



2018 Research Translation Activities: Child protection/removal

The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Project has identified and prioritised the issue of child protection/removal as a critical area requiring urgent attention and change. Activities have been directed at supporting Aboriginal community-controlled organisations working in this area including the Family Matters campaign and the Noongar Child Protection Council as well as participating in relevant consultations processes and forums. The Elder/Co-researchers and project team want to ensure a unified voice among the community with regard to the issue of child protection/removal and ensure that Aboriginal led solutions are appropriately funded and supported by government.

The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers and the project team representatives have attended and participated in the following activities:

- **Elder/Co-researcher Meeting:** Tuesday 13th February: Primary focus of this meeting was child protection/removal. Dawn Wallam (Noongar Child Protection Council) presented to the meeting about the Noongar Child Protection Council and welcomed the support of the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers.
- **Mother-Bub Nurture/PlaygroupWA Yarning Circle:** Wednesday 7th February-27th June (18sessions): Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researcher Aunty Muriel was employed to co-facilitate, with Sharon Cooke, a mum and bub 3hour programme each week for terms 1 and 2 at the Koongamia Child and Family Centre.
- **2018 Values Impact Forum:** Tuesday 20th – Friday 23rd February: The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers presented on the project's findings and activities to date to the Values Impact Forum. They outlined the views and concerns of the Perth Aboriginal community and the principles and practice recommendations regarding the project's 3 priority areas including child protection/removal.
- **Elder/Co-researcher Meeting:** Wednesday 28th February: A focus of this meeting was child protection/removal among Aboriginal families in Perth. William Hayward (Family Matters) and Rhonda Marriott (Murdoch University) presented to the Elder/Co-researchers about their work seeking to address this issue and keep children safe and with their families. The Elder/Co-researchers support the work of the Family Matters campaign and its policies.
- **Presentation by Dr Michelle Stewart hosted by Family Matters & Kinship Connections WA:** Tuesday 20th March: Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers attended and provided advice/input.
- **Noongar Child Protection Council meeting with Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers:** Tuesday 17th April: The Noongar Child Protection Council welcomed the attendance of the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers. The meeting discussed a range of issues related to the work of the Noongar Child Protection Council and its future plans. All agreed on the importance of a unified voice across the community to work to address the high rates of child removal.
- **WACOSS Conference 2018 Making Place:** Tuesday 1st – Wednesday 3rd May: The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers were invited to attend the conference. Aunty Millie and Aunty Charmaine attended in their capacity with the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project and as the Elders in residence with WACOSS. There were a number of presentations directly related to the work of the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project including child protection/removal.
- **CCYP Forum: The Role of Services Assisting Vulnerable Children & Young People:** Thursday 17th May: Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers attended and provided advice/input.
- **Southwest Partnership Forum and Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Presentation:** Friday 25th May: Aunty Doris and Aunty Millie attended a meeting of the multi-stakeholders forum. One of the focus areas of the collective is working collaboratively to address issues impacting negatively on children's engagement at school. The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project is undertaking a dedicated research project to explore children's experiences and insights of school (Year 6 and Years 8 & 9) and identify strategies to support their engagement.
- **Commissioner for Children and Young People Vulnerability Speaker Series Aboriginal Forum:** Thursday 23rd August: This event was part of the Vulnerability Speaker Series with an invite from the Commissioner for



Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) Project



Children and Young People Colin Pettit to be part of a closed-session forum for Aboriginal stakeholders including a number of prominent Aboriginal leaders. Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers attended and provided advice/input.

- **Improving the Wellbeing of Aboriginal Children Commissioner for Children & Young People WA:** Friday 24th August: Members of the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project team attended to listen to the presenters Mick Gooda, Professor Helen Milroy, the Aboriginal forum Co-facilitators and the young people from the Commissioner's Aboriginal Leadership Cross-cultural solutions program.
- **Seminar Presentation to Telethon Kids Institute and Perth Children's Hospital staff:** Friday 21st September: The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers presented on the project's findings and activities to date to a group of staff from Telethon Kids Institute and Perth Children's Hospital. They outlined the views and concerns of community regarding the project's 3 priority areas including child protection/removal.



- **Meeting with Dougie Nelson, Noongar Children Protection Council Manager:** Wednesday 17th October: The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project team met to discuss the ongoing engagement and involvement of the Elder/Co-researchers and the project.
- **Co-Lab Early Intervention:** Evidence based decision making for public services: 19th October: Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers attended and provided advice/input.
- **WA Family Matters Jurisdictional Working Group Meeting:** Wednesday 31st October: Family Matters aims to eliminate the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care within a generation. Family Matters is led by SNAICC. Carol was invited to represent Telethon Kids Institute and the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project.
- **2nd National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Conference:** Tuesday 20th – Wednesday 21st November: The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers presented on the project's findings and activities to date. They outlined the views and concerns of the Perth Aboriginal community and the principles and practice recommendations regarding the project's 3 priority areas including child protection/removal.
- **Imagined Futures Collective** (Formerly Southwest Partnership Forum): 7th December: Aunty Doris attended the meeting of the collective that are designed to update all stakeholders on activities and planned events focused on children and young people at risk in the Perth metro south west communities.

