street at night.

We know, over a period of 100 days, some young people were on the street 80% of the time between 0000 and 0400 hours. Though we frequently liaise with police, Justice and child protection, we are seeing little difference for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community, leaving this cohort very much at risk.

To help us help our mob, we need greater cohesion with government agencies, and help to achieve real change.



# Halls Creek: what needs to change

**Government agencies NEED to be ACTIVE in community!**

- **EDUCATION - be delivered effectively, be engaging, and supportive of all**
  - Attendance levels are still extremely low with no real change being seen.
  - Kids with complex needs are not being supported and in some cases being exited.
  - High-school graduates presenting with unacceptably low levels of literacy and numeracy skills.
- **HOUSING - be considered URGENT. Action to address housing issues**
  - over 80% of houses across the Shire of Halls Creek are over crowded. This has been raised with government. Nothing has been done.
- **CHILD PROTECTION - be held accountable, and make continuous improvements**
  - Children reported to DCP by on-the-ground service providers with grave concerns for their well-being and safety are being rejected as "not at-risk enough."
  - DCP care facilities are failing to meet basic health and safety standards and there is little consistency in staffing, service delivery and capacities.
- **POLICING - be culturally informed and consistent**
  - Police working in remote locations with large indigenous populations should be required to participate in cultural awareness training.
  - Police should be incentivised to serve minimum 2 year contracts.
  - Installation of a local Aboriginal first responder team to work with and inform Police.

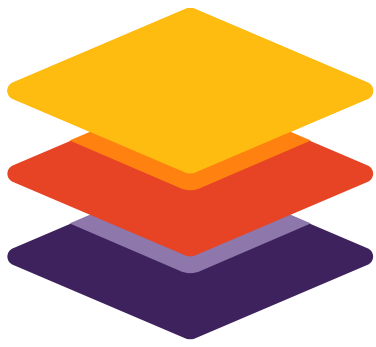
**It is no longer acceptable for government agencies to produce Plans, Frameworks, Policies and promises, that look good on websites and in glossy documents, but affect no change. There needs to be real, tactile work at ground level with an accountability and outcomes focus.**

**WALK WITH US! It's a long-term journey, not a short term fix.**









# Make a Change.

Helping to build better relationships  
with a whole of family approach



Earlier this year, the Children and Community Services Ministerial body through Department of Communities approached the Olabud Doogethu project to deliver family and domestic violence (FDV) support services in Halls Creek town and in Balgo community. Olabud Doogethu were identified as best placed to deliver the service designed with and for local people.

In May we signed a contract and now make up part of State Government's Make a Change program, and will begin to deliver the service. We have immediately begun with one on one clinical counselling sessions for those affected by or involved in family and domestic violence situations and are rolling out training workshops for current staff who may already be engaging with children and families impacted by those situations.

The focus of the program is to offer support while on-training local staff to build their capacity to promote safety, healing, well-being and behavioural change for perpetrators and victims of family and domestic violence.

The program will provide frontline services and facilitate therapy and counselling sessions as well as support program participants towards behavioural change. In training and up-skilling local people to deliver local support, the service can operate in a culturally appropriate manner, and take into consideration familial connections and sensitivities.

We see this program as an additional portfolio to broaden our existing scope of service provision, towards a holistic, whole of family support model.



# **Make a Change.**

**What changes do you want to see...**  
**in yourself...?**  
**in your family...?**  
**in your community...?**

As part of the Make a Change program Olabud Doogethu will now provide workshops, training and counselling. Training and workshops will begin to upskill local staff who will go on to deliver services in Communities. Participants for individual counselling may self-refer, or may be referred by Communities, Justice or Police.

Individual counselling sessions are running now, delivered by Clinical Psychologist Christabel Chamarette, with scheduling support from Sr Alma Cabassi. These sessions are offered for men and women who have experienced or been part of FDV situations, and seek to make positive change.

Christabel has over 40 years experience in working with people to assist in affecting positive behavioural change and supporting people to develop stronger, healthier relationships, and to heal from trauma.

The sessions are offered in Halls Creek town and in Balgo. Please contact Sr Alma Cabassi to schedule a session or to find out more about the Program.

## **Upcoming Program dates**

**20 - 27 July    24 - 31 August    14 - 21 September**

To schedule a private and confidential session please contact Sr Alma Cabassi on 0419 044 136 or email [cabassi.alma@gmail.com](mailto:cabassi.alma@gmail.com). Alternatively, you can make a referral or self-refer at [olabuddoogethu.org.au/about-us/the-programs/](http://olabuddoogethu.org.au/about-us/the-programs/)









@hcNAIDOC



# GET UP! STAND UP! SHOW UP!

3-10 JULY 2022

## OPENING CEREMONY - Monday 4 July - 2pm onwards

- Community March
- Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country
- Bush tucker supper
- Live Music



## HALLS CREEK BOOMERANG DISPLAY & DESIGN

Design your own



new T-Shirt

Friday 8 July 2022 - Footy Oval

BBQ lunch @ 12pm

T-Shirt Workshop from 1pm



Learn the techniques

Design your own

JOIN

**OLABUD  
DOOGETHU**

**FOOTY OVAL - FRIDAY 8 JULY**

**10am - 12pm**

**BBQ Lunch to follow**



# A visit from Senator Patrick Dodson



In April Senator Patrick Dodson stopped by Halls Creek as part of his 'Vote Labor' campaign across the Kimberley and greater Western Australia. Senator Dodson is a Banaga man and a proud member of the Yawuru people of Broome. He represents Western Australia in the Senate.

He joined Jeremiah Riley, candidate for the Federal seat of Durack in his campaign.

Both men attended the Olabud Doogethu offices to yarn with the team, discussing the

challenges and opportunities of Halls Creek, and the work of Olabud Doogethu and the Shire of Halls Creek as a whole.

Senator Dodson has long advocated for a stronger First Nations voice in Parliament, and across all levels of government in Western Australia.

While here, he announced an Albanese led Labor Government would grant \$100,000 to Olabud Doogethu with a view to funding further development of the Men's

Tribal Centre. Senator Dodson said the funding will help to support the Aboriginal men in strengthening cultural leadership and help keep young people out of trouble.

He said the election promise is made as Olabud Doogethu are recognised for driving justice reinvestment in Halls Creek.

We are hopeful for an ongoing partnership with and support from the Labor Government.





# A visit from Minister Dave Kelly



In May State Minister for Water, Forestry and Youth Dave Kelly came to Halls Creek hoping to learn more about the shared work of Olabud Doogethu and the Shire in the youth space.

Arriving from Perth to Halls Creek Aerodrome, Olabud Doogethu Executive Officer Culture and Transformation performed a Smoking to welcome Dave and his team to Kija and Jaru Country. The group then attended the Shire Chambers for a round table discussion with the Olabud team and Shire President and CEO,



followed by a visit to the Mens Tribal Area.

Minister Kelly said "I was pleased to be able to visit Halls Creek and gain some insight into the great work of the Olabud Doogethu team. I was particularly interested to understand how the program was co-designed with the community in order to maximise outcomes for young people, with Aboriginal people at the front and centre of its implementation."

Minister Kelly also met the YENO



team to discuss the successes and challenges of that initiative.

"The trip proved invaluable in gaining an understanding of the impacts of social reinvestment in Halls Creek, and also how issues such as COVID-19 have presented challenges and opportunities for service delivery" said Minister Kelly.

We hope for continued support from State Government which is "committed to protecting and supporting vulnerable children, families and individuals through a whole of Government approach."











**- Case Management Officer, Gaven Stretch is also a talented artist, and lends his skills to his work.**

Art has formed part of Indigenous culture for 10's of thousands of years. It enables story telling, knowledge sharing, cultural teachings and learning, and is a form of expression and repose. Artworks capture the vast and varying landscapes, portray familial ties and stories, and showcase the flora and fauna of the region co-existing with people and country.

Family Support Officer, Gaven, is a self-taught artist who began painting as a way to tap into his creative side.

As part of our Family Support team, Gaven provides intensive case management through engagement and support of at-risk young people in our community.

Young people who are referred in to the Family Support team are supported to address needs such as educational support, mental health, and training and employment pathways.

Gaven is an integral part of this team and has sought to use art as a way to engage kids.



# Art at Heart

...and footy too!

In May, Gaven began his self-led mission to breathe some life into the footy change rooms, and bring kids along on the journey. Multi-talented Gaven designed and produced the Yardgee Dockers and Halls Creek Hawks logos into stencils and projected them onto the walls of the change rooms. This way, kids could get involved as they had stencils to follow, as well as Gaven's patience and support. The result was an immersive activity the kids were eager to be a part of, and a vibrant, inviting space for the footy clubs. Nice work team!





# Camping on Country



In June our Case Management team and Alternative Education team worked together to take clients out on country for an overnight camping trip.

The clients both teams work with are those with some of the most complex needs, have been left behind by the mainstream education system and come from diverse familial and home environments.

As part of Olabud Doogethu's 2022-2023 forward planning sessions, camps were identified as a way to engage kids in a neutral environment, away from potential distractions and disruptions.

Starting with a small group from both Programs for an overnight trip, our staff were able to spend one on one time with clients and also lead group discussions and activities.







After considering a few different locations, the teams settled upon the picturesque Lake Komaterpillar. At this location, they were able to make the most of the proximity to water, flat space for setting up camp and lots of land to explore.

As a group, they took part in camp set up, food preparation, boomerang making, collecting wood and camp fire supper and yarning.

The camp was enjoyed by all, and considered a success by our Program staff, giving them the confidence to forward plan for more camps, with more kids and for longer periods of time.









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