



## 2018 Research Translation Activities: Housing

The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Project has identified and prioritised issues of housing and homelessness among Aboriginal families as a critical area requiring urgent attention and change. Activities have been directed at aligning the project with relevant housing organisations and advocacy groups, as well as participating in consultations processes and forums and contributing to the development and implementation of strategies. The Elder/Co-researchers and project team have sought to ensure issues specifically impacting on Aboriginal children are given prominence and consideration and the need for Aboriginal-led solutions. The project will continue to seek to build connections within the sector and identify opportunities for advocating for change and to ensure the voices, values and priorities of Aboriginal children and their families are heard and considered.

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:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February: A focus of this meeting was on the issue of housing and homelessness. Stephen Hall (Shelter WA) and Mark Hardwick (RUAH) presented. Shelter WA proposed the need for a focus on these issues for Aboriginal families in the metropolitan area as there is too much focus on remote communities. It was proposed that a forum be hosted to develop some key strategies and policy demands to address the issues of urban homelessness.
- **2018 Values Impact Forum:** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 housing and homelessness.
- **WACOSS Conference 2018 Making Place:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 presentations related to the issues of homelessness and housing instability and the impact these have on Aboriginal families.
- **Shelter WA and Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Aboriginal Housing Planning Forum:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May with Stakeholders and the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers: Representatives included Shelter WA, Mission Australia, and Ebenezer House. The discussion involved the need to ensure the government recognises the critical issue of housing and homelessness on urban Aboriginal people and the need to develop strategies and to present these to government as a positive way forward. The issue of hosting a larger Metropolitan Aboriginal housing forum was raised as one way of developing some community led ideas and presenting these to Government.
- **Homelessness Week (ShelterWA) – Sector Update:** Wednesday 8th August: One of the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers delivered the Welcome to Country then Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers participated, provided lived experience and input, and engaged with other stakeholders (Department of Communities, West Australian End Homelessness Alliance, Western Australian Child Health) and Minister McGurk who were present.
- **Homelessness Week (ShelterWA) – Ethical Landlords, Theme “There’s always something landlords can do”:** Thursday 9th August: Landlords were invited to hear about a range of things and discuss being part of helping to end homelessness, provide safe, affordable housing, and to make a difference when their tenants are experiencing a tough time. One of the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers delivered the Welcome to Country and then Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers participated, provided lived experience and engaged with other stakeholders (Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Equal Opportunity Commission, Tenancy WA, Western Australian Council of Social Service, Real Estate Institute of Western Australia, and private rental-market landlords).



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



- **Submission to WA Government proposal: An office for advocacy and accountability in Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia:** September 2018: The Elder/Co-researchers made a submission outlining their views on the WA Government's proposal for an office of advocacy and accountability in Aboriginal Affairs. The group expressed the importance that if this role is just an agency of Government like any other, then its legitimacy in the eyes of the Aboriginal community would be undermined. Furthermore, the existence of such an office could not excuse the government from its need to consult with community about programs and services. The group also stressed the importance of recognising the role of Elders in the composition of such an entity.
- **Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Aboriginal Housing Forum:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August: Representatives from Shelter WA, Noongar Mia Mia, WA Aboriginal Legal Services, Moorditj Koort, Wungening Aboriginal Corporation, Yorgum and Yorganup attended a meeting with the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort project team to discuss ways to address the number of Aboriginal people without a home and who do not have stable tenancy arrangements across metropolitan Perth and many areas of the South West. Issues raised included supply of housing and expense of private market; poor maintenance of housing; length of waitlists (5000 on list for over 5 years); maintaining tenancies (evictions, 3 strike policy); trauma manifesting itself in so many areas that impact on housing and ability to keep a house; Lack of income security.



- **Seminar Presentation to Telethon Kids Institute and Perth Children's Hospital staff:** Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 housing.
- **Department of Communities 10-Yr Strategy on Homelessness Consultation sessions:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers attended and provided advice/input.
- **Shelter WA and Telethon Kids Institute/Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Metropolitan Aboriginal Housing Forum:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November: The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers all attended the forum where there were a number of presentations from different stakeholders (NGO and Government) associated with the issue of Aboriginal people's experience of housing and homelessness in Metropolitan Perth. A report from this forum is currently being finalised including recommendations and actions.



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



- **2nd National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Conference:** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 housing and homelessness.



- **WA Alliance to End Homelessness 'Pulse Meeting':** 21 November 2018: Members of the project team attended this meeting that was designed to consult widely with stakeholders regarding how the Alliance should proceed with governing the implementation of its *End Homelessness Strategy* and maximising the outcomes that can be achieved.
- **St. Patrick's Imagined Housing, Lived Experience Workshop of Homelessness and Housing Crisis:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder/Co-researchers attended and provided advice/input.

