

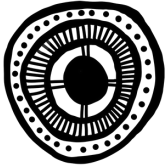


Les Schultz and Dave Grubb

Puntu Pirni Palya Goldfields Men's Wellbeing Project

FIRST NATION LANGUAGE **LANGUAGE** 21 - 23
CONFERENCE SOVEREIGNTY OCT 2025



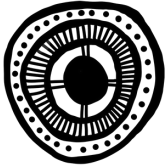


A Decolonised Space for Language and Culture

- Creating space for language and culture to occupy
- Creating space for men to gather
- Creating space away from Western programs
- Creating space for cultural leadership
- Creating a safe space for men
- Modelling a decolonised space for First Nations communities
- Modelling language and cultural sovereignty

'Now we need to decolonize the colonisers.'

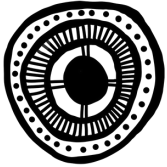




Reducing the Cognitive Load

- A safe space for language and culture
- A safe space for yarning
- A safe space for engaging through culture
- A safe space for vulnerability

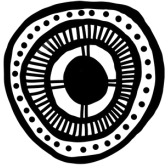




Artefacts: Keeping Hands Busy

- Artefact making as a way to keep hands busy
- Artefact making as a way to engage through language
- Artefact making as a way to engage through culture
- Artefact making as a way to feel success, achievement
- Artefact making as a way to feel culturally connected

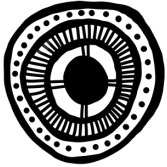




Cultural Stewards

- A different cultural steward for each nation
- Sometimes a workshop needs more than one cultural steward
- Not all cultural stewards are elders
- PPP supporting and promoting cultural leadership
- PPP supporting and promoting cultural strength
- PPP modelling a decolonised space and process
- Cultural Steward provided with a small toolkit each trip





Guiding Principles Behind the Project

Cultural Respect and Integrity

Language reflects deep respect for First Nations cultural practices, knowledge systems, and values. Emphasises the importance of traditional knowledge in wellbeing, resilience, and community connection.

Strengths-Based Approach

Recognises and celebrates the capabilities, strength, and resilience of individuals, families, and communities.

Avoids deficit-based language, focusing instead on opportunity, growth, and potential.

Empowerment and Agency

Language emphasises agency (self-determination), ownership, and control of cultural and intellectual knowledge.

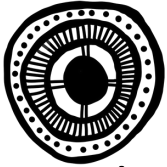
Reinforces the autonomy of communities to design and adapt the Project to their unique cultural contexts.

Collaborative and Inclusive

Frames the Project to respect existing community services (e.g., health services, ranger services, and art centres).

Highlights shared responsibility and mutual benefit for all stakeholders.





Core Capabilities and Strengths-Based

Cultural Stewardship and Cultural Leadership

Cultural Steward lead and shape the Project, drawing from their cultural knowledge and traditional practices.

The Project scaffolds Elder-led wellbeing processes and cultural sharing.

Community Ownership

Knowledge, artefacts, and data generated through this Project are owned by the community.

Communities are empowered to customise and design the Project to meet their cultural, wellbeing, and social needs.

Cultural Resilience

Traditional yarning and artefact-making practices are central to fostering resilience and wellbeing.

The Project strengthens connection to Country, kin, and culture.

Collaboration and Support

The Project works alongside ranger services to purchase resources in a sustainable and culturally safe way.

Ranger services provide essential support in sustainably sourcing materials for the Project.

Wellbeing and Growth

Artefact-making workshops create safe spaces for wellbeing, connection, and growth.

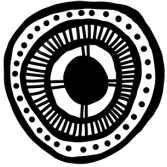
Men engage in culturally safe environments that foster storytelling, learning, and resilience.

Data Sovereignty – About First Nations, by First Nations, for First Nations

Elders and communities inform the Project's content and have input into data collection and evaluation.

The Project ensures data sovereignty, empowering communities to use evidence to support their initiatives.

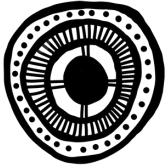




Artefacts : the side product

- Wood sourced from First Nations
- Wood different in each nation
- Artefact types different in each nation
- Material provided at no cost
- Individual owns the item they produce





Project Meta-Language

Key Positive Words for Self Talk

This project will focus on 10 key positive terms to create wellbeing self-talk. Workshop coordinators will use and model use of these terms continuously.

Resilient

Capable

Confident

Strong

Clever

Caring

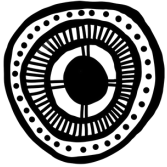
Inspiring

Accepting

Kind

Appreciative



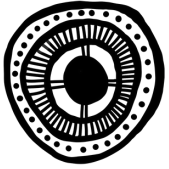


Key Questions

Over 3 years of the project, the following questions will be discussed:

1. What does men's wellbeing look like, feel like, sound like in this community ?
2. What does wellbeing look like, feel like, sound like for me?
3. What happens in this community that creates wellbeing?
4. What do I do that creates wellbeing for me?
5. How could my community create wellbeing for men?
6. How could I create wellbeing in my community?





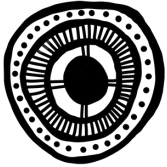
So, how has the Project gone so far?

Things we have learnt during the project.

Achievements.

Challenges.





Men's Reference Group

A team of 7 First Nations men reference group

Reference group provides input on policy.

Reference group provides input on procedure





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THANK YOU

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