

# February 2024

# EC-West Newsletter



Welcome to our newsletter featuring the latest news and events around the West Kimberley Region.

## CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER MESSAGE



Happy New Year!

As we step into 2024, I'm excited to share our vision and plans for the year ahead. At EC-West, our commitment to community-driven development, advocacy, and collaboration remains persistent as we strive for impactful progress in the West Kimberley region.

We reaffirm our dedication to collaboration, transparency, and community-led decision-making. Together, we are navigating the path, with reflective practice and adaptive learning, toward empowerment, ensuring that every step we take contributes to the generational change our communities, board and members envision.

We're guided by important documents like the Closing the Gap report, Uluru statement, and the Empowered Communities Design Report. These help us shape our actions and move toward positive change.

Your voices are crucial in shaping our initiatives. We continue to invest in meaningful engagement and co-design efforts intended to capture specific needs, which will inform and improve the roadmap for EC-West. Your input is invaluable in guiding our actions and ensuring that our initiatives truly reflect the diverse needs of our communities. There are various ways to get involved which include Joint Decision Making Panels, Local Management Committee's, completing EC-West survey's, Local Youth Advisory Committee's, Co-Design Committee's and speaking direct with our staff.

Advocacy remains a key focus for us. Our West Kimberley representatives engagement at the National EC Leaders Summit in December 2023 affirmed the government's support for EC regions and the valuable work of backbones like ours.

This year, we're focusing on important themes like Governance and Reform, Family Empowerment, and Empowered Young Leaders. These themes, identified by West Kimberley community members, guide our efforts as we work together advocating to address local needs.

Our role is to facilitate, coordinate, co-design, and advocate. We don't hold funds or provide direct services. Instead, we empower by bringing people together and amplifying community voices. We are excited to continue working closely with our 23 member organisations who participate in the four established Local Management Committees to refine and strengthen decision-making processes, project selection and governance, and methods to increase community awareness of our initiatives and processes.

When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. Thank you to all who have provided support, valuable constructive feedback, and active participation! We're thrilled to collaborate with you this year to continue approaches to reform and empowerment in the West Kimberley.

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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our team are dedicated to ensuring opportunities are provided for community members to share individual and collective perspectives on challenges, solutions, and aspirations. These valuable insights are elevated to our LMC's, Design Committee's and even our Board of Directors.

Our amazing Projects team identified an optimal opportunity to collaborate with Garnduwa and the Broome Basketball Association in October 2023 for the near weeklong inter-regional massive annual event (The Shinju Basketball Carnival), which is historically cherished by multiple generations.

The annual event saw teams travel from the East Kimberley, Perth, Pilbara and West Kimberley. More than 500 players and participants attended the venue which ran over 5 days and completed valuable surveys with EC-West staff about family empowerment, parenting, EYL and youth safe spaces.





# WAAPI YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP 2023

Our Engagement Officer, Darren Mitchelson has been collaborating closely with our member organisation's up on the Dampier Peninsula and in October 2023 he was part of a joint effort, engaging with young people who attended the WAAPI Youth Leadership Camp from Beagle Bay, Djarindjin and One Arm Point.

The WAAPI Youth Leadership Camp brought together two cohorts made up of 10 participants between 12-16yrs and a group of young leaders ages 18-35 years to have conversations about local issues emphasising why their voices are important.

The youth camp was held in Cygnet Bay where the young people got the opportunity to collaborate, listen, learn, participate in capacity building activities and have extensive yarns over a three-day period from the 3rd-6th October 2023.

Other stakeholders such as local elders, Anglicare, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and Lullumb Cultural Tours also contributed to facilitating activities.

Darren provided a presentation to the participants about EC-West and Empowered Young Leaders while also increasing the awareness and knowledge of young people about The Voice Referendum, giving them a better understanding of what The Voice Referendum was.

Darren said the youth camp was a fantastic opportunity to engage with young people, listening to their stories and helping their growth to overcome obstacles they may come across. Darren was also instrumental in supporting four young people by helping them sign up to become a member of the Empowered Young Leaders (EYL) Aboriginal Organisation.

If you are a Kimberley young person aged 15-35 years young and interested in learning more about the Empowered Young Leaders movement.

Please contact Quinten Turner, EYL Coordinator or go online <https://wkfec.org/home> to sign up.



# NEW MEMBERS TO THE EC-WEST FAMILY

## Natalya Turnbull

Natalya was born in Perth and moved to Wyndham at the age of 9. She attended majority of her education in Wyndham and completed year 12 in Perth before returning back to Wyndham to be close to her family and started work. Nat was the WA state winner of the 2023 AFL Volunteer of the Year and was a finalist for the 2023 Young Leader of the year. In her previous role, Nat was an assistant manager for a local Wyndham business and volunteers her time in various other community organisations and committees. She brings wealth of valuable skills to the EYL team.

Nat is passionate about serving the community and supporting young people on their empowerment journey.

-“Dreams are made by doing”-



## Alarna Maher

Alarna is a proud Bardi, Jabirr Jabirr and Yawuru woman, raised in Broome and is the mother of three beautiful young children.

Alarna has spent her employment career working with Kimberley Aboriginal organisations for Kimberley Aboriginal people. She is passionate about building opportunities and progressing change for our people and in particular our young leaders.

Alarna is proud to be a part of an organisation whose intention is to better the social and economic circumstances of our mob and excited to be a part of a team who share the same desires, supporting each other to influence, lead and generate that change.

-“Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows”-



# Aboriginal Centre of Excellence Community Information Session

The Aboriginal Centre of Excellence (JBACE) team held their first Community Information Session on the 16th of November 2023 at Goolarri Media. The intention of the session was to inform the community on the design committee's process and how the concept model of the Aboriginal Centre of Excellence was shaping up well into a business case that continues to be informed by the design committee.

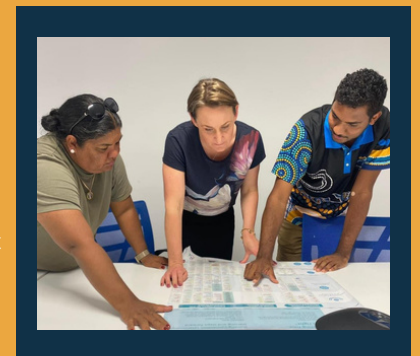
The Aboriginal Centre of Excellence (JBACE) Project is a local area initiative developed in response to the need identified by community and agencies in the West Kimberley region. The project originated from extensive community engagement efforts led by EC-West through the System Design Project. The need for reducing service duplication and enhancing collaborative initiatives was highlighted in the EC-West Insights Report of 2022.

The JBACE project aligns with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy's commitment to integrated early childhood service and aims to improve coordination of family specific services. Increasing family access to and awareness of services, provide learning and other support for caregivers to confidently take carriage of their family and their productivity.



## Meeting Amber-Jade Sanderson Minister of Health

We were very pleased to have our staff meet with Amber-Jade Sanderson Minister of Health and Mental Health to talk about the amazing work we have accomplished throughout the System Designs project mapped out in 2022. She was also very enthusiastic to learn more about Empowered Young Leaders (EYL) and how it is forming into its own independent standalone entity.



## Rise Up to Work Students visit EC-West

Rise up to work students got the deadly opportunity to meet our staff and learn about the various roles and activities EC-West has. Many conversations were discussed around our staff's roles and responsibilities within EC-West, and we gave advice to the students regarding being new to a workplace and getting to where you want to be. EC-West Team wishes you mob nothing but all the best for your future.

# Interview with our superstars!

Did you catch our superstars Marty Sibosado & Quentin Turner on ABC Kimberley? Marty and Quentin got the amazing opportunity to be a part of an interview that took place at the EC-West office by ABC Kimberley regarding their views on the outcome of The Voice Referendum.

**[Click the link below to read:](#)**

**[Failed Voice to Parliament referendum 'reignites a flame' in Kimberley young Aboriginal leaders](#)**



## Community Healing Gathering

A Community Healing Gathering was held at Town Beach on the 19th of October 2023 for the community to restore hope through healing for the Voice Referendum.

Our staff of EC-West, Marty Sibosado and Quentin Turner were involved as guest speakers, sharing their wise words of hope and motivation to the Broome community.

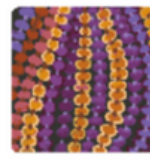
The event was sponsored by AKO Consultancy, Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation, Aarnja and EC-West to support 'bringing community members together following the Voice Referendum'.



Kimberley Stolen Generation  
Aboriginal Corporation



**AKO Consultancy**  
*'Achieve Key Outcomes'*



**Aarnja** Ltd



**West Kimberley Futures**  
EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES





# National Empowered Communities Leaders Summit

In December 2023, Aboriginal leaders representing all 10 Empowered Communities regions convened in Queensland to reflect on the 2015 Empowered Communities Design Report and devise a plan outlining priorities and necessary structural supports to drive sustained change and advance efforts towards closing the gap in our regions as we enter 2024. EC-West's strategic plan is crafted to align with the Empowered Communities Design Report principles and recommendations set forth by our national EC leaders, serving as a guiding roadmap and facilitates the implementation of localised approaches to address priorities aimed at improving outcomes across the West Kimberley region.

It's important to note that EC-West does not function as a funds holder nor does it directly deliver services into communities. Rather, EC-West fulfills its commitment to empowering and enhancing the well-being of our communities through its core functions of providing coordination, facilitation, co-design, and advocacy support, alongside assistance in monitoring and evaluation.

## 2023 EC-West Annual General Meeting

EC-West proudly convened its second Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 29 November, from 9 am to 12 pm, bringing together representatives from 14 member organisations. Demonstrating a proactive approach to risk mitigation, EC-West emphasised its commitment to addressing challenges through vigilant monitoring, robust stakeholder relations, and transparent communication. Our financial systems undergo rigorous independent audits to ensure strict compliance with regulations and standards, highlighting our dedication to responsible fund stewardship. To enhance adaptability and resilience, EC-West systematically evaluates its alignment with the Empowered Communities Design Report, ensuring seamless integration with its functions and collaborative initiatives. Utilising diverse communication channels, including Facebook, the official website, newsletters, and LinkedIn, EC-West ensures the transparent and timely dissemination of information.

EC-West actively seeks advice, direction and feedback through Local Management Committee meetings with our members, design committee meetings, Local Youth Advisory Committee's, JDM Panels, and surveys, fostering a participatory approach to decision-making and strategy development. Guided by overarching objectives focused on empowering Aboriginal individuals, families, and organisations, and reforming government decisions and policies, EC-West remains resolute in contributing to a coordinated approach to local priorities.

# Co-Design Success Project!

Since 2022, EC-West has been at the helm of the project, steering with a steady hand to coordinate, facilitate, advocate, and co-design alongside the community. Here, decision-making isn't a solitary pursuit; instead, it's a collective endeavor where every voice, especially those of Aboriginal community representatives, resonates powerfully.

The Night Space concept, born from the collective wisdom and recommendations of those involved on the design committee, forged through tireless dedication, found a home in a comprehensive Business Case, a testament to the power of community-driven solutions.

The business case was submitted by the Dept of Justice through the State Government budget processes in December 2022.

The 2023-24 State Budget process, where funding allocation to this project was announced, affirmed success in EC-West's unwavering commitment to amplifying the voices of those it serves, but EC-West's role transcends mere facilitation; it's the glue that binds disparate elements into a cohesive whole, ensuring effective collaboration between all parties involved. In September 2023, the Design Committee reconvened, breathing life into detailed plans for the Night Space pilot, designed to make a transformative impact in 2024.

As EC-West strides confidently into the future, it remains strong in its founding principles, guided by the Empowered Communities National Project and the EC Design Report. Through ongoing dialogue and reflective practice, it evolves, fortified by the unwavering commitment to progressing the priorities informed by communities across the West Kimberley, including youth safe spaces.

As discussions unfold and plans crystallize, one thing remains certain: the process of co-design for the Night Space project is a testament to the power of collective action and unwavering dedication to young people.

Thanks to EC-West's projects team, the design committee and everyone involved.



# UPCOMING EVENT/S



## EMPOWERED YOUNG LEADERS NEED YOU!!



Empowered Young Leaders have newly established and developing regional youth body 'Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation' is currently seeking young leaders to join the Local Youth Advisory Councils.

Local Youth Advisory Councils will be set up across the Kimberley for young leaders to voice their community concerns identifying the problem with solutions they see fit.

If you are a young person aged 15-35, wanting to make changes for youth in your community and live in one of the following locations: Kununurra, Broome, Wyndham, Halls Creek, Dampier Peninsula, Derby and Fitzroy Crossing.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT QUENTIN OR NATALYA:**



Empowered Young Leaders



Quentin.Turner@wkfec.org.au  
or  
Natalya.Turnbull@wkfec.org.au



(08) 9192-2894

## Expressions of Interest JOINT DECISION MAKING

Joint Decision-Making empowers Aboriginal community members to influence government-funded programs, ensuring that investments align with community needs. This community-led process actively involves Aboriginal voices, contributing to positive change and the vision of Closing the Gap by directly influencing the direction of Indigenous Advancement Strategy investments.



**COME HAVE YOUR SAY!**

### JDM Panel Dates:

- Fitzroy Crossing - 13 Feb 2024
- Broome - 22 Feb 2024
- Derby - 28 Feb 2024
- Dampier Peninsula - 5 March 2024

### Ways to Apply:

Call us at (08) 9192-2894 or  
Email [hazali.danna@wkfec.org.au](mailto:hazali.danna@wkfec.org.au) or  
go to our website <https://wkfec.org> to  
submit your EOI today!

All Kimberley Aboriginal people encouraged to  
submit an Expression of Interest

for further information or any questions please contact Hazali : 0458 375 794

# GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The NAIDOC 2024  
Local Grants

\$50,000

GRANT CLOSING DATE:  
22nd February 2024



Department of Planning,  
Lands and Heritage

## Applications now open for the Preserve, Promote and Protect our Aboriginal Sites Grants Program

Incorporated not-for-profit Aboriginal organisations are encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 (exclusive of GST) to support the protection, preservation and promotion of registered Aboriginal heritage sites.

Grants are available for physical on-the-ground works such as installing fences or signage, removing graffiti, site clean-up and remediation of sites.

### Applications close Friday 29 March 2024

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Sustainable long-term heritage benefits
- Public benefit and increased awareness of Aboriginal heritage
- Opportunities and benefits for Aboriginal people and organisations
- Primary use of funding for physical works
- Meeting eligibility guidelines.

To apply, ensure that you:

- Submit applications via email by Friday 29 March 2024
- Check that the Aboriginal heritage site is on the Register using the [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System](#)
- Attach written evidence of support from landowners or leaseholders, and relevant Aboriginal community organisations and Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate.

Before you submit your application, we highly recommend that you discuss your project with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's Grants Team or Regional Office.

For program guidelines, enquiries and applications contact:

Heritage Grants Officer	Local contact:
Tel: (08) 6551 8000	<b>Marani Grestorex</b>
Email: <a href="mailto:HeritageGrants@dph.wa.gov.au">HeritageGrants@dph.wa.gov.au</a>	Senior Heritage Officer
Website: <a href="http://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/grants-preserve-and-protect-aboriginal-sites">www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/grants-preserve-and-protect-aboriginal-sites</a>	Unit 2B/23 Coghlan Street Broome WA 6726
	Tel: 0447 868 061
	Email: <a href="mailto:Marani.Grestorex@dph.wa.gov.au">Marani.Grestorex@dph.wa.gov.au</a>



# CONTACT US



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