



MARNINWARNTIKURA



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

MARNINWARNTIKURA FITZROY
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE



The theme of our annual report 2016–17 is Marninwarntikura's journey to becoming a healing and trauma-informed organisation.

This year, Marninwarntikura has made a commitment to creating safe and nurturing spaces for women, children and families. We know that an essential part of healing is feeling safe. When people feel safe, they can relax, talk and become empowered. Marninwarntikura is learning that for people to feel truly safe, not just protected from harm, but to be free from harm, they need to feel physically, spiritually, culturally and intellectually safe and supported.

This way of integrating the many elements of safety reflects who we are as Indigenous people. We bring health together with life.

This is the system that we are building at Marninwarntikura across all our working areas. We are creating opportunities and strengthening families in ways that build on positive experiences to enrich the lives of whole families and communities.

What you see on the front cover is our healing garden at the heart of Marninwarntikura. The garden is being designed to grow from our community strengths and incorporate all the elements of healing that can work for us in the Fitzroy Valley. At the core of all our work is nurture, care, support and empowerment. To counteract intergenerational trauma, we are building a system of intergenerational strength and positivity.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to Marninwarntikura's Annual Report for 2016–17, updating you on our progress over the past year.

Our former CEO, Ms June Oscar AO, has left Marninwarntikura to take up the position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, based in Sydney. We are grateful for everything that June achieved during her time as CEO, and we are very proud of her and the appointment she has taken up to further her leadership of Aboriginal social justice issues.

The Marninwarntikura Board has appointed Ms Emily Carter to the position of CEO. Emily previously held the position of Deputy CEO, and she has unparalleled experience and knowledge of Marninwarntikura and all that is required to continue to improve and expand the delivery of education, care and services to the families of the Fitzroy Valley.

In the face of often difficult circumstances and in our remote community, Marninwarntikura has delivered another year of progress. We are proud of our advances in integrating healing and trauma-informed practice across the organisation. We have also taken further steps to diversify and secure Marninwarntikura's funding sources. Further information on these and many other developments are included in this Annual Report.

I take the opportunity to thank the Marninwarntikura board of directors, management and staff for their tireless efforts over the past year. And as you will read in the following pages, our communities and stakeholders can look forward with confidence to further progress and exciting developments over the coming year.

Mary Aiken
Chair, Marninwarntikura Fitzroy
Women's Resource Centre



REFLECTIONS FROM THE CEO

Here's a little story of my own to show this. It is adapted from a speech I delivered in Melbourne to a group of Marninwarntikura supporters on International FASD Awareness Day. This speech was delivered to many people who haven't been to the Kimberley and don't know much about our fabulous environment and cultural vibrancy.

We had a wonderful wet this year. My sons are hunters and are loving the bounty that a nourishing wet brings.

They've been going for Cherrubun, our fresh water prawns. This year they've caught the biggest number of Cherrubun that I've seen for years. Picture it, these aren't city prawns, they are buttery juicy prawn's half the size of lobsters. We cooked them on a fire in our garden. For the cost of a fishing net and a little fuel we fed 15 adults and most of my grandchildren and we still had Cherrubun left! My son played guitar and sung, the children danced and neighbours came over.

We know that this environment offers all the elements needed for a brain to heal from trauma and to form and shape new neural pathways physically changing the brain – familial love, rhythmic music and movement, interacting with the movements of nature and experiencing the freedom of the bush helps our brains to become plastic. Our brains are flexible, when we create safe and trauma-informed environments every child, every person can hone their skills and strengths and become the best that they can be.

I feel really proud and honoured to take up the position of CEO of this organisation that I have been so committed to working in for the past six years. Working from the ground up we have a highly skilled and dedicated team bringing together expertise from other sectors and powerful lived experience and local knowledge in supporting Marninwarntikura to make big

generational changes. This is all about responding to community needs with community-based solutions blended with expertise in trauma-informed practice that we know will help us to create a positive future.

June Oscar drove the team to build our profile and develop our potential and we thank her for her dedication and commitment. I look forward to strengthening and leading this dynamic team to consolidate and grow the important initiatives that have been established.

Since taking on this role in March I have presented to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples, addressed the parliamentary committee into Educational Opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and given evidence at the inquiry in Fitzroy Crossing into the high rates of suicide in the Kimberley. At all these important opportunities I highlighted the need to address trauma and promote healing within our community.

Our foundations are strong. We grow from them continuing to address complex challenges from a strength-based solution-oriented position. This work is too big to

do alone, so we work with local Aboriginal organisations and service providers and bring in essential partners, key stakeholders and an extensive number of supporters. They contribute to our efforts in different ways, and collectively we refer to them as the “friends of Marnin”. We learn from them and they learn from us. We collaborate in exciting new ways, making Marninwarntikura a great organisation to be a part of.

I couldn't be more excited to take the lead on this ground-breaking work. The possibilities of where to from here are exciting and empowering. I will reflect on an important element of our work, the growing focus on being a healing and trauma-informed organisation.

Our societal strength and the impact of colonisation

We know inherently as Aboriginal societies, women and families, that nurture is at the heart of a good life well lived. In our Indigenous worlds, so much of our obligations and teaching of care, nurture and raising of children was taken from us at colonisation. When our chains of connection are broken – like they were at the frontier, and for me and for so many others felt most strongly with the Stolen Generations – it has

huge and lasting effects on our society. When we experience a loss as great as the mass removal of so many of our children, a pain and grief that runs deep is felt by us all. Everyone one of us has a story to tell that explains how the policies of the past affect us today.

What are we talking about when we talk about trauma?

We call this intergenerational collective trauma. Trauma is not an abstract concept. The reality is that it is life-threatening.

Evidence from brain and mind doctors and many other experts is clear. The impact of trauma is strongly associated with poor life outcomes. When trauma is experienced it affects our brains, it locks us into our fear centres, and locks us out of rational thinking. When we have experienced one trauma after another and are never given the chance to recognise or recover from this trauma, our emotions and fear can become the primary way we respond to all of life's situations.

I'm sure everyone knows what a stressful day feels like and turning to a beer, or a smoke, or a combination of both at the

end of it. So, imagine multiplying your stressful day into a lifetime of chronic stress – husband in jail, not the right education for a job, no jobs around, overcrowded home and abuse, not enough money to pay high rent, can't get a car to get in and out of town, debt that's growing, family suicides in the last year, diabetes getting out of hand, fresh food that's too expensive, and grandmothers and other elders who need care and are all getting dementia far too early on.

Aren't these the things that drive us to drink? And this is only what is happening right now. It's not unrecognised historical trauma. The stories my parents and grandparents told me of their lived experiences still haunt me today.

Being trauma-informed at Marninwarntikura

Our work at Marninwarntikura and in the Fitzroy Valley is based around breaking this cycle. It is about overcoming trauma for all in our society to have a good life well lived. Trauma is not permanent.

We know that when we work with women, children and their families in the right way, in a trauma-informed way, we can empathise

with women and support them to make the changes they want in their lives.

Being trauma-informed is about seeing this and working in a fully integrated way. At Marninwarntikura we talk to people as a whole. We may know that they are accessing our service for help with substance use or caring for kids with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), but we open up all our services to them – the early childhood education and care centre, the family centre, our women's shelter, legal unit, Marulu and our on-country healing camps, our nurturing healing spaces (including the Marnin Garden), and social enterprise. Our entire centre is set up to work with unique and complex needs, and we do not discriminate or exclude people from programs based on a diagnosis.

We embrace everyone. We learn to recognise people's strengths and build all our work from a deep well of cultural knowledge and expertise.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the wonderful Marninwarntikura management and staff who work tirelessly

to support the Fitzroy Valley community while ensuring that our services and governance are continuously improving. I congratulate Fiona Mason who, after serving as Manager of our Family Violence Prevention Service for three years, has now been appointed Deputy CEO. Fiona is already making an impact on improving our processes and ensuring that our efforts are focused on the needs of the community.

Also, I sincerely thank the many supporters and friends of Marninwarntikura, including the Australian and West Australian governments, philanthropists, donors and volunteers. Without their wonderful support, Marninwarntikura would not be able to continue to maintain and improve its service delivery.

Finally, I thank the Marninwarntikura board of directors who oversee and guide our work, and provide us and the Fitzroy Valley community with inspiring vision and leadership.

Emily Carter
CEO, Marninwarntikura Fitzroy
Women's Resource Centre

STRATEGIC PLANS AND GOALS

MARNINWARNTIKURA STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2020 SUMMARY

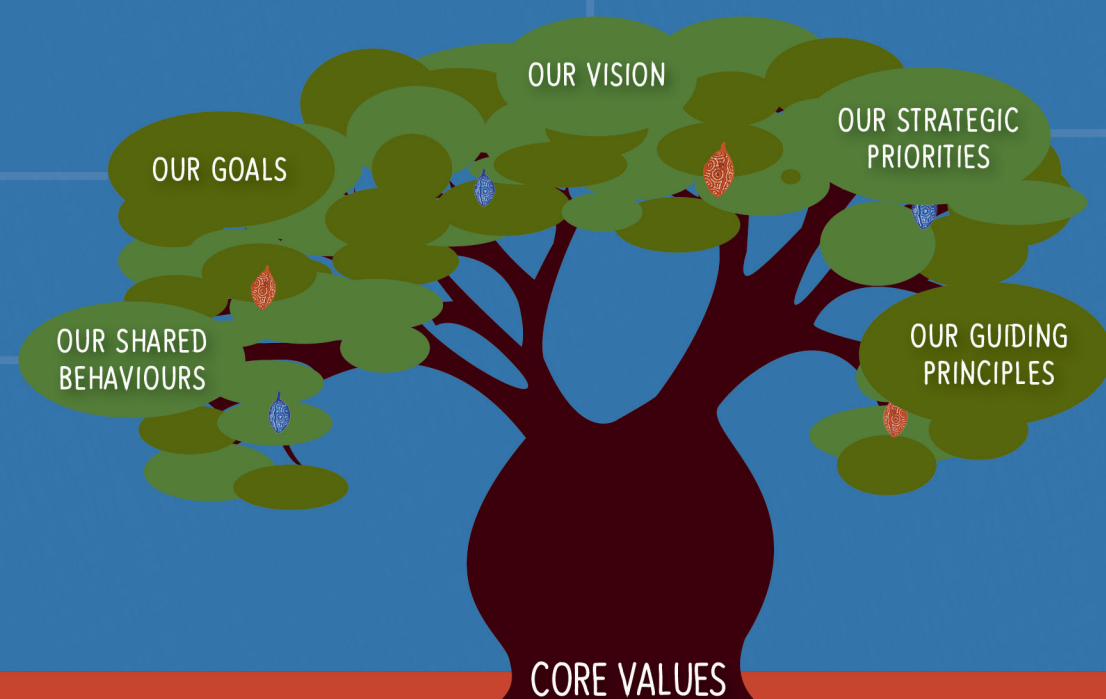
- Inspire each other
- Plan and communicate
- Respect and care
- Learn deeply

- We value Marninwarntikura's history
- We deeply respect the Indigenous peoples and cultures of the Fitzroy Valley
- We have an enabling and empowerment focus
- We support the alcohol restrictions and strive to make FASD history
- We work in a new way: Bringing Two Ways Together
- We are ethical and act with integrity

1. Nurture our children and young people
2. Strengthen families through healing
3. Facilitate participation
4. Build a sustainable organisation

1. Make FASD history
2. Work towards a harm free Valley
3. Consolidate then grow
4. Open the Bell Rd Precinct
5. Actively partner with others

WE STRENGTHEN THE POWER OF WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES



VALUE & RESPECT

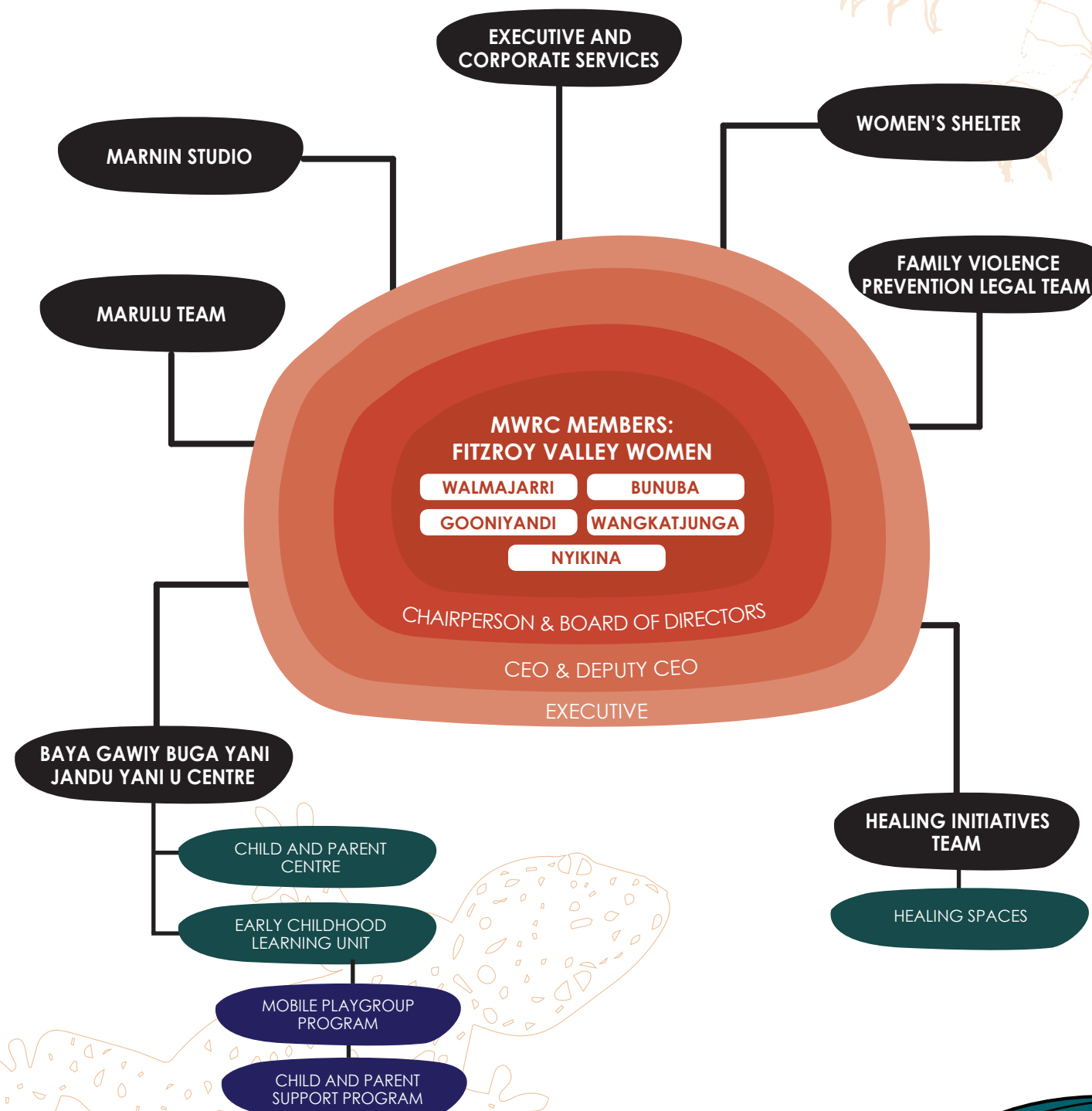
COLLABORATE

ENCOURAGE & SUPPORT

BE ACCOUNTABLE

OUR STRUCTURE

This is the way that we have organised ourselves to deliver on the Strategic Plan





We are breaking new ground. This is long-term work. There is no roadmap: we are learning as we go and creating our own. It has been a long journey so far. It started here because of a crisis – people wanting a safe space from domestic violence. People were dying early from alcohol and the women called for alcohol restrictions. Families were saying there is something wrong with our children. So, we had the FASD prevalence study, the Lililwan research. Our approach was: no blame, no shame. There was so much need and families were courageous in engaging with us to better understand the extent of the challenges the Lililwans are facing.

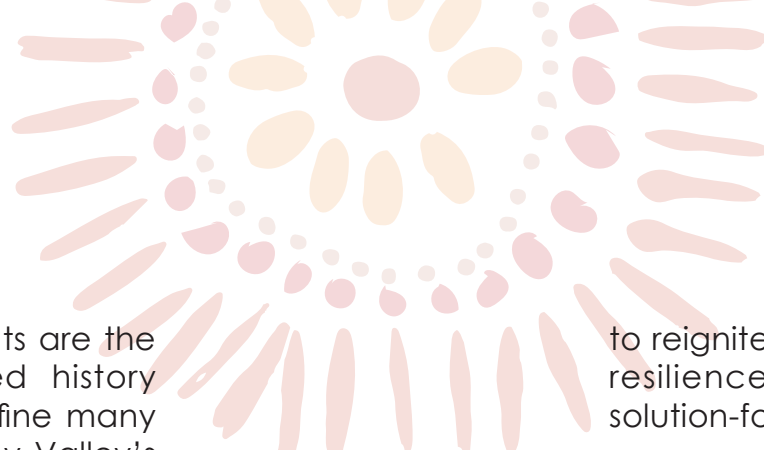
We need to do our work in a respectful way across the organisation. When people dip they need support. We need to lift each other up as colleagues. This community needs that. When we show each other compassion and respect, it flows into the community.

Emily Carter, commenting at the Marninwarntikura “Looking After Each Other” workshop, on what it means to embark on a journey of growing into a healing and trauma-informed organisation.

Trauma in our community

At Marninwarntikura, we approach our work from a healing-informed and trauma-aware position. We have our origins in this approach, and continue to grow and expand from these foundations. We understand that dispossession, colonisation and subsequent government policies, such as assimilation and the forced removal of children, known as the Stolen Generations, have had negative, cumulative impacts on the peoples of the Fitzroy Valley. This trauma, grief and loss has been passed from generation to generation and underpins many people's daily lives. At Marninwarntikura, we encourage a deep understanding of intergenerational trauma. The way we approach our work is with no judgement, and with an appreciation that people's life circumstances can be very challenging and made much harder by inequality and poverty. There are many things that happen in people's lives that take place out of sight and beyond the workplace, both in the past and present.

There are many terms for trauma. Put simply, a trauma is a dangerous and often life-threatening event that happens unexpectedly and is too severe for the body and brain



to cope with rationally. The brain and body go into a stressed state and work to protect themselves, to ensure survival in a real or perceived threatening situation. This is often spoken about as the brain becoming controlled by the fear centre and sending signals to the body to respond immediately with fright, flight, freeze or shutdown. Many of our children are living with this reality every day.

When trauma is left unresolved our body and brain can be triggered into this state without warning. It can also be stuck in this state, which has serious implications for long-term health and wellbeing, including increasing the likelihood of chronic diseases.

In the Fitzroy Valley, equal to this trauma is an immense capacity for collective community reconciliation and resilience. Much of this capacity emanates from a societal framework that has enabled Indigenous Australia to become the oldest continuous living civilization on earth. Over the last two centuries, people across the Fitzroy Valley have experienced a series of highly significant events that have threatened to dismantle this framework, a framework which holds together the strengths of

our society. These events are the region's recent shared history and have come to define many dimensions of the Fitzroy Valley's current socio-economic structure. Any one of these events taking place in a single person's lifetime is often unimaginable for many Australians living outside of the remote regions of this country..

At Marninwarntikura we understand that most people we work with, including many of our staff, are living with unresolved historical and early childhood traumatic experiences, as well as ongoing trauma and chronic stress, which can continue across a person's lifetime. We also recognise that the prevalence of violent and harmful behaviours in people's lives is a result of intergenerational trauma. We know that trauma has wide-ranging ramifications beyond those who experience it directly. Not only does it affect those who see, feel or hear about a traumatic event, as a community we have collective community traumas that affect our lives. They also can entrench socio-economic disparities over time.

At Marninwarntikura, and within the rich heritage and strengths of the Fitzroy Valley communities, we have all the elements needed

to reignite a powerful community resilience. A strengths-based, solution-focused approach.

As we commit to this way ahead, we continue to ensure that all our healing and trauma-informed practices and processes are driven by the women and families of the Fitzroy Valley. We are all determined to reduce harm and create places of safety, both now and into the future.

The evidence

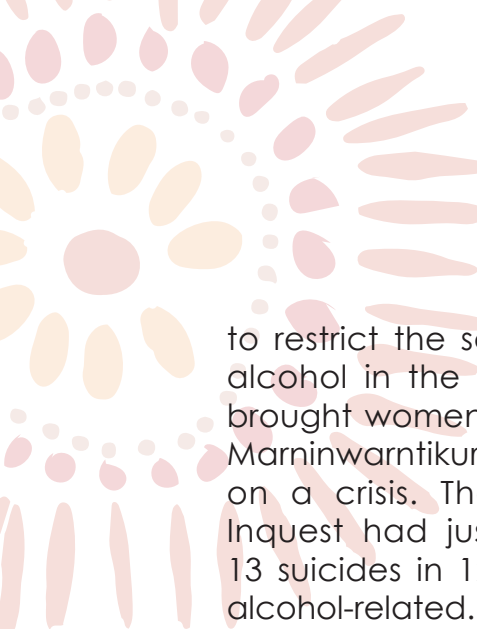
At Marninwarntikura we work from a strong and dynamic evidence base. The evidence is clear and becoming increasingly well known across the social services sector. Communities are dealing with overwhelming chronic stress, leading to entrenched inequality, which results in high death rates and people dying too young, poverty, family violence and abuse at home, a range of chronic illnesses, depression and anxiety, and the list goes on. This trauma is life-threatening and threatens people's life opportunities, health and wellbeing across generations. It leads to many forms of damaging coping mechanisms, such as the high consumption of alcohol, misuse of drugs, gambling,

excessive eating and many other forms of substance abuse that are attempts to alleviate the pain of trauma in the moment. However, often these coping responses can lead to further harmful situations that have a negative effect on the entire society. Some Indigenous scholars have termed this the "colonial trauma response".

The evidence is also clear that to stop the transmission of trauma and to counteract its effects we need to build from community strengths and assets that foster community-wide resilience. This means that we need to strengthen and develop programs that empower, create community pride, build strong self-worth, enhance community efficacy in governance and decision-making structures, ensure community ownership of safe public spaces, and nurture community cohesion through on-the-ground connected networks of care and support.

With the leadership and support of women at Marninwarntikura we have taken the lead both to address trauma and to use our community strengths to reconstruct our healthy and thriving society.

We did this when we used the power of the *Liquor Control Act*



to restrict the sale of full-strength alcohol in the Fitzroy Valley. We brought women together through Marninwarntikura and intervened on a crisis. The Hope Coronial Inquest had just found that the 13 suicides in 12 months were all alcohol-related.

We then came together and launched the Lililwan study to understand the full extent of the effects of drinking alcohol on the growing foetus in the womb. We found that one in five of our children born between 2005 and 2007 has a FASD, one of the highest known rates in the world.

FASD is not unique to the Fitzroy Valley. It exists in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, overseas, and anywhere where women are either unaware of the harms of drinking while pregnant, are unable to stop, or are unaware that they are pregnant at the time they are drinking. Our work in Fitzroy is helping to create understanding and empathy, and constructing real support for women and their families with children affected by alcohol in utero across Australia. The impacts of FASD cannot be separated from the effects of trauma, as they are interlinked and require deep thinking and long-term planning to address.

We are learning about healing

and trauma-informed practices so we can take leadership on this work and drive real and sustained change in people's lives. A change founded in a belief that, armed with the right information and supports, people can make the changes to their lives that we all want to see.

How we are delivering trauma-informed services

We know that to deliver trauma-informed services we need to ensure that all our staff feel confident in what trauma-informed practice is and how to apply it.

A successful trauma-informed response to harm and breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma begins with a platform of shared knowledge. Firstly, it is important that we get the language right. Everything we are talking about needs to be fully understood by all our stakeholders and the Fitzroy Valley communities. This is new and exciting work.

Training and action

In 2016, Jane Pedersen, our Strategic Project Manager, was awarded a Churchill Fellowship, along with two other Kimberley

residents including Belinda Cook the manager of Fitzroy Crossing's Mankaja Arts. Jane has just returned from her 2017 travels that took her across Canada and in to the USA exploring approaches empowering women, children and communities to overcome intergenerational trauma. She has returned with a wealth of information and evidence of how organisations are taking the principles of trauma informed and healing practices and turning them into empowering projects, programs and strategies of work.

She witnessed organisations that were changing the fabric of social services by embedding trauma informed and healing models and driving positive transformation in lives on the ground.

Jane is currently putting together a report that will be used by Marninwarntikura to understand how trauma informed and healing practices can be understood and implemented across the organisations work, research, policies and procedures and structure.

The big message from Jane's travels: positive transformation is possible. Our brains are plastic and when our services and community learn the right practices to de-stress and address trauma, and

recover our brains can adapt and take on creative and positive behaviours. The best news is that this evidence of brain science is being turned into working practices to be used by organisations to assist them in supporting their staff and community members to recover from trauma. These approaches include 'collaborative problem solving', 'motivational interviewing', 'arts based engagements', and 'the Sanctuary model'. As Jane witnessed, when these practices are implemented and sustained they help us all construct many positive relationships, built on trust, non-judgement, hope and resilience. As our services contribute to restoring an interconnected and holistic society, everyone's health and wellbeing thrive.

We have a number of essential partners who are helping to gather the evidence and enabling us to learn the new practices and processes required for a trauma-informed approach. As you will read throughout our annual report these include Royal Far West, Moreton Consulting, Earthed and the Healing Foundation.

These organisations have engaged our staff in a number of training workshops designed around

building our understandings of:

- trauma;
- how complex traumas influence our responses;
- how to adapt our environments to be more sensitive to trauma; and
- how we can transform environments and responses in ways that promote healing in soothing and calming ways.

Through these workshops, we have learnt that it all starts with the way people interact with each other – friends, family, community members and colleagues. Supportive and positive interactions can change our brains. Our brains are plastic, with practice, and by recognising and removing structural barriers that can unintentionally entrench harms and re-traumatise people, we can shift patterns of negative thinking to positive thinking and actions.

We are changing the questions commonly asked in service delivery from “What is wrong with you?” to “What has happened?”

We are shifting away from a language based on identifying the issues of individuals to a language of care, inclusivity, positivity and non-judgement. It is a language founded

on the recognition of people's strengths and achievements, which actively sheds self-blame and the blaming of others and replaces it with compassion, empathy and understanding.

Our healing initiatives team is dedicated to breaking down this language and making sure that it is adapted to the Fitzroy Valley. Understanding trauma and healing can be abstract and theoretical. We are ensuring that theory is translated into practice and that understanding trauma and healing is real and applicable in all of our lives.

Language is the catalyst in helping us all to break patterns built around negative coping mechanisms and social norms to positive coping strategies and a healthy thriving society. As a starting point, responding to people with the right words and phrases helps us to keep calm and to be rational in situations perceived to be stressful, confrontational and threatening. Breathing is a powerful means of sustaining the sense of calm, and shifting our thinking to a positive attitude helps us all. We are learning tools through our work that help us personally and professionally to respond to others with respect.

Ultimately, this approach helps us all to engage in collaborative complex problem solving, which is at the heart of all the work we do.

Opening pathways to healing and recovery

Stopping the transmission of trauma is an important part of our journey of healing, but must acknowledge unresolved historical trauma and its ongoing manifestations of harm, and recovery from present traumatic experiences and events as well as those passed on from our ancestors lived histories.

Everything we do at Maminwarrtikura is taking us on this journey of healing. In our strategic work, we are working with community to identify the threads of community resilience and cohesion from a deep and powerful Indigenous history, and weaving them together to repair the fabric of a healthy and vibrant society.

The most successful healing strategies and initiatives are those developed from the ground up. They are designed with strong community ownership and control in mind, and explore culturally based knowledge, societal

frameworks based on care without judgement, processes of restorative justice, and practices that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

Through a series of workshops and yarning circles we have collected this evidence to ensure our programs respond to local understandings of harm and grow from strengths that acknowledge how community approaches form spaces of safety, owned and managed by those engaged in the processes.

We are also recognising and learning about successful non-Indigenous healing strategies and approaches.

The first steps we have taken is giving people the choice to begin a healing and self-care journey in their own lives. We recognise that it is difficult to talk about trauma and learn the tools to confront and deal with trauma. We want to provide people with the information and tools so they can own the knowledge and begin to construct a community-based healing model.

A purposeful healing journey is not for everyone, but it is important that people have options. We are

collaborating with the Healing Foundation and have partnered with Heal for Life to take these initial steps. Our local Indigenous staff and some community members have participated in Heal for Life healing camps in New South Wales, and we have run a healing camp on country. These camps are about acknowledging trauma and developing the peer support tools and structures to embark on a journey of recovery and empowerment.

Going forward, we are continuing to create safe community-owned and controlled spaces that foster trust, self-worth, community pride and empowerment. These spaces can be found throughout Marninwarntikura – in our offices, across our healing garden and in our therapeutic social enterprise studio.



We are running nurturing nights to invite women and children into the safety and comfort of our garden. These nights are reminding women that they can and should take time out to look after themselves and find positive ways to relax and de-stress together. From a trauma-informed perspective, this is a way of grounding our mind and body. Grounding mechanisms are a way to shift out of stressful states of being and away from reacting to situations with negative responses to being calm and in control when confronted with difficult situations. We have been learning about self-regulation and how children and adults can calm and sooth themselves and identify triggers that are warning signs for us all.

Our Healing Coordinator is beginning to bring grounding work to our meetings and to community gatherings. This ensures that we can all discuss difficult ideas in a rational and calm frame of mind and leave stressful happenings outside of the space we meet in.

As women embark on this journey – whether it is through a purposeful recovery approach or engaging in healthy and safe community spaces – they are making their

own decisions about what healing is for the Fitzroy Valley.

Healing happens in many exciting and rich ways across societies and cultures. We look forward to what will emerge in this dynamic space.

This past year, the harm-free work has been supported with funding from the Department of Social Services Promoting Safe Communities program. These funds supported a series of community meetings on what harm and safety look like, and the development of a series of “Working Together” workshops to support Marninwarntikura internal development as a healing-informed trauma-aware organisation.

These workshops were designed to develop a shared understanding of ways of working in Marninwarntikura that are healing-informed and reflect the organisation's values and shared behaviours. The workshops were offered to both the leadership team and staff across Marninwarntikura to:

- refresh and strengthen working relationships;
- begin to develop a shared understanding of trauma, its

impacts, healing and trauma-informed practices;

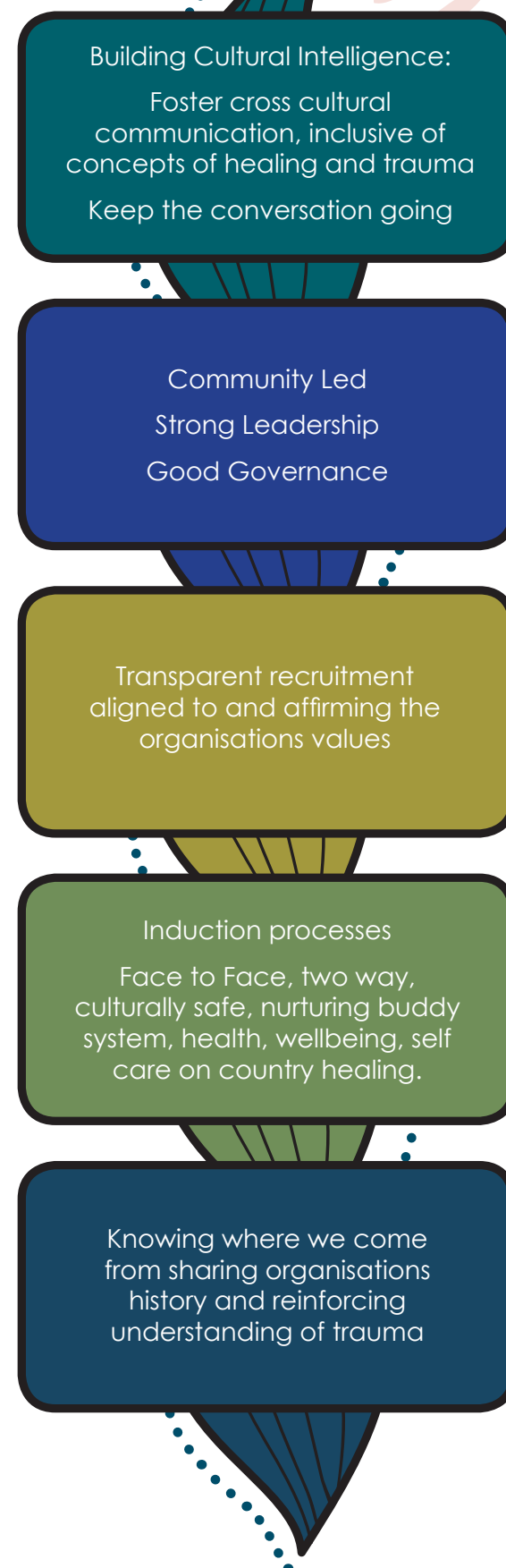
- recognise what safety and harm look like in a cross-cultural organisation;
- assess the organisation's strengths in living its shared values and behaviours
- encourage participants to develop fresh responses to difficult situations and appreciate one another; and
- develop a road map for the organisation's healing and trauma-informed journey.

Feedback from the workshops identified the organisation as having many strengths, including inspiration for positive change, valuing and respecting every person, operating with feeling and sensitivity, embracing cultural diversity, offering deep learning, and recognising the importance of being accountable to the community.

Marninwarntikura is striving to be a creative and a strong organisation – built from the people and their knowledge. The organisation can make hard decisions for positive change in our community and take leadership on complex issues.

Creating the Marnin roadmap

We are using the principles and practices of a trauma-informed approach and healing activities to put a roadmap into action. The purpose of the map is to show a journey. All these things will take time to put into place, and each principle and idea comes with relevant skills in healing and trauma work to help embed it.



Shelter review

Late in 2016 Marninwarntikura began a process to review the operations of the Women's Shelter and co-design a new shelter model. We recognised significant opportunities to redesign the shelter service delivery model to reflect the healing and trauma-informed approach being progressively embedded across the organisation. It was agreed that the new model would include a focus on early intervention and prevention activities, and healing and trauma-informed processes and practices in relation to women, children and families. We are conscious and actively exploring ways to support men who perpetrate violence, while also prioritising the safety and supports of women and children when in crisis.

Using what we are learning, and on a mission to constantly review and refine how we deliver services, we have engaged Moreton Consulting Group to work with us on this to ensure that we can provide optimal services that are trauma-sensitive and healing-informed, and that staff are equipped to recognise opportunities for healing.

The aims of the project are to:

- review current shelter operations, including strengths, challenges, and outcomes for women and children experiencing domestic violence, while meeting funding obligations;
- brief Marninwarntikura leadership on the changing domestic violence and service delivery landscape and identify the opportunities and risks these present; and
- develop a collaborative co-design process with staff, local Fitzroy Valley stakeholders and key partners, including the Department of Communities, to enable the development of a new model focused on the provision of domestic violence and support services.

These are complex tasks and require input from many locally based organisations working in this space. Together we can have a greater impact.

The first two stages are complete and the work on designing a new model is underway and will be completed by December 2017.

EMERGING PARTNERSHIPS

Earthed Foundation

The Earthed Foundation is working with Marnin Studio around connecting local artists and capital city designers, with a focus on developing micro business opportunities that showcase the local culture and community.

The partnership, based on strong friendships and commitment is focused on developing strong connections and deep relationships through ongoing mentoring and financial support, enabling local artists with design and business knowledge to successfully develop “on the ground” projects.

This year Earthed supported and helped to facilitate ‘Design Within Country’, an exciting collaboration between young Melbourne designers and emerging Fitzroy Crossing artists keen to learn more about the fashion industry. Together the creative team developed a stunning collection of 12 pieces that were featured in the ‘From Country to Couture’ runway show, as part of the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair. The fashion pieces were also showcased at Fash Fest in Canberra and a limited-edition range was created following DAAF, providing local artists with an applied

learning opportunity to engage with their customer base. The ‘Design Within Country’ project has sewn seeds for future design projects at Marnin Studio and the partnership with Earthed is enabling us to explore exciting new opportunities.

Healing Foundation

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation partnering with communities to address ongoing trauma due to colonisation and further policies that have caused severe ongoing harm, such as the Stolen Generations. It is with great excitement that Marninwarntikura is collaborating with the Healing Foundation over the next three years to help explore and implement healing activities and processes for the women, children and families of the Fitzroy Valley. The Healing Foundation is working with Marninwarntikura to design a healing program logic that will capture the primary elements and principles of our healing journey.

In early 2017, the foundation spent a day with all the staff and community who engage with Marninwarntikura, as well as other community-based

organisations, to hear about healing in the Fitzroy Valley. People spoke of the importance of art, yarning, being supported to be open with their thoughts and emotions, the therapeutic nature of gardening and the importance of creating inviting and safe spaces. It is clear that all the parts of wellbeing and health are strong in the Fitzroy Valley, and our work with the Healing Foundation is about bringing this societal strength and vibrancy to the forefront of people’s lives, embracing it and promoting growth for individuals, organisations and communities.



Mental health and wellbeing consortium

Marninwarntikura, Marra Worra Worra and KALACC are working with Nindilingarri Cultural Health, the lead organisation, to create a new way of supporting individuals and families living with mental health issues. The consortium is working together to create a culturally safe approach that uses a community psychologist alongside community navigators to work closely with health professionals to make sure more people in the Fitzroy Valley are connected to the right services at the right times.

Capitalising on local knowledge and strengthening the programs that already exist, these local Aboriginal organisations are constructing a new way of providing supports that is centred on the individual’s needs, and wrapping supports around them and their families. We are hoping to build a solution that demonstrates a new way of providing mental health support networks to Fitzroy families that is integrated, has everyone working together, and responds to what we know locally is the need. These services will be created by us, not delivered to us.



We are embedding evidence-informed practices that are building understandings of trauma and healing across all our programs.

Healing initiatives



Strengthening families through the journey of healing from intergenerational and early life trauma, grief and loss (Strategic Goal 2)

Marninwarntikura's healing, trauma-informed and safety work is part of the organisation's harm-free strategic priority. Marninwarntikura is working to create safe and empowering spaces to significantly reduce harm in the lives of women, children and families, in the short and long-term, by designing a healing and trauma informed road map, working with the community to identify and build on local responses to harm and safety, and developing several healing activities for women across the Fitzroy Valley.

We understand that achieving a harm-free society takes deep understanding of what intergenerational trauma is and how it continues to affect women, children and families of the Fitzroy Valley. This strategic work is happening at several levels:

- Starting with an evidence base – Delivering trauma-informed training to develop a shared platform of knowledge for all Marninwarntikura staff and other stakeholders, and putting theory into practice by implementing trauma-informed and healing work while also reflecting on what has an effect.
- At a community level – Exploring and establishing the knowledge women have about harm experienced in the community, and how safety is created in response to harm.
- At the program design and service delivery level – Actively creating spaces for healing so women can and do determine how to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma while accessing wrap-around supports that are needed to do this.
- At the systems level – Using lived experience and women's voices to understand structural barriers

WHAT OUR PROGRAM AREAS ACHIEVED IN 2016–17

and how to overcome them.

Key achievements

- In April, the Healing Foundation ran a program logic workshop with the whole organisation to understand what healing means to the women engaging in programs across Marninwarntikura, and what work can contribute to healing and empowerment in the short- and long-term across the organisation.
- With the funding support of the Healing Foundation we have continued our work with Heal for Life to design healing weeks for the Fitzroy Valley. The first intensive healing camp was run outside of Biridu community with more to come next year.
- Women from across the Fitzroy Valley communities are attending Monday nurturing nights in the Marninwarntikura garden to engage in ongoing self-care and peer support activities.
- Moreton Consulting have continued to support Marninwarntikura's harm-free strategic priority through a series of organisational workshops to develop a whole-of-organisation healing and trauma-informed roadmap.

- The last of a series of workshops exploring the meaning of harm and safety were run for young women at Yirramalay School and the Fitzroy Valley District High School, supported with funds from the Department of Social Services. These workshops provided Marninwarntikura with an understanding of the harms women of all ages are experiencing and how to build on community knowledge of safety.

Ways of knowing and doing

- Heal for Life visited Fitzroy Crossing and delivered a two-day trauma-informed training to 20 service providers from across the Kimberley. This is contributing to developing a shared knowledge base and language about trauma-informed practice across community organisations and stakeholder groups.
- Eleven women from Marninwarntikura and the Fitzroy Valley have been to Heal for Life healing weeks in Cessnock, New South Wales, and in the Fitzroy Valley to understand trauma and begin their own healing journey.
- Following the healing weeks, five women completed healing and trauma training to support

others across the organisation on their healing journey.

- Over 100 community members and visiting stakeholders attended an International Women's Day event. The event was to farewell June Oscar, Marninwarntikura's former CEO, and to bring women into a safe and empowering space designed to celebrate community achievements and the success of women. This work is part of Marninwarntikura's strategic priority of achieving a harm-free valley.

Therapeutic spaces



Strengthening families through the journey of healing from intergenerational and early life trauma, grief and loss (Strategic Goal 2)

Therapeutic spaces have seen the reshaping of the healing garden space to bring each working area of the organisation together in

a healthy space for healing and learning.

Together with the Marninwarntikura community we have been creating areas around the common lawn which facilitate the activities and engagement of each group in a beautiful healing space.

These shaded spaces surrounded by local medicines and exotic foods continue to develop and promote healthy lifestyles and better nutrition to families across the Fitzroy Valley.

Key achievements

- The heart of the garden has been surrounded by many local foods and medicines, for education and healing.
- Spaces have been created for social enterprise programs, the Marulu unit, the early childhood program, the Mobile Play Group (MPG), executive meetings, counselling and a large atrium for healing and nurturing gatherings.
- Interest has been growing in the resource centre as a place to come, chill and revive.

Ways of knowing and doing

Nurture evenings are held every week to embed the practice, and

have been held in the garden atrium with great success and influence. They provide a healing aspect to the Marninwarntikura environment. The impact of these events and this space are seen in changed conversations that really emphasise the need for and promotion of self-care.

Marulu



Nurturing our children and young people to reach their full potential (Strategic Goal 1)

Strengthening families through the journey of healing from intergenerational early life trauma, grief and loss (Strategic Goal 2)

Marulu, a Bunuba word meaning “worth nurturing”, has been set up to create a community response to FASD and trauma in the Fitzroy Valley.

As the Marulu team expands, we are working with more families to help them to support children and

carers with complex needs in our community. We are working with a wide range of Essential Partners to create solutions that show us new strength based ways of responding to the different needs of families living with FASD throughout a person's life. All this work is focused on “Making FASD History” and leading the way to more positive futures for children and families in the Fitzroy Valley.

Marninwarntikura has five strategic priorities. The first two are: make FASD history, and reduce harm in the Fitzroy Valley. The work of the Marulu team is driven by these priorities, as healing, embedding trauma-informed practice, and supporting families and service providers to respond to trauma and FASD are intricately linked and support progress of each other. The more effective we are at achieving these priorities the greater the impact of our work.

The Marulu team are working with Royal Far West through the Marurra_U partnership to explore ways to support families using new technologies. Allied health professionals are upskilling local services and parents to understand trauma and learn how to respond to challenging behaviours using a combination of interactive

technologies and face-to-face relationship-building sessions. We are all learning the importance of understanding the physical responses to trauma.

The Jandu Yani U (positive parenting for all families) is in its second year, with another 19 parent coaches (including three men) trained and 18 accredited. There is further interest from local organisations in building on this work in a sustainable way that keeps the momentum going. We are supporting the parent coaches through networking, while growing the numbers of community members who are spreading the positive parenting messages, we are also learning about trauma and ways we can, as parents, carers and a community, respond to complex needs with understanding and empathy rather than judgement.

Key achievements

- Marurra_U, a partnership with Royal Far West and Marninwarntikura, aims to grow our capacity to develop wrap-around supports to families.
- The Marurra_U team have returned to Fitzroy Crossing to work across Marninwarntikura to trial different ways to build our knowledge and understanding and demonstrate how to work with young people

and their families with complex needs. They have been giving us training in being trauma-informed and also advised on making our environments more trauma-sensitive.

- The Jandu Yani U parent coaches will have a formal celebration of their achievements in the next month. This will grow the network of accredited trainers in the Fitzroy Valley, doubling the number of accredited parent coaches with new tools, language, understandings and ways of doing.
- Our family support workers, Edith Cox and Sue Cherel, have been completing a Certificate II in Community Research and we look forward to celebrating their graduation with them soon.
- We have been releasing Sue Cherel to work with the Telethon Alert Program research team, collecting data, connecting with families and strengthening the non-Indigenous team's capacity to work with Fitzroy families. This mutually beneficial relationship is good for Telethon Kids Institute and us, as we work together to build the evidence base.
- We have been sharing our story at conferences and building strong networks across the country.

- The Marulu Knowledge Hub has gone live, and we will continue to refine and add to the information to make sure it is a dynamic and accessible website sharing information on FASD and early life trauma to a wide audience. www.marulustrategy.com.au

Ways of knowing and doing

- In December 2016, June Oscar, Jadnah Davies and Sue Thomas participated in a FASD Health Department roundtable in Canberra to help shape the national response needed to highlight what we have learnt about FASD and to Make FASD History. We emphasised the importance of a community-led response that changes over time. In 2017, Emily Carter, Jadnah Davies and Sue Thomas shared our perspectives and some examples of what we are doing at a similar Kimberley Forum. We stressed the importance of having a long-term plan designed to be responsive to the differing needs of individuals throughout their lifespan. Our team provided important insights from what we know is a need in Fitzroy.
- As the Marulu team grows, we are working with more families and building the evidence to

guide future plans. We have mainly been supporting young children and their families so far, and next year are broadening our focus to those young people who have fallen through the gaps and still need supports but haven't been able to access what they really need.

Family Violence Prevention and Legal Unit



Reduce harm in the Fitzroy Valley (Marninwarntikura Strategic Priority 2)

Strengthening families through the journey of healing from intergenerational an early life trauma, grief and loss (Strategic Goal 2)

The Family Violence Prevention and Legal Unit (FVPLU) delivers culturally appropriate legal representation and non-legal holistic support services primarily in the area of family and domestic violence. The FVPLU works with women and communities to find solutions to

effectively address the impact and challenges experienced by women and children in relation to domestic and family violence.

Domestic and family violence remains the most serious and pervasive issue affecting the quality of life for women and children of the Fitzroy Valley. The service remains committed to supporting and facilitating the development of a whole-of-community approach towards a harm-free valley and in the interests of safety and wellbeing for the families of Fitzroy Valley. We are currently developing a new service delivery model that will include intensive case management for our high-risk clients, and therapeutic support for clients experiencing trauma. The service recognises the need to work with both victims and perpetrators if the family as a whole is to be healed from the effects of domestic and family violence. Over the next 12 months the service will work closely with relevant stakeholders towards a collective impact model to be led by Marninwarntikura. Promoting understanding and awareness about family and domestic violence continues to remain a priority. We look forward to improved and more meaningful community engagement in 2018 with the addition of three new

staff to our team.

Key achievements

- The FVPLU has secured funding from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) to employ a trauma counsellor and a social worker. The funding is secured until July 2020.
- The team promoted the "Stand By Me" music video and workshop, a resource we developed using local talent.
- The team organised the third annual Silent Against Domestic Violence in November 2016.
- The service consolidated the delivery of workshops to the Fitzroy Valley District High School Girl's Academy and Women's Shelter throughout 2017 and anticipates a significant increase in workshops following the signing of a draft memorandum of understanding between the FVPLU and Marra Worra Worra's Community Development Program.

Ways of knowing and doing

- 22% increase in applications for criminal injuries compensation;
- 32% increase of non-legal support for clients attending court on criminal matters;

- 34% increase in the provision of information/ support for civil matters.

Women's Shelter



Strengthening families through the journey of healing from intergenerational and early life trauma, grief and loss (Strategic Goal 2)

The shelter provides:

- a safe place for women and children to stay when they come to us in crisis; and
- emergency housing, meals, laundry and other assistance, such as referrals to complimentary services within the Fitzroy Valley and surrounding areas; for example, legal services, Department of Communities, Centrelink, police, hospital, Department of Social Services, and assistance with transportation and relocation.

The new shelter model that is currently

being developed is evidence-informed and adapted from an evolving trauma-aware healing-informed model. Recognising that families in the valley have and are still experiencing trauma in their lives, the model is designed to meet the specific needs of Fitzroy Valley women and children. Through ongoing staff training designed to improve knowledge and understanding, we can start to recognise the impact of trauma on clients and their children and make adaptations to our environment and interactions that dramatically change the dynamics and provide families with trauma-sensitive supports, connecting them to services and giving them tools to empower them with strength-based solutions.

Key achievements

- Family and domestic violence workshops were held weekly in the shelter with clients.
- Weekly trauma-informed play groups were provided for children from the shelter.
- The space was physically improved to create a safe place where workers can support clients and their children in a healing environment.

- The shelter is working towards intensive case management to better support and connect clients and their children to a wide range of supports.

Ways of knowing and doing

- Services were provided to 340 women and children – 189 women, 57 male children and 94 female children.
- All the living areas and bathrooms have been cleaned and painted to freshen up the shelter and improve the look and feel.
- Royal Far West conducted an audit of the shelter to provide advice on simple alterations that would create a more trauma-sensitive calming space.

Marnin Studio



Facilitating participation in economies and activities that enhance wellbeing (Strategic Goal 3)

Marnin Studio is an arts and textiles enterprise that is providing local Aboriginal women with income from product sales, while also developing leadership skills and therapeutic wrap-around support to overcome the legacy of harm and trauma. The focus is on empowering women to become leaders and role models for their families and communities.

Marnin Studio has developed a social enterprise program for local women, by local women that connects to country, culture and identity. We use a strength-based, community-led, therapeutic way of working, assisting women to turn the things they love into products that provide a source of income. The social enterprise program emerged from a longstanding art therapy program and continues to embody a therapeutic approach and practice in the studio. Products are sold through our on-site store, online, through wholesalers and through festivals and events. Marnin Studio undertakes community engagement initiatives in surrounding communities, supporting women to produce in their own communities and to engage in the studio where possible. The studio has successfully supported local women to establish their own micro-

businesses in addition to providing a therapeutic arts and retail production space at centre.

Key achievements

- Artist-in-residency program – Professional artists undertake residencies at the studio to assist with artistic skill and design development, enabling studio artists to produce work of a commercial standard.
- Learning You Mob – A community engagement program co-designed with studio artists to engage young women from their communities in the Marnin Studio projects and events. This project is funded by the Department of Culture and the Arts, and Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- Special projects – In 2017, the Department of Culture and the Arts provided support to undertake a jewellery project, and the Earthed Foundation provided support to undertake a fashion design project.
- Business hub – A new initiative for 2018 is planned that will provide an opportunity for young women to develop their business ideas with support from the Earthed Foundation.

- Sales – The National Gallery of Australia and the Art Gallery of NSW are now wholesaling Marnin Studio products.

Ways of knowing and doing

- On average, 44 women are engaging with the social enterprise program on a monthly basis in the studio, and through the Learning You Mob community engagement program in surrounding communities.
- Marnin Studio's "Design Within Country" fashion show collection was applauded by gallery owners, art centre managers and the general public at the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Fashion Show, "From Country to Couture"

Baya Gawiy Buga Yani Jandu Yani U Centre



The *baya gawiy* is the fresh water sting ray of the Fitzroy River, and *buga yani jandu yani u* is the Bunuba wording for "all the children

and their families". The centre is a welcoming gathering place that forms a centre of excellence for Fitzroy Valley children and their families, and aims to heal the trauma wounds of the past and the pains of the present. It provides early childhood learning services as well as a child and parent centre.

Baya Gawiy Early Childhood Learning Unit (ECLU)



Nurturing our children and young people to reach their full potential (Strategic Goal 1)

The Baya Gawiy Early Childhood Learning Unit (ECLU) provides culturally appropriate early learning and care to children 0–4 years. It addresses the diverse early development needs of children in the Fitzroy Valley by following a "two ways of knowing and doing" philosophy, – learning from Aboriginal knowledge and perspectives alongside non-Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.

Our Goodstart Secondment Program, enables us to have success with short-term employment contracts for qualified early childhood educators. We also promote and support training for local educators to build our staffing capacity. This year saw a rise in total enrolments and we expect a further rise in the coming year. This allows more children to access our quality Early Years program and provides smaller staff:child ratios, so we are able to provide an enhanced educational program and go out on country to deliver important learning opportunities.

We have also been able to initiate on-country cultural experiences for our little ones. The children are taken in small groups out on-country with local educators guiding practice.

Key achievements

- We have established a language hub that allows local educators to develop literacy resources in local Aboriginal languages. These resources are then embedded in the program.
- The unit has developed on-country cultural experiences for the children.
- We have created a language hub where local educators

can develop resources in local languages.

- Children at the ECLU make regular visits to the Elders at Guwardi Ngadu frail aged hostel.
- We have been strengthening connections with local Elders to consult and guide our two ways of knowing and doing approach to early years education and care

Ways of knowing and doing

Three on-country experiences have already been organised this year and were a great success. They included Baya Gawiy ECLU, the Mobile Play Group and the Children and Parent Support Community Program.

Baya Gawiy Child and Parent Centre (CPC)



Nurturing our children and young people to reach their full potential (Strategic Goal 1)

Strengthening families through the journey of healing from intergenerational and early life trauma, grief and loss (Strategic Goal 2)

The Child and Parent Centre (CPC) works to improve access to health and education for Fitzroy Valley families targeting children aged 0–8 years and their families. It is a welcoming, safe and dynamic space that tailors programs to meet the changing needs of vulnerable families.

Through collaboration with a range of stakeholders, unique programs are being trialled, refined and revised to ensure they are informed by evidence, are trauma-informed and healing-aware and are constantly being adapted to improve outcomes, specifically health and education outcomes.

Key achievements

- The CPC has engaged new families and strengthened relationships with regular attending families.
- The centre is building its capacity to create a healing space through ongoing trauma and healing training.
- CPC staff participated in the Jandu Yani U positive parenting training.

- The centre trialled the use of technologies to tap into further professional learning. Tuning In (emotional intelligence) training is being delivered to a wide range of stakeholders working with Fitzroy families.
- The CPC developed strong relationships with education and health providers across the valley.
- Service delivery was improved, with allied health, and the centre working to ensure no family misses out.
- The CPC has been building strong relationships with external stakeholders and service providers. These include Marra Worra Worra, Nindilingarri, Garnduwa and Department of Communities.
- An Early Years Network has been developed, in which a diverse range of people who work in the early years come together to share information, resources and network.

Ways of doing and knowing

- The CPC engaged Royal Far West to help develop an environment for young children and families that supports learning and development and, in particular,

meets the needs of children with complex needs.

- The aim of this process was to work towards strengthening services and building the capacity of families and the community, to better support children affected by FASD, early life trauma and other complex needs.
- Over the past 12 months, the CPC team have worked to, implement the recommendations of the RFW report and enhance both the environment and services, to ensure trauma and healing are key elements from which all work is built upon.

Community Programs



Nurturing our children and young people to reach their full potential (Strategic Goal 1)

The Community Programs team work within the community to facilitate parenting support and the Mobile

Play Group to improve health, wellbeing, cultural knowledge and educational outcomes for children and their families living in surrounding communities in the Fitzroy Valley.

We have started to establish a seasonal calendar to embed cultural knowledge within the Community Programs and ECLU based on knowledge shared from our Elders through language, music, story-telling and art/craft activities to teach our children.

The Children and Parent Support activities delivered over the past 12 months focused on improving children's development and wellbeing and strengthening family values and cultural knowledge while building parents' and carers' capacity. This builds on their strengths and provides safe environments that promote deeply valuable learning.

Key achievements

- The program incorporated an outreach service within the communities to support parents with young children, focusing

on building parental capacity and improving children's development.

- The program provided regular on-country cultural experiences for children and parents to help to connect children to their environment and celebrate valued knowledge based around seasonal changes.
- The Lililwans Group including mums and bubs at the CPC continued to provide opportunities to participate in the preparation of healthy lunches, create hand-made toys, and engage in morning circle and story time.

Ways of knowing and doing

On-country experiences have been a great success, with guidance from community Elders to create a cultural sanctuary where positive childhood learning and valued cultural knowledge is shared in safe and nurturing places while enhancing support, understanding, friendship and respect.

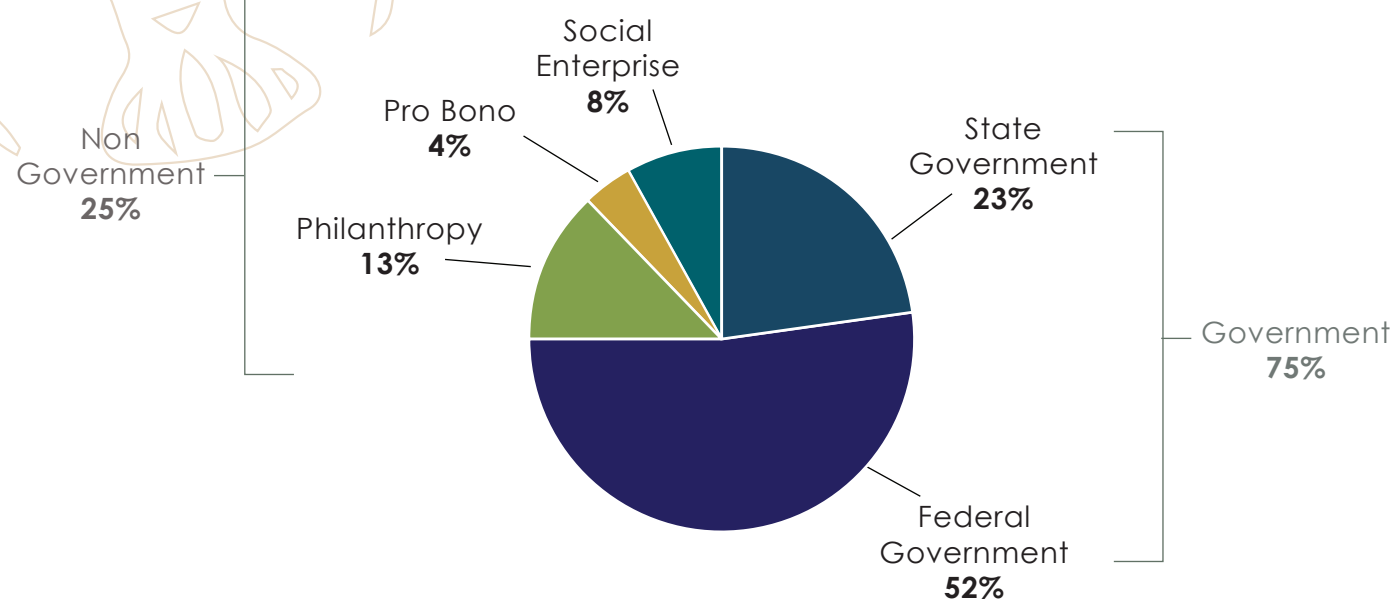
OUR MONEY STORY: FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Marninwarntikura's financial position strengthened in 2016–17, with diversification of income, all service delivery programs funded and operational reserves growing to almost \$3 million. This gives the organisation some confidence to plan for the future.

Funding by source

We are pleased to report increasing diversification of funding, with 25% of Marninwarntikura's 2016–17 income being from non-government sources, up from 5% two years ago.

\$1 in \$4 from Non-Government Sources

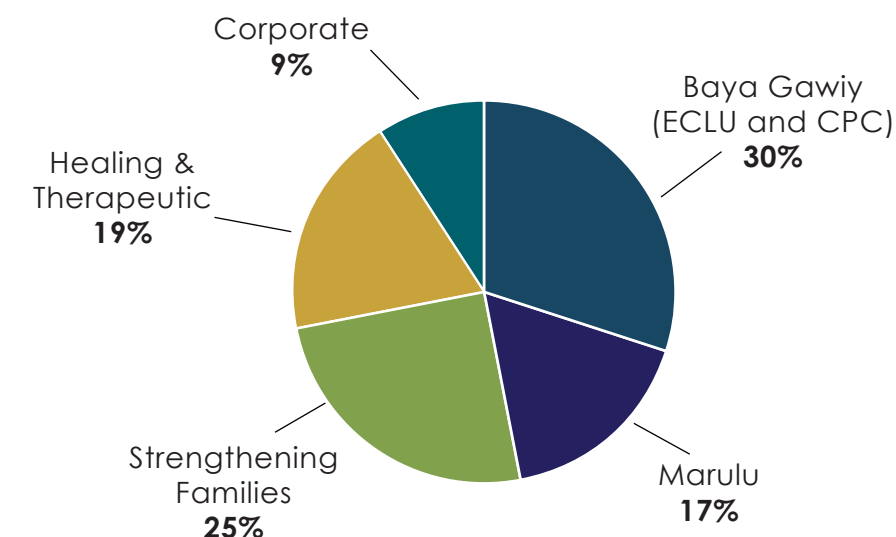


We are grateful for the ongoing funding provided by the Commonwealth and State governments, which forms the foundation for Marninwarntikura's diverse range of programs. We also acknowledge and thank the many philanthropists, donors, providers of pro bono services and other supporters and friends, who enable Marninwarntikura's programs to be enhanced and expanded upon.

Expenditure

During 2016–17, \$5 million was expended on the delivery of a diverse range of programs, importantly including ensuring that all programs receive corporate, management, advisory, strategic, governance and financial support.

Expenditure across our programs and corporate services



Baya Gawiy - Early Childhood Learning Unit (ECLU) and the Child and Parent Centre (CPC)

Marulu is constructing a community response to FASD and Early Life Trauma (ELT) and working to Make FASD History in the Fitzroy Valley, including the Jandu Yani U positive parenting program

Strengthening Families - Shelter + Family Domestic Violence, Prevention & Legal Unit

Healing and Therapeutic- Studio, healing garden, building safe communities, community programs & enterprise

Corporate Services are marnin support services designed to ensure accountability and sustainability of the diverse program areas.

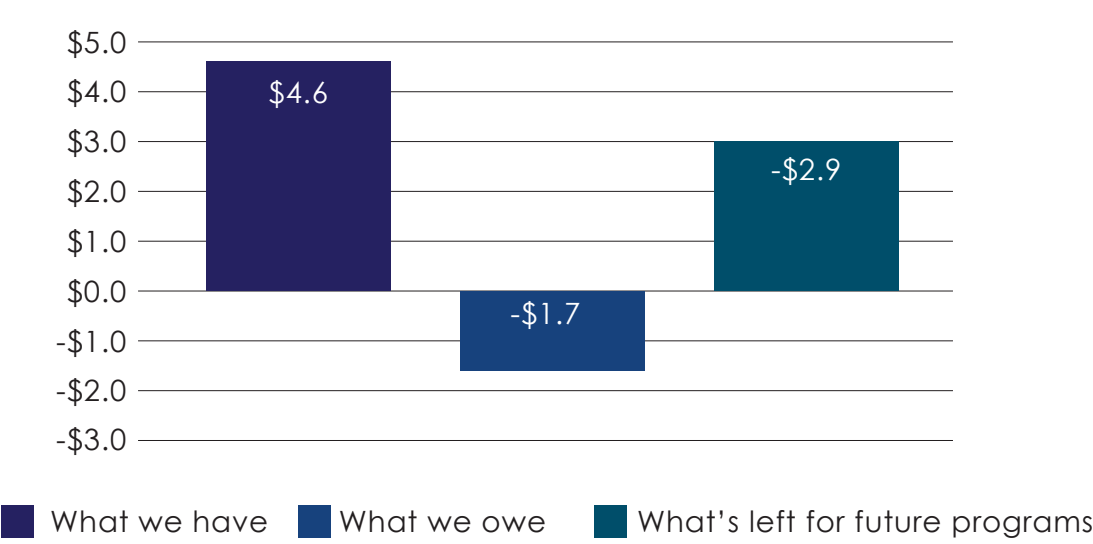
Financial statements and audit

The following summary and chart of our balance sheet shows a strengthening financial position. Operational reserves to support future program activities are almost \$3 million, providing Marninwarntikura with a secure position from which to grow our work.

Financial position at 30 June 2017	\$M	\$M
	2016-17	2015-16
What Marninwarntikura has:		
Cash*	2.5	2.1
Property, vehicles & equipment	1.7	1.8
Other	0.4	0.1
TOTAL	4.6	4.0
What Marninwarntikura needs to pay:		
Suppliers & other amounts owing	1.2	0.8
Debt owing to bank	0.5	0.5
TOTAL	1.7	1.3
What Marninwarntikura has in reserve to support future operations:		
Cash*	0.8	0.8
Land, buildings, vehicles & equipment	1.7	1.8
Other	0.4	0.1
TOTAL	2.9	2.7

* In addition to the cash shown, Marninwarntikura has cash of \$2.0 M (2015-16: \$1.0 M), which is held in trust from funding bodies. This cash must be used for delivery of programs, under the conditions of the funding agreements, with any amounts that do not get used to be returned to the funding bodies.

Expenditure accross our programs and corporate services



The Marninwarntikura audited financial statements 2016-17 have been lodged with the Office of Regulation of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). They are available on our website mwrc.com.au or upon request.

Stielow & Associates Chartered Accountants are our independent auditors. They have provided a 2016-17 Independent Audit Report and Certification and stated that the financial statements are:

A true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30th June 2017 and of the performance for the year then ended and that there is compliance with funding bodies terms and conditions.

Financial outlook

With ongoing government and philanthropic support and with the diversification of our income, Marninwarntikura has a sound financial outlook through to 2018.

We do, however, face ongoing challenges in ensuring that government and philanthropic funding is sustained over the longer term. This requires us to continue to maintain strong relationships with our supporters, to continuously seek out new funding opportunities, and to ensure that stakeholders understand the importance and reach of our programs.

We acknowledge in particular the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, which works with us in a constructive partnership and provides half of Marninwarntikura's funding. It is crucial that the PM&C relationship is maintained and strengthened over the longer term, and that we can negotiate suitably flexible funding arrangements so that changing community needs can be responded to quickly and effectively.

As part of the PM&C partnership, funding is available for the Baya Gaway ECLU through to December 2018. Changes in Commonwealth

Government early childhood policies are to be implemented from 2018, and since the Western Australian Government early childhood education funding was withdrawn two years ago, the funding outlook for the ECLU beyond 2018 is still very uncertain. To address the many complex issues arising, we are working closely with PM&C, along with PricewaterhouseCoopers, to build a suitable alliance with Commonwealth Department of Education and Training. In particular, it is critical for the Australian Government to recognise and acknowledge in its funding mechanisms that the ECLU is a remote service working with vulnerable families to deliver trauma-informed and culturally appropriate education and care to Aboriginal children whose parents may be unable to access employment opportunities, or fulfil Centrelink obligations required for their child to access our unique service.

OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

A Big Thank You to Our Funders and Supporters

Funders, Philanthropists and Partners

The Prime Minister and Cabinet
Australian Government, Department of Social Services WA
Department of Culture and Arts WA
Department of Child Protection and Family Support WA
Department of Education WA
Department of Local Government and Communities
Cages Foundation
Change Angel
Costa Foundation
Colliers Foundation
Earthed Foundation
Gandel Foundation
Gilbert & Tobin Lawyers
Goodstart Early Learning
Healing Foundation
Ian Potter Foundation
Jawun
Kimberley Development Commission

Kimberley Foundation
K&L Gates Lawyers
Perpetual Foundation
Social Ventures Australia
Lotteries West

We are very grateful for the generous donations we have received from individuals who are too numerous to mention

Supporters

We thank the following organisations who have provided various kinds of support during the year

Aboriginal Legal Service
Bunuba Rangers
Clontarf Academy
Fitzroy Crossing Men's Shed
Fitzroy Futures Forum
Fitzroy Valley Hospital
Fitzroy Valley District High School
Girls Academy
Gooniyandi Rangers
Heal for Life
Karrayili Adult Education

Kalacc
Kimberley Training Institute
Marra Worra Worra
Mangkaja Art Resource Agency
Moreton Consulting
Morrugul
Ngumpan Arts Centre
Ngurrara Rangers
Nindilingarri Cultural Health Services
Patches Paediatrics
Reconciliation Australia
Royal Far West
Snaicc
The Ark Clothing Company
The University of Sydney
The Shire of Derby West Kimberley
Telethon Kids Institute
Wangki Radio
Wesley College
West Kimberley Tourist Information Centre
Western Australia Police
Yiriman Women's Project

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT MARNINWARNTIKURA



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