

# Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny

## (Family Together Learning)

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# Community Update Report 2021

### Meet the Team

The Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny program is facilitated by two Aboriginal early childhood educators: Gail Yarran and Sharon Loo. The educators are supported by Aboriginal project officer Larissa Perry, and Wadjella researcher Nicole Ilich.



Gail Yarran



Sharon Loo



Larissa Perry



Nicole Ilich

### Our Space

The program has access to indoor and outdoor activity areas. Resources used in the program are sourced from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses and are culturally safe for koolunga and their families.



Indoor and outdoor spaces used in the Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny program

Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny (Family Together Learning) supported by Lotterywest provides Aboriginal children and their families in Willagee and surrounding suburbs with a three-year-old family learning and support program designed and delivered by Aboriginal people. The Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny program works closely with Elders and the community to deliver a program that is culturally safe for Aboriginal children and their families. Aunty Oriel Green OAM and Aunty Doris Hill provide ongoing governance for the program. The Elders and families who attend named the program Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny, as they felt that it captures the ongoing learning both caregivers and children experience together as part of the culturally safe program. Elders and families attend the program on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during school term, and it includes sharing Noongar language, cultural incursions and excursions, family cultural days, and family camps on Country to continue to connect Aboriginal children and their families to Noongar history and culture. The Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny program privileges Aboriginal worldviews and provides a culturally safe learning environment to Aboriginal children and their families. Transport is available upon request to support families to attend the program.

Ongoing research within the program involves yarning with parents about the early childhood education and care experience they would like for their children, the barriers that prevent families from accessing early childhood education and care, the supports required to facilitate ongoing engagement with early childhood education and care, and their own experiences in education settings. This information will be used to inform policy development and will be fed back to the early education and care sector to support ongoing change.

### Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) project

The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) project began in 2016 working together with the Aboriginal community(s) of Perth to improve outcomes for young Aboriginal children and their families. Local Aboriginal Elders and other community members are actively involved in all stages of the project and direct the focus of the research. The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project is guided by eight Elder/Co-Researchers who meet regularly to direct the focus of the research, and to support research translation.

Since 2016 the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project has worked across three priority areas identified by the community: housing and homelessness, child protection and removal, and early childhood education and care.

The Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny (Family Together Learning) program was developed to address the needs identified by the Elders and community in the early childhood education and care setting. The eight Elder/Co-Researchers provide cultural oversight to the program.



For more information about the Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny program, or to enrol your child(ren) please contact:

**Larissa Perry**

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Aunty Oriel Green OAM



Aunty Doris Hill



Top row

L-R: Aunty Charmaine Pell, Aunty Millie Penny, Aunty Muriel Bowie

Bottom row

L-R: Kerry Hunt, Uncle Allan Kickett Snr, Uncle Albert McNamara



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(Family Together Learning)



# Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny

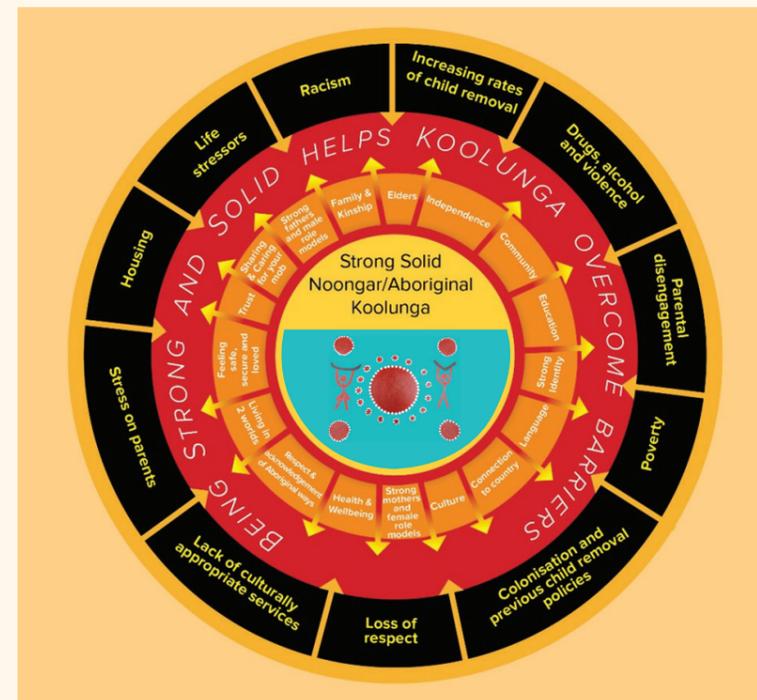
(Family Together Learning)



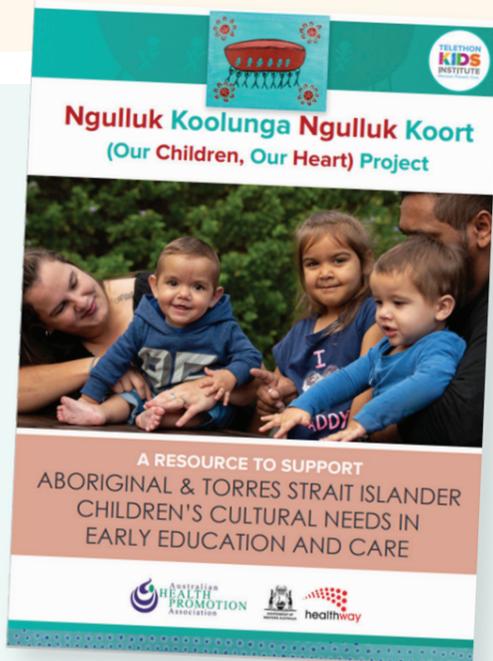
## Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Framework for raising strong, solid koolunga

Through community consultation and yarning circles, the framework (right) was developed to capture what Aboriginal parents value when bringing up strong, solid koolunga (children). The framework is a strengths-based representation of parenting in Aboriginal communities. Through these consultations families also told us about the challenges that get in the way of parenting.

This framework guides the Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny program. The program aims to encourage the inherent strengths of Aboriginal families and to support families who face barriers to accessing early childhood education and care.



Community developed framework for raising strong, solid koolunga



Perry et al., (2019) resource for parents and carers of Aboriginal children

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's cultural needs in early education and care

Larissa Perry, Noongar researcher supported by a Healthway scholarship, worked with the Aboriginal community(s) of Perth to develop a resource that supports the cultural safety of Aboriginal koolunga in early childhood education and care settings. The resource can be used by parents and carers to advise their child's teacher, school principal, or early education centre manager of information relating to the cultural needs of their children and family. The resource aims to increase the awareness and knowledge of early education providers of some specific cultural needs to support the wellbeing of koolunga in early childhood education and care settings.

Feedback from parents and carers involved in the initial pilot of the resource indicated that it would help them to start conversations with their children's educators. *"Being able to say this is where we are from, this is who we are and just sort of say this is what we want to change. It's just showing that again, its conversation with, not to or about, it is looking at this is what Indigenous people would like to see. Yeah, it's definitely more an inclusive discussion if you do share these resources and if they [early childhood educators] take them on board as well."* [Participant, Beeliar].

A copy of the resource is available for download from the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project webpage [www.telethonkids.org.au/nkn](http://www.telethonkids.org.au/nkn)

## Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny

(Family Together Learning) Family Day, May 2021



Greg Nannup shares bush survival skills with Koolunga



Koolunga weaving bracelets



Uncle Noel Nannup shares Nyitting (Dreaming) stories



Bec Garlett yarning with families



Attendees at the Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny family day

On May 30th the Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny team hosted an Aboriginal family day for children and families living in and around the Willagee area. At the event children and families were able to yarn with Elders and project team members and participate in interactive cultural activities.

Koolunga (and parents/ carers!) learned how to make string using reeds, watched a demonstration of traditional tool making, dressed up in yongka bwoka (kangaroo skin coats), practiced kylie (boomerang) throwing, listened to Nyitting (Dreaming) stories, practiced traditional dances and songs, wove bracelets, and had their faces painted. The family day also allowed families to view the program room and the culturally appropriate resources used in the Moort Dandjoo Kaadadjiny program. It was a moorditj day out!