

KARI
FOUNDATION



KARI Foundation

Annual Report 2018-2019



Contents

Our Mission. Our Vision.	3
Chairperson Report	5
CEO Report	6
Board of Management Profiles	7
KARI Ambassadors	9
KARI Foundation Ltd Services	11
Service Structure	12
Our Values and Standards	13
Sport and Healthy Lifestyle	15
Education	24
Creative and Performing Arts	31
Family and Community	33
Marketing and Events	35
Cultural Unit	39
KARI Clinic	41



Our Mission. Our Vision.

KARI Foundation's purpose for the present

KARI Foundation's purpose is to build strength in families and services that are available to Indigenous youth and communities.

KARI Foundation's aims for the future

KARI Foundation aims to help Aboriginal families, youth and communities flourish.

KARI Foundation's Statement of Commitment to the local Community

KARI Foundation is committed to providing quality, sustainable services to Aboriginal communities, especially in the areas of Aboriginal community support programs.

We will continue to seek further opportunities to expand our programs and service delivery.

We will continue to develop local partnerships with our key stakeholders to enhance our resources and service delivery.

We will endeavour to deliver all our programs in a culturally appropriate manner and promote the ideals of self-determination.

The service will conduct itself in a professional manner, and deliver programs that are of a high standard and deliver good outcomes.

This will be achieved by adhering to quality policies and procedures, good recruitment practices, staff support, community involvement, maintaining partnerships as well as open communication.





BEST
KID

Chairperson Report



“ It will become a great success if we continue to work hard and engage like minded partners who share our vision. ”

Gary Potts,
KARI Foundation Ltd Chairperson

It is so pleasing to see the KARI Foundation be so successful at such an early stage of its development. I can only put this down to the hard work completed since its inception by our CEO Casey Ralph and by our Head of Partnerships, Marketing & Fundraising Cain Slater.

Both have worked tirelessly in the space of securing some very high-level partnerships as well as coordinating some truly spectacular events that showcased the Foundations core business charter.

It is here that I would like to sincerely thank all of our wonderful partners and likeminded friends for their great support of the KARI Foundation; without their support we would not have been able to achieve all that we have throughout the year and those achievements proved to be very substantial.

In terms of the Foundations future, it will become a great success if we continue to work hard and engage likeminded partners who share our vision. To this point and time, the partnerships that we have developed certainly do share our vision.

Finally, I would like to thank our community, our families and friends who have accessed our many Foundation programs and services. Please know that we exist to make a difference in your lives and to service you to the very best of our ability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Potts'.

Gary Potts
Chairperson



CEO Report



“ We have a vision whereby, day to day, Aboriginal people and communities flourish. We work towards achieving this vision with an underlying philosophy that culture drives change. ”

Casey Ralph,
KARI Foundation Ltd CEO

I am pleased to announce that the KARI Foundation has gone from strength to strength in the last twelve months expanding our operational reach to include programs in regional NSW and interstate.

The KARI Foundation aims to provide a service that works alongside children, youth and families to build their resilience, expose them to new experiences and ultimately feel and create a sense of belonging. We have a vision whereby, day to day, Aboriginal people and communities flourish. We work towards achieving this vision with an underlying philosophy that culture drives change.

Our core focus across 2018-19 was to establish the pillars that KARI Foundation intended to service. Seven pillars were endorsed by the Board of Management including:

- Culture
- Education
- Creative and Performing Arts
- Sport and Healthy Lifestyle
- Employment and Business Enterprise
- Families and Communities
- Leadership

Moving forward, we have set our sights high in regard to supporting service growth and achieving positive outcomes across all endorsed pillars. We look forward to securing additional partnerships that will allow us to strengthen and expand the good work we do for our community.

Our dedicated design and marketing team continued to further strengthen the brand of the KARI Foundation with increased social media broadcasting resulting in higher uptake of service programs and opening pathways for new clients.

I would like to thank the KARI Foundation Board of Management for your on-going support and guidance. The trust and faith you have in me to continue to lead KARI Foundation to success is greatly valued.

I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of Cain Slater who day in and day out strives to deliver the best possible outcomes for the KARI Foundation and ultimately our children, young people and their families. For your hard work and commitment, I say thank you.

Lastly, I want to thank every individual and every corporate entity who has commenced taking the journey with us. Our partnerships provide the platform to build a stronger and more united community for the future.

Yours Sincerely

Casey Ralph
Chief Executive Officer



Board of Management Profiles



Gary Potts
Chairperson

Gary, a Wiradjuri man originally from Parkes NSW, has spent the majority of his days in Campbelltown.

A proud father, grandfather and a devoted husband to his loving wife Debbie, Gary has been a leader in Aboriginal Affairs since 1992. He's held a number of positions on boards and committees in the Campbelltown/Liverpool areas and is currently employed with the NSW Department of Education, where he performs a crucial role as an Aboriginal Specialist.

Both Gary and Debbie know firsthand the trials and tribulations that come with being a foster carer; they also know the rewards. They themselves have been foster carers for a number of years.

Gary is honoured to be KARI's Chairperson and is thrilled to see the service grow to become a leader in the field of Aboriginal child protection, prevention and community capacity building.



Paul Ralph
Director

A founding member of KARI and former CEO, Paul is a proud Aboriginal man with family connections from both the North Coast and South Coast of NSW. For the past 35 years he has lived in Gandangara Country, South West Sydney.

During his professional career, Paul has worked across a number of important Aboriginal portfolios specific to employment outcomes, housing, education and human services. Such a position has given him the opportunity to visit many Aboriginal communities and witness firsthand the vast social issues affecting Indigenous Australians today – as well as the sheer resilience of the world's oldest living culture.

Since 1999, Paul has been committed to working exclusively in the Aboriginal community sector and has found this to be the most challenging and exciting time of his professional career.



Anne Martin
Director

Anne is a descendent of the Yuin people south of the coast of NSW and is currently residing in the ACT.

Anne has held a range of senior public and non-government sector roles across Indigenous affairs over the last 40 years, including the position of former co-chair of the National NAIDOC Committee.

Anne has always placed an emphasis on the health and well-being of Aboriginal youth, and has been instrumental in establishing innovative education programs that operate both nationally and locally.

Anne has worked on programs in South Africa, Israel, New Zealand and Canada.



Isabelle Phillips
Director

Isabelle Phillips is a leadership expert, Founder of consultancy firm Mackerel Sky – Leadership Matters and Co-Founder of Mindfulness for the Global Village. Her enterprise work focuses on assisting leaders to create spaces for workforce populations to flourish and thrive.

Isabelle has a powerful track record actively supporting Aboriginal Australians in the workplace. She also brings the business case for diversity and inclusion to her government and corporate client base.

Isabelle is currently completing a PhD in Mindful Leadership.

Isabelle holds non-executive director roles in the NFP and Foundation sectors. She enjoys lecturing in Positive Psychology, Mindfulness and Leadership at the the UTS Business School. She is a seasoned speaker, master trainer and expert coach.



Stephen Ella
Director

Stephen is an Aboriginal man from the Yuin Nation on the South Coast of NSW however grew up in the Aboriginal community of La Perouse. Stephen is the Manager of Nunyara Aboriginal Health Unit for the Central Coast Local Health District; has a 20 year background in Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol work and was inducted into the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Honour Roll in 2012 at the National Indigenous Drug Alcohol conference in Fremantle. He was awarded the First Peoples award at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) conference in Brisbane in 2013.

Stephen is a member of the NSW Health Aboriginal Directors and Managers Strategic Leadership Group and previously lectured at Sydney University as an Adjunct lecturer. Stephen has also co-authored a handbook for Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Work and is an Associate Investigator with the Centre of Research Excellence Indigenous Health and Alcohol Research.



Casey Ralph
CEO

Casey is a proud Aboriginal woman with connections to the North and South Coasts of NSW. She has spent the majority of her life living on Gandangara Country in South Western Sydney.

Casey started her career working in education and in 2005 transitioned to working within the community welfare sector. She is now the current CEO of both KARI Ltd and KARI Foundation Ltd.

Casey is passionate about ensuring that Aboriginal children, families and communities have every opportunity afforded to them and is committed to designing and implementing innovative programs that empower, support and enhance skill development.

KARI Ambassadors



Ray Hadley
OAM

Ray Hadley works tirelessly to bring his listeners an informative and entertaining Morning Show from Monday to Friday. He has rated number one in Sydney since 2004, and is now heard every weekday morning on 4BC in Brisbane and dozens of network stations right across Australia.

On Saturdays, during the NRL season, his Continuous Call Team remains unbeaten since 1992, and has continued to dominate the ratings since joining 2GB in 2002.

Ray has won 30 Australian Commercial Radio Awards (ACRAs), recognising everything from his sports presenting skills – including NRL Grand Finals and the Olympics to his ongoing success commenting on news and current affairs to a national audience. In 2017 he was inducted to the ACRA Hall of Fame. Ray is the most awarded broadcaster in the history of the ACRAs.

“From the very first time I attended the KARI offices, I knew it was an organisation I had to support. In my opinion, Family and Community Services should utilise the KARI model across the state. This is for one reason. It works!”

Ray Hadley, OAM



Laurie Daley

Laurie Daley officially signed with KARI as a Community Ambassador in 2018. Laurie Daley will not only help promote the Foundation's positive work, he will also promote Indigenous excellence at a national level. Laurie's values and behaviour align with everything that KARI Ltd and the KARI Foundation stand for. He demonstrated this throughout his rugby league career, which has continued in his career in the media and coaching following his retirement.



Beau Champion

Beau Champion played NRL for the South Sydney Rabbitohs as well as the Parramatta Eels. He is also a proud Aboriginal man who's committed to giving back to the community through his position as a role model. He strives to be a positive influence and help young people tackle tough times not too dissimilar to those he's experienced in his own life.

After becoming a KARI Ambassador in 2015, Beau hopes to make a real change by working alongside the Community Programs team as a mentor for KARI Scholarship holders in years 11 and 12.



Harley Windsor

Harley Windsor is an Australian pair skater. With his skating partner, Ekaterina Alexandrovskaya, he is the 2017 CS Tallinn Trophy Champion, the 2017 CS Nebelhorn Trophy bronze medalist and a two-time Australian National Champion (2016, 2018).

On the junior level, he is the 2017 World Junior Champion, the 2017 Junior Grand Prix Final Champion, the 2016 JGP Estonia Champion and the 2017 JGP Latvia champion.

Harley became a KARI Ambassador in 2018 and has a commitment and passion for youth driven programs and initiatives.

KARI Foundation Ltd Services

Partnership exploration

Where possible, we will seek opportunities to develop key relationships with a variety of corporates, agencies, funding bodies or groups in an effort to provide better outcomes for our clients and community.

Prevention

Our prevention services target Aboriginal youth, families, groups and communities.

This is done through programs and initiatives that are culturally appropriate and build capacity in individuals, families and communities.

Aboriginal advocacy

We continue to provide an advocacy support role to our community to ensure they are assisted in an appropriate manner.

We will advocate in a positive and professional manner on any matters or issues relevant to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Promoting community and cultural awareness

Where appropriate, we will ensure that cultural awareness is prevalent within our service model.

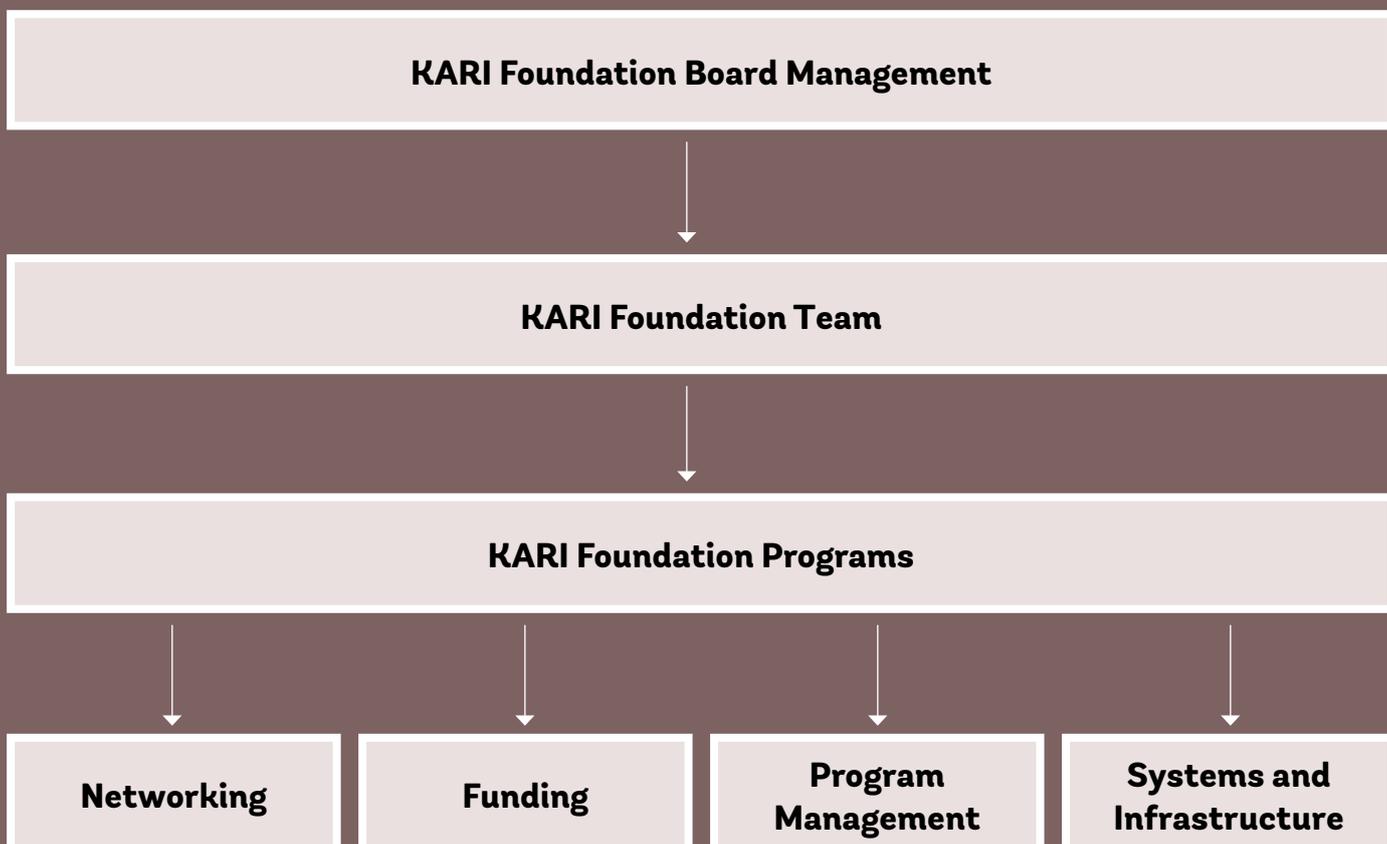
We will always proudly promote local Indigenous culture, history and values through the coordination and participation of community events.

Community Programs initiatives

Our community programs target Aboriginal youth, families, groups and businesses.



Service Structure



Our Values and Standards

<p>Courtesy and respect</p> <p>Your views and needs are important to us and in return, you can expect our respect, professionalism, objectivity and confidentiality. You will be assisted by a polite, responsive and knowledgeable employee.</p>	<p>Fairness</p> <p>Our services will be objective, irrespective of the role you play in the service's activities. This is also regardless of culture, race, colour, origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.</p>	<p>Clarity</p> <p>We will clearly explain to you what we do, how our programs work and who to contact for further assistance. If our information is unclear, tell us so we can make it clearer for you.</p>
<p>Accessibility</p> <p>We are available to serve you and talk to individuals and organisations about our programs. Just contact us by phone, email, fax or our social media pages.</p>	<p>Responsiveness</p> <p>We will continue to seek your views, attempt to address your needs and take action based on them where appropriate. If you are not satisfied with any aspect of our service, programs or initiatives, tell us so we can continue to improve.</p>	<p>Advocacy</p> <p>We will always endeavour to advocate on behalf of the Aboriginal community where appropriate and possible. Our advocacy will ensure that Aboriginal views, concerns and feelings are heard and acknowledged.</p>





Sport and Healthy Lifestyle

KARI Foundation and Wests Tigers Elite Pathways Camp 2018

KARI Foundation and the Wests Tigers held its inaugural Elite Pathways Camp for a select group of Aboriginal youth in July 2018.

The Elite Pathways Camp consisted of a week-long schedule of activities, including fitness testing, practicing specific skills utilised in rugby league and educating the young people on their culture and what it takes to be an effective leader.



Culture is a core component of the program

Shaun Spence, from the Wests Tigers, took them through extensive training drills in order to further their player development.

They were taken through a number of drills where they practiced skills such as tackling and passing. However, one of the most important things they were taught, was how to work as a team.

Beau Champion, KARI Foundation Ambassador, took the young people through some goal setting exercises and focused workshops on how important it is to set goals in order to progress in both the game and their life off the rugby league field.

A core component of the program is immersing the participants in their culture. Aside from robust discussion about each of their cultural identities the young men had the opportunity to learn about the art of boomerang carving. With some guidance from KARI Cultural Unit Manager Troy Dargan they were successfully able to produce a finished product they were incredibly proud of.

Dean Widders, NRL Indigenous Pathways Manager, was a special guest who took the time to teach the young people the Indigenous War Cry. This is the same War Cry that is performed by the NRL Indigenous All Stars each year. The young people were able to use their hand made Boomerangs during their performance before the Tigers vs. Rabbitohs match at ANZ Stadium. It was a powerful performance and a very exciting conclusion for the boys who attended the camp.



Participants put their skills on show



Camp participants with Ron Palmer



Koori Knockout Sponsorship 2018

The KARI Foundation was proud to support a number of teams in attendance at the 2018 NSW Koori Knockout competition. Thousands of people headed out to Dubbo to participate and spectate at one of the biggest competitions in the community event calendar.

The Knockout Competition presents a fantastic opportunity for Aboriginal communities to come together as well as showcase their skills in rugby league.

KARI Foundation sponsored a variety of teams in partnership with Classic Sportswear. As the game was broadcast via NITV, the KARI Foundation supported teams and their jerseys were showcased nationwide.



Uniforms displayed community pride

La Perouse Panthers and the Newcastle All Blacks made the Men's Grand Final, with the former coming out triumphant as the competitions overall winner.



Dubbo hosted another fantastic weekend of rugby league for communities across NSW



Action on the field

Other competition results were:

Division - Winners

Under 17s Boys - Western Koori Eels

Womens - Newcastle Yowies

Mens - Newcastle All Blacks

KARI Foundation are proud that the Indigenous community could come together for another successful Knockout. We look forward to supporting more teams in years to come.

One team wrote to KARI Foundation post the event to thank us for the support;

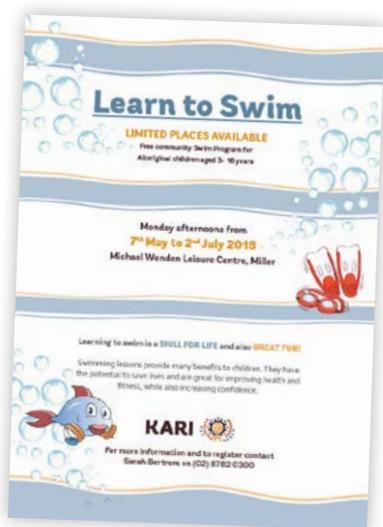
"We cannot thank you enough for allowing us the chance to help our young ones get on the field and involved in a great weekend"



Swimming Programs

Learn to Swim

KARI Foundation's Community Swim Program is a learn to swim initiative targeted towards Aboriginal children between the ages of 4-16 years. The aim of the program is to increase water safety, confidence and to teach water wise skills. This program is designed to run for a term of 10 weeks (one lesson per week). This is a free program for Aboriginal children in the community to learn, enhance or build on their current swimming ability.



Learn to Swim Flyer 2018

This program is advertised via our social media and interagency networks. The program has established a healthy waitlist, proving that learn to swim programs are not only needed by the community but highly sought after by parents and care givers.

Facilitating this program at Michael Wenden Leisure Centre, Miller proved to be highly successful with a total of 80 children completing the program this year. Participants and families also commented positively on the resources KARI Foundation provided during this time, that being a custom swim bag complete with goggles and swim cap.

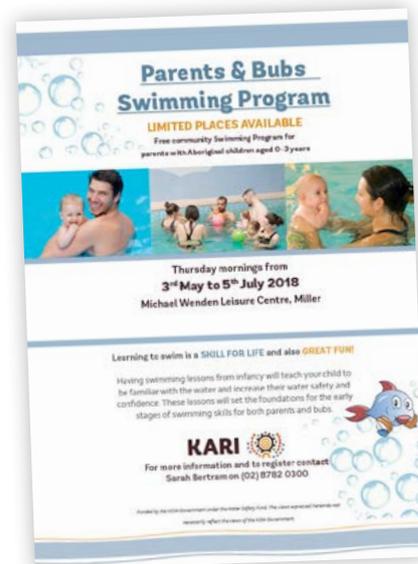
This program will continue to run due to community demand, its popularity and positive outcomes.



Parents and Bubs Program

In addition to the continued roll out of our Learn to Swim Program, we also introduced the Parents and Bubs Program to the community.

Funded by the NSW Government Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management for a period of 3 years (2017-2020) the KARI Community Parents and Bubs Swimming Program is designed to offer free swimming lessons to mums and dads with Aboriginal children aged 0-3 in the South West Sydney area.



Parents and Bubs Flyer 2018

Participants attended weekly classes under the instruction of a professional swimming instructor. The classes were broken up to facilitate groups of five families per ½ hour session. This allowed the swim instructor to give each participant equal attention, assistance where needed and answer any concerns and queries from parents.

The program overall achieved its objective to teach water familiarisation, increase water safety, confidence and to set the foundation for early stages of swim skill and ability for both parents and baby.



Lloyd McDermott Ella 7s Tournament 2019

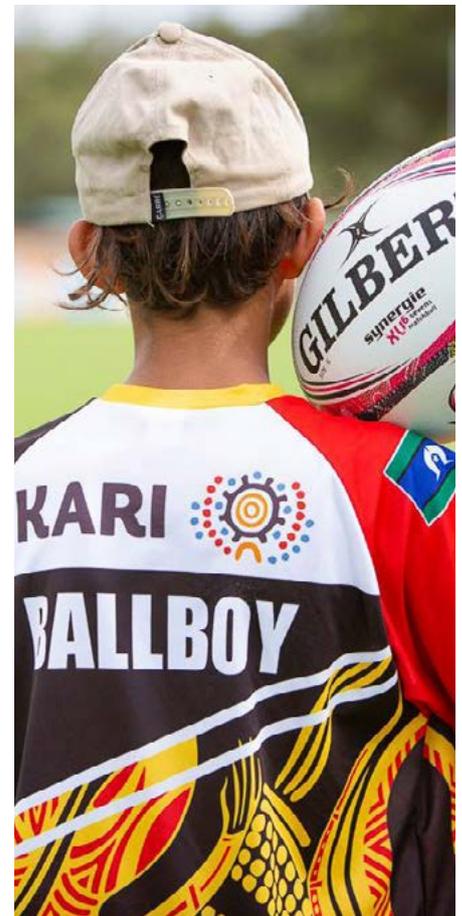
Lloyd McDermott's KARI Ella 7s tournament took place over the weekend, March 1st - 2nd for its 11th consecutive year. This tournament showcases talent as well as the culture of Indigenous communities who participate in the Rugby Union tournament.

Held at C.ex Coffs International Stadium in Coffs Harbour, the tournament started on Friday night with the women's competition. A total of ten women's teams participated in the event that saw the Highlanders defeating Mob Deep, taking out the title of tournament champions.

A total of 28 men's teams spread across seven pools competed for the title of Ella 7s champions. In what was an intense match, the Southern Kings triumphed over Bourke Warriors 10-7, to secure the tournament trophy.

The tournament is a key marketing tool to bring the game of 7s to the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with a large number of male and female players going on to represent the Australian 7s Program.

KARI Foundation are proud to be involved in an event that allows the Indigenous community to show pride in their culture whilst playing a sport they love. It is a pathway to professional Rugby Union that allows the community to showcase their excellence.



Smiles on and off the field at this year's Ella 7s Tournament

"Once again we were very proud to be the major sponsor for the Ella 7s 2019 tournament. This year we saw more teams participate and the standard of play was again of a very high standard. One most pleasing aspect of this event is the great community spirit and respect shown towards all teams and each other. We are now looking forward to next year."

KARI Founder, Paul Ralph



2019 Indigenous All Stars

The annual 2019 Harvey Norman All Stars match took place at Melbourne's AAMI Park on Friday 15th February 2019.

The Women's Indigenous All Stars match was taken out by the New Zealand Ferns in a thrilling 8-4 win. The game highlighted what promises to be another stellar year in the Women's NRL Premiership.

In what was a final battle of the cultures, the Australian Indigenous All Stars triumphantly defeated the New Zealand Maori Kiwis, 34-14. Despite both sides being incredibly competitive, it was a remarkable scene to see a marriage of cultures, history and community on the field for one night.

The match presented an opportunity for a week of cultural activities to be enjoyed by players as well as the community.

KARI Foundation were major sponsors for the Australian Indigenous All Stars and were given access to training sessions and exclusive behind the scenes access of the week's activities ahead of the official match. Thanks to the All Stars Women's coach Dean Widders, KARI Foundation were given the opportunity to attend the All Stars women's first training session after touching down in Melbourne. The women put an immense amount of effort into each session in preparation for the game.

Cody Walker and Rebecca Young were announced as the captains for their respective teams. Both Cody and Rebecca were given the great opportunity of representing their culture in a way not many get the chance to experience.

The official jersey presentation took place in a public display so fans could cheer on their respective teams. KARI Foundation CEO Casey Ralph was honoured to stand alongside KARI Founder Paul Ralph, who each presented the Women's and Men's Indigenous All Stars their jerseys. This presentation further cemented the monumental occasion of KARI Foundation appearing as the major sponsor for both teams.

While both teams were working hard in preparation for the big match on Friday night, a select group of youth were invited to attend a week-long Youth Summit.

The summit provided youth with opportunities to meet the players, while learning more about their culture. The youth summit consisted of an amazing race, where participants roamed Melbourne, visiting historical places that were significant to Indigenous culture. Activities also included dot painting, team building games as well as a workout each morning to engage the young people and prepare them for the day.

"It was really cool, different to what I expected it to be but it was really exciting. Going to the game and doing the coin toss was definitely my favourite part of the week." - Holli

"It was really good, it was great to meet the two captains and being able to go onto the field, I really enjoyed it." - Amy

Not only did this week provide fun ways to learn more about their culture, but the participants also got to interact with players from both teams.

Two of KARI Foundation's nominated participants, Holli Harrington and Amy Clancy, were given the honour of conducting the coin toss for the men's All Stars match.



All Stars week celebrates culture and places it front and centre on the National Rugby League stage



2018 Origin Series and NSWRL Partnership

The New South Wales Rugby League and KARI Foundation have strengthened their relationship, with KARI Foundation signing on to a long-term partnership in the NSWRL Centre of Excellence, located in Sydney's Olympic Park, Homebush.

This year we celebrated the success of our top Indigenous players and their selection for the 2018 squad. Josh Addo-Carr and Latrell Mitchell were among the try scorers for the night. Alongside James Roberts and Tyrone Peachey, the NSW Blues were unstoppable. The second game of the series was captivating and the NSW Blues claimed victory over Queensland 18-14, giving them a well-deserved 2018 Origin Series win.

KARI Foundation are incredibly proud of the achievements of all players selected for the 2018 Origin series and in particular the four Indigenous players who continue to set the bar for young players coming through rugby leagues pathways.



This year's Origin series gave the Aboriginal Community some extra cheer power!

Sydney Roosters Women's NRL Squad

KARI Foundation were delighted to be partnered with the Sydney Roosters for the clubs inaugural Women's National Rugby League (WNRL) season.

KARI Foundation is proud to be a supporter of the Sydney Roosters and Women in League

- Brisbane Broncos
- New Zealand Warriors
- St George Illawarra Dragons

KARI Foundation's community partnership with the Sydney Roosters continues to grow from strength to strength, with the establishment of the Women's Rugby League team. This gives KARI Foundation and the Sydney Roosters the opportunity to promote the talent of young women in rugby league and provide a tangible pathway for Indigenous players.

On Tuesday the 28th of August 2018 the Sydney Roosters named their first ever WNRL team:

1. Corban McGregor
2. Eliana Walton
3. Isabelle Kelly
4. Karina Brown
5. Kylie Hilder
6. Lavina O'Mealey
7. Maddie Studdon
8. Nakia Davis-Welsh
9. Ruan Sims
10. Shontelle Stowers
11. Simaima Taufua (c)
12. Taleena Simon
13. Vanessa Foliaki
14. Zahara Temara
15. Brydie Parker
16. Chloe Caldwell
17. Kandy Kennedy
18. Nita Maynard
19. Sarah Togatuki
20. Sharon McGrady
21. Tamzin Gray
22. Victoria Latu

"The WNRL provides an opportunity for young women to showcase their skills and passion for rugby league. This will be the backbone to open greater pathways for women in rugby league and hopefully one day see a female NRL coach"

Casey Ralph
KARI Foundation CEO



The first Sydney Roosters Women's NRL squad

Club Menangle Indigenous Driver Series

KARI Foundation's commitment to encouraging and showcasing Aboriginal excellence and opportunity shined again with our partnership with Club Menangle. 2018 saw the J.C. CAFFYN PLATE Indigenous Drivers Series grow to three heats across four locations in NSW.

The 2018 qualifying series was held in Wagga Wagga (28th Sept), Maitland (12th Oct) and Parkes (14th Oct). The final was held at Club Menangle, Racecourse Avenue, Menangle Park NSW on Sunday 28th October 2018.



Our partnership with Club Menangle has raised the profile of Harness Racing in Aboriginal Communities

2018 really showcased the collective effort of both Club Menangle and KARI Foundation with each Club hosting the J.C. Caffyn series qualifying heats including a cultural component to their race day.

This celebration gained further momentum, as on 28th October 2018 Club Menangle and KARI Foundation hosted an inclusive cultural, employment and activities day. Club Menangle offered the public free access to this race day for all to enjoy, participate and learn about Aboriginal culture.

All participating drivers were presented their silks as well as a specially designed polo from KARI Foundation.

"Our partnership with Club Menangle is growing from strength to strength each year. Each paceway, with a commitment to the Indigenous Drivers series, will be conducting a special acknowledgement to Indigenous participation at their race meets. HRNSW and Club Menangle will also have employment opportunities and activities all day during the final at Club Menangle.

I encourage members of the public to join KARI Foundation and Club Menangle in celebrating as well as participating in Aboriginal culture."

Cain Slater, Head of Partnerships, Marketing and Fundraising, KARI Foundation

The final of the KARI Foundation JC Caffyn Plate Series consisted of the following drivers:

- **Passions Delight** - Courtney Sutherland
- **Arcachon** - Matt Coffee
- **Rolling Along** - Jess Prior
- **Power Surge** - Hayden Green
- **Blue Moon Rising** - Damien Smith
- **Corbie Bolt** - Jimmy 'The Legend' Brown
- **A Sweet Success** - Jack Wade
- **Italian Delight** - Bruce O'Brien
- **Ballymore Boy** - McKayler Barnes
- **Heza Bromac** - Josh Aiken

Together with Club Menangle, KARI Foundation are proud to see the Indigenous community embrace harness racing. It was a fantastic season and we are looking forward to future events for this great sport.

Education

Scholarship Program

Across 2018-19 KARI Foundation has continued our commitment to assisting young people completing the Higher School Certificate with KARI Foundation's Scholarship Program. The program was developed to provide financial assistance as well as opportunities for wellbeing support and mentoring.

The KARI Foundation Scholarship Program is aimed at Year 11 and 12 students across the South West Sydney and Western Sydney regions. Our scholarship students have access to opportunities for social and recreational activities and the chance to attend a number of KARI Foundation-related educational events such as one day workshops, forums and camps. Scholarship students also participate in workshops presented by tertiary education and employment providers.

Our scholarships cover the costs of study such as buying uniforms, text books, stationery, school excursions and more. Our scholarships are based on the merit of each individual applicant; we assess the applicant's commitment and attitude to their studies and the benefit that a scholarship would provide them in the completion of their Higher School Certificate.

This program recognises that the education sphere is an area where Aboriginal people have consistently suffered from the effects of underachievement.

Current evidence reveals that the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal completion of year 12 is widening. Our program seeks to actively close this gap.

Regular correspondence with students and their teachers, as well as report assessments help to measure and ensure ongoing success and engagement.

This year KARI Foundation provided support to 135 young people through this program with ambitions to further our reach into more communities in the near future.

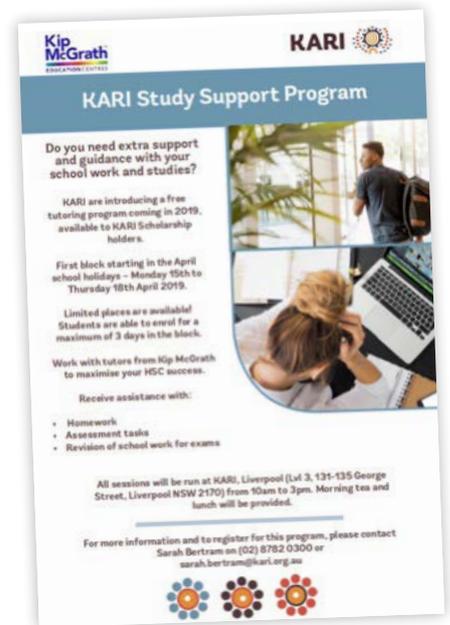
Scholarship Study Program

In partnership with Kip McGrath Education Centres, KARI Foundation offered current Scholarship holders an opportunity to participate in our first Study Support Program. Students were invited to come into KARI's Liverpool office during the first week of the April school holidays, where they were able to access tutors from Kip McGrath for assistance with school work, homework and exam preparation.

This program was activated due to the number of young people across our education support programs requesting assistance with at-home tuition. Data taken from our scholarship program has found that tutoring can become costly, and is an outlay that can easily expend our students' funds. This program was created to alleviate that cost and to ensure that tuition can be easily accessed by all students.

Aside from tuition, this program also offers students a quiet space to catch up on school work, with little to no distractions.

We provide a safe and comfortable environment for scholarship students to ask questions, or go about their work at their own pace. It is ultimately a space away from home where they can focus solely on getting work done.



KARI Study Support Program Flyer

"The Study Support Program gives our scholarship students an opportunity to engage with professional tutors and receive assistance in areas of their school work where they may be struggling.

We hope that this program will relieve some stress for our students and help improve their results at school. For some, this program simply offered a quiet and supportive environment for them to study and complete assessments".

Sarah Bertram, Community Programs Project Officer

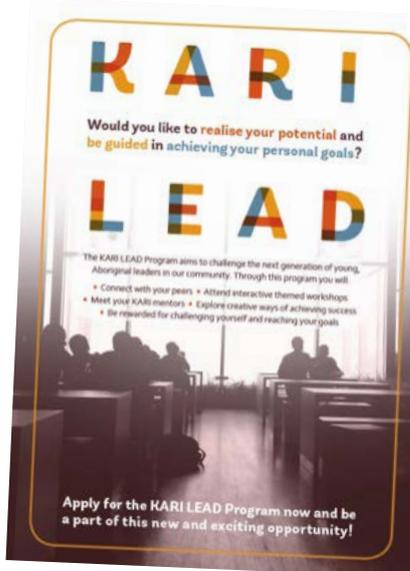




HSBC LEAD Program

The HSBC LEAD Program ensures that the importance of education is recognised, not only by KARI Foundation but by HSBC as well.

The program allows a selected group of Year 11 and 12 students financial aid, mentoring and leadership support to ensure that they get the best outcomes for their education and reach any goals that they may set.



KARI Foundation LEAD Flyer

There are three workshops that are held throughout the year that focus on different themes, such as:

- Resilience
- Leadership
- Milestone mapping and goal setting

Workshops are facilitated by KARI Foundation Ambassador Beau Champion and members of the Community Programs team who have the relevant training, experience and passion to work with young people in their communities.

Optus Scholarship Program

This year KARI Foundation were proud and excited to announce the launch of the Optus KARI Foundation Scholarship Program for Indigenous students. This 12-month pilot program allowed students to work in collaboration with Optus.



KARI Foundation and Optus were each excited to be working together to create 'Yes' moments for these Indigenous students, with a variety of workshops and assistance from their assigned Optus mentors.

"Optus is a company that has a social conscience. We both share community values and are excited to establish this partnership and grow towards the future" said KARI Foundation CEO Casey Ralph.

As a part of Optus' commitment to helping disadvantaged and vulnerable youth achieve, thrive and belong, this scholarship supported Aboriginal youth through the final years of high school. Throughout this program, students attended a variety of workshops canvassing the fast moving online world and what it means for our young people as they move forward onto further study and/or fulltime employment.

The workshops supported young people to be safe and to create positive and responsible online identities. It supports Optus' digital citizenship mission to create empowered and responsible digital citizens who thrive in today's world of technology.

Optus also provided the opportunity for our young people to expand their knowledge and set personal goals, with help from their mentors.

Students also experienced a day in the life of their mentor, providing them with insight into the working experience within human resources.



Optus provide 'Yes' moments to Aboriginal students in our communities



Students tour the Optus campus

"At Optus we are committed to helping today's youth reach their full potential.

We believe that every young person should have access to a good education and employment opportunities regardless of background and where they live.

I am proud of our partnership with KARI Foundation where we will help support Indigenous youth through mentoring and skills training workshops to assist them in achieving their goals."

Vaughan Paul, Optus VP of Digital Consumer and Human Resources

KARI Foundation and Optus have worked together to provide these scholarship holders with the knowledge required to succeed in life after high school.

KARI Foundation would like to express how grateful we are to Optus for providing our young people with the opportunity to enhance their skills for life after high school.

Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards 2018

KARI Foundation supported the 2018 Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards by sponsoring the KARI Foundation All Rounder Initiative Award.

The South West Sydney Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards is an annual event that showcases the achievements of Aboriginal students.

One student from the years K - 12 received the annual award. In order to be considered for the award, the student recipient must display achievements in all areas of their learning. They are selected by panel from nominations sent in by teachers throughout the year.



We encourage our students in Public Education schools to aim high and reward them for their efforts!



'The women in my life past and present' - Faith Plumb - Whitton



Students can be nominated for a range of categories, which include:

- Culture, Courage And Commitment
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Sporting Achievements
- Attendance
- Leadership, Citizenship And Community Services
- Creative And Performing Arts
- Community Acknowledgement

KARI Foundation also committed an Eckersley's Art Supplies gift card to the winner of the 2018 South West Sydney Region art competition; Faith Plumb-Whitton, a talented Year 8 student from Holsworthy High School received the gift card.



Art supplies from Eckersley's

Winners for the 2018 KARI Foundation All Rounder Awards were:

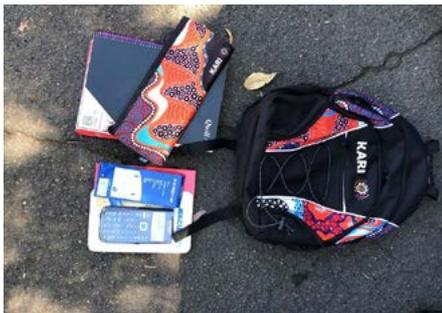
- **George De Villiers**
Holsworthy Public School
- **Taleah Riley**
Sackville Street Public School
- **Charlie Dodd**
Thomas Acres Public School
- **Mahlee Sainsbury**
Thomas Acres Public School
- **Jorja Smith**
Thomas Acres Public School
- **Shanika Pierce**
Prestons Public School
- **Shakaya Purcell**
Beverly Hills Girls High
- **Shakiyah'j Rankin**
Miller Technology High School
- **Sally McPherson**
Miller Technology High School
- **Brayden Collis**
Miller Technology High School
- **Emma-Leigh McGuinness**
Redfern High School

Transition to High School Back Pack Launch 2018

In continued partnership with School Services NSW the 2018 Transition to High School Backpack launch began in the last week of December 2018. With the success of our 2017 drive KARI Foundation continued this program due to its outcomes and overwhelming demand from community.

Schools within the Ultimo/City districts were the first to receive this year's backpacks with distribution days held across the region at the following locations; Arncliffe Education Office, Alexandria Park Community School and Matraville Sports High School.

Across the region, 470 backpacks were distributed with the demand higher than ever, cementing the ongoing success of this project.



Student with their Transition to High School Backpack



KARI Foundation Chairman Gary Potts is a strong advocate for programs providing support to students' in Public Education Schools



Partnership Programs

The KARI Community Programs team encourages individuals and organisations to bring forward fresh and exciting programs and initiatives to better their community.

This ensures that our programs are community led and are reflective of community needs. In order to ascertain this, the Community Programs team undertakes a process of engaging with the applicant and assessing the proposed program initiative. This ensures that all KARI Community Programs are carefully targeted outcome-based initiatives.

In 2018-19 KARI Foundation supported the following community led initiatives;

- *Mil-Pra Awards 2018*
- *Campbelltown Debutante Ball*

Dreamtime Awards Sponsorship

The National Dreamtime Awards, known simply as the Dreamtime Awards, are an annual celebration of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander achievement in sport, arts, academics and community. KARI Foundation are an inaugural partner of the Dreamtime Awards, which continued in 2018 with the event held again at The Star in the Sydney. Again the 2018 Dreamtime awards showcased amazing Indigenous talent with headline acts include Archie Roach, Christine Anu and Baker Boy.



Community Person Uncle Steve 'Bear' Hall



Community Organisation
Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service

The following individuals and organisations were awarded prizes in their various categories:

- **Dreamtime Person of the Year**
Bruce Pascoe
- **Dreamtime Lifetime Achievement**
Archie Roach
- **Dreamtime Elder**
Aunty Thelma Weston
- **Male Music Artist**
Baker Boy
- **Female Music Artist**
Mojo Juju
- **Male Actor**
Baykali Ganambarr
- **Female Actor**
Leah Purcell
- **Media Person of the Year**
Allan Clarke
- **Male Sportsperson**
Latrell Mitchell
- **Female Sportsperson**
Ashleigh Barty
- **International Sportsperson**
Tai Tuivasa
- **Best New Sports Talent**
Harley Windsor
- **Community Person**
Uncle Steve 'Bear' Hall
- **Business of the Year**
Red Centre Enterprises
- **Community Organisation**
Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service
- **Educator of the Year**
Nicole Watson
- **Educational Institute of the Year**
NAISDA Dance College
- **Student of the Year**
Ashley Walker



Student of the Year
Ashley Walker



Creative and Performing Arts

KARI Singers and Vocal Identification Program (VIP)

The Creative and Performing Arts portfolio continues to evolve at KARI Foundation as our talented performers grow in size via our VIP Program and further polish their performance skills as part of our Alumni Program.

The VIP Program continued to gain momentum this year, culminating in a showcase concert to mark the end of the program. Family and friends of the students, special guests from collaborating organisations and teachers and staff from the students' respective schools attended the 2018 concert. Nineteen students performed at the end of year showcase. Each student performed a solo item and participated in a group performance of 'This is Me', from the musical film 'The Greatest Showman' that commanded a standing ovation from the attending crowd.

The KARI Singers continued to be in demand as they performed at a number of corporate and community gigs during the 2018-19 period. The KARI Singers comprises outstanding past graduates of the VIP Program. This group of seasoned, young Indigenous vocalists pride themselves on providing professional, high quality performances tailored to their audience. The group gives audiences the experience of their unique sound and performance style offering well-known Indigenous songs as well as modern pieces with a cultural flare.

At a number of these events, the KARI Singers have had the opportunity to share the stage with some of Australia's most renowned artists including Christine Anu, Dami Im, Conrad Sewell, Jon Stevens, Guy Sebastian and Yothu Yindi.

The KARI Singers have performed at many prestigious corporate and community events around NSW. These have recently included:

- **Australia Day Luncheon 2019** – Corporate Club Australia
- **Australia Day Concert 2019** – Sydney Opera House
- **NRL State of Origin 2018 Game 2** – ANZ Stadium
- **Suncorp Super Netball Indigenous Round 2018** Qudos Bank Arena
- **KARI NAIDOC Luncheon 2018**
- **Optus NAIDOC Celebrations 2018**
- **Government House Sing-A-Long**
- **PBR Australia World Championships** Qudos Bank Arena
- **Government House Flag Raising Ceremony**
- **2018 NSW Champions of Sport Ceremony**



The VIP Program and KARI Singers continue to attract demand from corporate and community alike



Australia Day Luncheon and Concert Performance

KARI Foundation's relationship with Corporate Club Australia (CCA) continues to grow as the organisation again played an integral role across Australia Day 2019. The celebrations began with CCA's Annual Australia Day luncheon on 18th January at the International Convention Centre Sydney.

Supported by KARI Foundation and Australia Post, the luncheon saw over 800 corporate guests attend this prestigious event in order to celebrate our achievements as a nation.

Hosted by Adam Spencer, the luncheon included guest speakers such as Premier of NSW, The Hon Gladys Berejiklian.

KARI Foundation CEO Casey Ralph addressed the crowd, speaking of the importance of the partnership with CCA and uniting as a nation to celebrate together, before introducing NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian.

The KARI Singers gave a historic performance to the crowd with their rendition of Yothu Yindi's 'World Turning'. Later on they were delighted to perform alongside Jon Stevens, as they sang INXS song, 'Burn For You'.

It was with immense pride in their culture and nation that the KARI Singers concluded the lunch with the National Anthem in Darug language, as well as English. Their performance was outstanding and gained applause from the entire room.



The KARI Singers atop the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge

The Australia Day celebrations continued on the steps of the Sydney Opera House, where an array of Australian artists performed in celebration of Australia.

The line-up of Australian artists included the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Jon Stevens and Yothu Yindi and the Treaty Project as well as our very own KARI Singers.

Our KARI Singers represented their culture strongly when performing the National Anthem in language. They were then joined by fellow Australian artists to perform the anthem in English.

KARI Foundation continues to lead the way as the only Indigenous organisation to participate in the Australia Day Program, as CCA's official Community Partner. We are proud to have played a significant role in the program again in 2019.

Once again, CCA organised an outstanding series of events for Australia to express our national pride. KARI Foundation's partnership with CCA will only continue to grow and drive positive change to the Indigenous community.



The KARI Singers performing at ICC Sydney



Family and Community

WestConnex Indigenous Driving Program

KARI Foundation were overwhelmed with the response we received from the Indigenous community when we launched the WestConnex Indigenous Driving Program.

The WestConnex Indigenous Driving Program aims to give young people who have limited or no access to family support the opportunity to gain their learner driver license and complete practical driver hours whilst on their learner's licence.

This program is a vital community tool as it allows young people the opportunity to gain independence, also allowing them to seek out full time employment.

The first stage of the 2019 program has seen KARI Foundation provide group classes to Indigenous young people, hopeful to attain their learner's permit. Our participants were taken through a five week course, where they were taught basic road rules, the dangers of using alcohol and drugs and how to navigate peer pressure.

After the completion of the five week course, participants sat for their L's test, in order to obtain their learner's permit. Once this was achieved with assistance from KARI Foundation, they were ready to commence practical driving lessons.

As a part of our program, KARI Foundation have been able to provide financial assistance to those seeking driving lessons. This enables participants to gain support from KARI Foundation, for the full length of their journey to getting their provisional licence.

We look forward to seeing how our participants progress as they move forward on their journey to independence.

"Our commitment to the WestConnex Indigenous Driving Program is one way the WestConnex Project aims to enhance long-term outcomes for communities in Western Sydney and leave a lasting legacy. We know having a driver licence increases one's ability to access education, training and employment opportunities.

For example, a valid driver licence was a prerequisite for the intake of applicants for the WestConnex Pre-Employment Training Programs Indigenous cohort, so we realise how important this skill is. We are thrilled to partner with KARI Foundation to deliver this important initiative and congratulate all the applicants who have already started the program!"

Brooke Cocks, WestConnex



KARI Foundation and WestConnex provide assistance to young people practicing their online Learner Driver Test

2018 Elders Hamper Drive

KARI Foundation has made an ongoing commitment to supporting our Elders across communities in Liverpool, Bankstown, La Perouse, Campbelltown, Penrith and surrounds.

We recognise that the Christmas and New Year period can often be a time of struggle for many of our Elder community members and to support this we provide pre-packed food hampers to registered Elders in our community.

The KARI Foundation team source a variety of food goods and package them together for delivery direct to the Elders groups or homes.

This year we provided 126 hampers to our Elder Community, stopping for a yarn with many of the groups as we worked to spread Christmas joy across our community.



"The hampers were delivered, how wonderful, they will make a difference to the community members who will receive them. Your kind thoughts from KARI Foundation and your staff are greatly appreciated.

It is really thoughtful that we have organisations such as yours who think of the community as a whole and share good will during what can be difficult times for our people.

Once again many thanks, Merry Christmas to managers and staff, Happy New Year."

Bev Simon,
La Perouse Elders Group



Hoxton Park Elders group were all smiles for our KARI Foundation staff when we delivered their Christmas Hampers



Marketing and Events

Corporate NAIDOC Lunch 2018

KARI Foundation celebrated NAIDOC week with a corporate lunch held at NSW Parliament House on Wednesday, 11th July 2018.

We hosted over 160 guests in what was an exceptional lunch showcasing the excellence of women at KARI to coincide with the 2018 NAIDOC theme, 'Because of her, we can!'.

KARI Foundation CEO Casey Ralph was the MC for the event and hosted two panels of female KARI staff in a series of engaging and meaningful questions and conversation pieces.

The first panel consisted of:

- **Cheryl Ralph**, Co-Founder of KARI
- **Ann Martin**, KARI Board member
- **Karen Scott**, KARI Foster Carer who has supported the agency for over 16 years

Cheryl Ralph, Co-Founder opened the panel with a look back on the journey KARI had been on across the 19-year period and how far we had come as an agency and community service provider.

Anne Martin, KARI Board member and outgoing NAIDOC Co-Chair, spoke to the NAIDOC theme, how it was selected and explained the impact the theme had on the wider community.

Karen Scott's achievement in working in foster care for over 16 years was especially engaging as she highlighted the importance of keeping Indigenous children connected to their culture.

The second panel consisted of:

- **Lauren Drayton**, Community Programs Manager, KARI
- **Stephanie Ruston**, Clinic Coordinator, KARI
- **Donna Anderson**, Aboriginal Family Research Coordinator, KARI
- **Patricia Jenkins**, Vice Chair, United Nations Association of Australia

This panel highlighted the women of KARI who spearhead vital programs throughout the organisation.

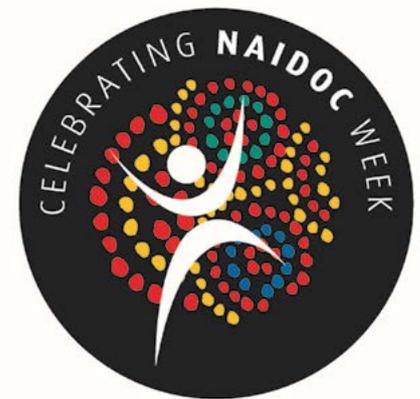
Lauren Drayton spoke fondly of her Community Programs team and shared some touching stories from her Debutante Ball Program that had been running for several years.

Stephanie Ruston has been at KARI since 2011 and is KARI's leading Speech Pathologist. She has completed ground-breaking work in providing insight as to how the Aboriginal population is impacted and now supported by her team.

Donna Anderson highlighted the importance of the Genealogy Program at KARI. The Genealogy team works hard to ensure that every child in care knows who they are and has an attachment to their identity.

Patricia Jenkins also provided insight into the holistic approach that is provided by the United Nation's for Indigenous youth throughout Australia. She also elaborated on the United Nation's goals for Indigenous youth and how the UN Australia chapter wants to promote a healthy and positive mental and physical wellbeing.

KARI Foundation would like to thank Black Duck Procurement and the United Nations Association of Australia in their participation in this event.



BECAUSE OF HER, We Can!

8-15 JULY 2018



This years panel highlighted the women of KARI

Corporate Thank You Event

The KARI Foundation and their valued corporate partners came together to celebrate our combined achievements delivering for Aboriginal communities on Thursday 6th December 2018. The event was held at the L'Aqua Room at Dockside on Cockle Bay Wharf.

The night celebrated and showcased the excellent work that has been done in partnership between KARI Foundation and their corporate partners throughout the last year.

During the evening, KARI Foundation recognised the people and organisations who went above and beyond during 2018.

We look forward to working with our current and new corporate partners during 2019.

KARI Foundation is committed to looking forward to building a more impactful future together within the local community.



The Corporate Partner Thank-You event pays homage to our fellow organisations making effective change in the Aboriginal community

The Commitment to Positive Community Change - Optus

Optus has showcased a commitment to positive community change by providing Optus Scholarships as well as providing corporate pathways to further employment for Indigenous youth.

The Commitment to Indigenous Excellence - Sydney Roosters

The Roosters developed a strategic plan that delivers on the grounds of sport and the local community to showcase Aboriginal excellence as well as empowering Aboriginal women.

The Commitment to Indigenous Advancement - WestConnex

WestConnex recognised a need within the Aboriginal community that was holding youth back from opportunities and helped co-design a program to tackle this issue. This is known as the 'WestConnex Indigenous Driving Program'.

The 2018 KARI Champion - Michael Brown

Michael Brown pioneered the Indigenous Drivers Racing series, which showcases Aboriginal excellence and employment through harness racing.

The Partner of the Year - HSBC

HSBC's commitment to KARI and the community helps drive positive social change. HSBC is working with KARI to bring Aboriginal culture into the workplace to provide employment opportunities for young people.

KARI Leadership

KARI's Leadership Program 2018 once again comprised exceptional Indigenous leaders representing a range of industries. Content delivered in the program reflected cutting-edge, global leadership development framework and is integrated into the daily leadership experiences of the group. The multi-level program is based on best-practice learning methods and is delivered by one of Australia's experts in leadership, Isabelle Phillips. KARI's Leadership Program immerses these leaders in a range of leadership experiences and narratives and provides the chance to explore new environments. The group expressed that this opportunity allowed them to expand perspective, build on their unique capabilities and network with likeminded industry leaders.

"The Council has supported my ongoing development as an Aboriginal Leader. I graduated from the KARI Leadership Program in 2018. On the program I met other leaders who like me are in management positions, juggling high workloads, budgets and staff and often are the only Aboriginal leaders in their workplace. Coming together to discuss leadership, engage in self-reflection and learn from each other was a great opportunity. I believe that I have a greater awareness of factors that influence my decision making processes and I have grown in confidence since graduating from the Leadership Program. I continue to use the leadership skills and techniques acquired from the program."

Gary Ella, Manager
Community Development
Randwick City Council

Corporate Golf Day Event 2019

KARI Foundation held our Corporate Golf Day on Wednesday 20th March 2019. Fears it wouldn't go ahead due to the weather were cast aside as the sky cleared, allowing for perfect golfing conditions amongst the picturesque views offered at The Coast Golf Club, Little Bay.

The competition was strong with over 60 corporate participants spread across 14 teams. It was an honour having elite sportsman Latrell Mitchell (Sydney Roosters) attend, showing that his skills stretch far beyond the sport of rugby league.

In a first for KARI, we had four women participate, a number we hope to see grow across our future golf events.

During the official presentation, Club Menangle placed as overall champions for the day. The Wests Tigers team came in a close second.

"Club Menangle is proud to be a partner of KARI. We have been working together for three years now and the relationship just keeps getting stronger. Our club is a leader in the harness racing industry and KARI continues to be a leader in the support of Indigenous communities. The Golf Day was a great opportunity to meet many other KARI partners and supporters. The professional way the event was conducted is typical of the way KARI operates."

Bruce Christison, Chief Executive.



Prizes were also awarded for novelty events, including longest drive and nearest to the pin, for both men and women.

Our Corporate Golf Day is an event that allows current and potential partners of KARI to network, whilst enjoying a day on the green. It also provides an entertaining approach for businesses to learn more about KARI.



"This event allows us to bring together all of our corporates within the 'KARI Family' for a day of fun, competition and networking. We truly value each and every one of our partners and where possible provide them with the opportunity to meet likeminded partners. Overall the day was a huge success and we are looking forward to hosting the event again next year."

Blake Ralph, Community Programs Project Officer.



Our Corporate Golf Day takes our partners out of the boardroom and onto the putting green in support of KARI Foundation



Cultural Unit

KARI's Cultural Unit continues to grow as we meet the demands of the sector and support our children.

The unit now has seven Cultural Liaison Officers and one Cultural Unit Trainee servicing our three contracted regions. The Cultural Unit Trainee was a child who was previously in the care of KARI and has progressed through our Young Leaders Program to secure full time employment; an achievement we are all incredibly proud of.

The Cultural Liaison Officers continue to develop cultural care plans to ensure children and young people in the Permanency Support Program (PSP) Program maintain their cultural connections to land and family.



The team consult with family and community to ensure holistic plans are developed and implemented. This program also led a number of carer trainings to ensure our carers are well equipped culturally to support Aboriginal children and young people.

The Cultural Unit advise our other programs on specific cultural protocols. This holistic service delivery ensures all KARI programs are aimed at developing strong and proud Aboriginal people.

Cultural Vacation Care

During 2018-19 the Cultural Vacation Care Program once again proved to be successful with many of our children and young people participating in didgeridoo programs, weaving classes, Aboriginal art classes and various cultural excursions.

Acclaimed Aboriginal artist Danielle Mate facilitated an Aboriginal Art Program. Through these workshops children and young people are exposed to art and a variety of techniques. Danielle also uses art to explore stories and share knowledge with her students.

The Didgeridoo Program enables boys within the PSP Program to learn the significance of the didgeridoo whilst building upon their cultural knowledge and understanding. The participants crafted their own didgeridoos from bare material. Once completed, our children learn techniques for playing their very own didgeridoos.

The Weaving Program provides girls in the PSP Program the chance to gain a greater understanding of 'Women's Business' and their roles and responsibilities within the Aboriginal community. A respected Aunty from Speaking In Colour facilitated the Weaving Program this year. She shared her extensive knowledge with the girls and her program was warmly received.

The excursion program allowed our young people to get three days of hands on experiences where some valuable cultural lessons were learnt in cultural practices, bush tucker and bush medicine along with native flora and fauna. Over this three-day period we visited Featherdale Wildlife Park, Sydney Museum and Kuringai Chase National Park.

Cultural Camps

Our Cultural Camps once again proved themselves to be a significant and empowering cultural experience for our children and young people in PSP.

Two Cultural Camps were held during 2018-19, one at Point Wolstoncroft and the other at Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre.



These camps were facilitated across three days and two nights and were attended by more than 80 children and young people in KARI's PSP Program aged 8-17 years. All children and young people in attendance were given an opportunity to be immersed in their culture and gain more cultural knowledge and understanding.

Activities on the camp included, but were not limited to, teachings from Elders on artefact and weapon making, traditional cooking, visits to significant local sites, rock engravings, camp fire yarns, making damper, scarred and ring trees and middens.



Artefact and weapon making on camp

Young Leaders Therapeutic Camps

Our Young Leaders Therapeutic Camps were aimed at youth between the ages of 14-18 years. The Cultural Unit have been fortunate enough to run three male camps and one female pilot program. These camps have aimed at promoting pride in Aboriginal identity and building a positive network of Aboriginal role models.

It would be at these ages where our youth would traditionally be chosen to go through the initiation stages and the transition into adulthood.

Some of the content delivered involves expectations of the roles and responsibilities that come with adulthood along with identity, goal setting, confidence building and cultural knowledge workshops.

The Young Leaders Program also involves monthly catch ups where the Cultural Unit provide ongoing guidance and mentoring. Topics covered to date have been; cyber safety talks, talks on hygiene, talks on respect, cultural day trips, sexual health programs and games of basketball between staff and Young Leaders.

Genealogy

It has been an exciting year for the KARI Genealogy Program. The team has grown to four staff; inclusive of a Program Coordinator, two dedicated Family Research Officers and a Trainee. This added capacity ensures every child and young person in our service has access to comprehensive family research and a strong sense of identity.

The team have continued to identify and consult with family throughout the year. This crucial work ensures KARI can source and assess family placement options for our children; as well as maintaining strong links between our children and young people and their kin.

KARI have successfully identified and approved family placement options as a direct result of the work done by our research team. This ensures the effective implementation of the Aboriginal Placement Principles.

Our Genealogy Program has worked closely with the Leaving Care Program to ensure care leavers have comprehensive family records and details for family and kin. They have also developed a connections database to provide opportunities for the PSP Program to re-engage family.

Key Statistics 2018 - 19

165

Young people attended
Cultural Camps

180

Young people attended
Vacation Care

90

Young people
attended Young
Leaders Camps

35

Young people attended
Young Leaders
Monthly Catchups





KARI Clinic

2018-19 has been the largest year for the clinical services at KARI Foundation as we continue with our focus on service enhancement to provide quality evidence-based developmental, health and wellbeing services to our clients.

Throughout the last year KARI Foundation's Clinic team have given priority to strengthening and streamlining procedures and pathways to support the children and young people across KARI Foundation's suite of case management programs to facilitate access and engagement with our clinical services.

KARI Foundation's Clinic currently offer services from the following health professionals:

- Dietitians
- Early Childhood/Paediatric Nurses
- Occupational Therapists
- Paediatricians
- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Speech Pathologists

KARI Foundation's Clinic is operating in a trend of expansion to meet the needs of our community and growth across the sector. Through this we have seen the expansion of psychology and social work services within the team.

We have had a focus this year on increasing our service delivery and supports to children and young people, their carers and staff working in KARI's PSP Program along with offering in-home family therapeutic support through the new Family Preservation initiative.



Across our whole service we have significantly increased our caseload capacity through more flexible service options such as home visiting and school-based services and as a result are servicing a record number of clients.



Sensory play makes therapy fun

This year saw the appointment of our first Aboriginal Health Worker. This position is a vital role within our team to further strengthen the provision of culturally responsive health services and care co-ordination to our clients. We have had some very early success with the implementation of this role and look forward to seeing how this develops across the next year.



Story time with KARI Clinic staff

Our flagship programs continue to run successfully. Our Transition to School Program saw 40 children from PSP, Brighter Futures and community participate in what has been our largest cohort to date.

Our Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists work intensively with children to help develop and strengthen their early literacy skills to support readiness for school commencement.

As in previous years we celebrated the children's achievements at the conclusion of the program with a graduation ceremony where carers, parents, children and staff attend.

Three cycles of the Positive Parenting Program were also delivered to support our foster carers across KARI's three regions. This program, that is specifically designed to support foster carers to therapeutically parent and build secure attachments with children who have histories of complex trauma, is always met with positive feedback from participants who felt the program changed or strengthened their parenting and care approach. The success of this program has also led to the planning of further therapeutic carer support services that will be piloted in the next year.

We continue to support clinical education and placements for students completing tertiary studies in Psychology, Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy. In the past year we provided a record number of clinical placements with eight students receiving clinical education with us across the year.

With the expansion of KARI's PSP Program, we have worked hard to develop the Family Preservation Program. With this we have seen social workers join our team to provide dedicated in-home therapeutic support to the families of the program and work collaboratively with caseworkers in the goal of capacity building parents in the care of their children.

We are supported and strengthened through our collaborations and partnerships both within and external to our organisation. We continue to join resources and expertise with KARI's Community Programs team in the delivery of our community playgroup run locally in Miller. This continues to be a rewarding initiative which allows us to provide preventative and developmentally therapeutic services to children under five years of age through parent engagement and upskilling.

Through this soft entry point into health-based services we are able to successfully engage and transfer children and their families who need more individualised therapies into our clinic-based service.

Since 2016 KARI has been a partner agency in a collaborative project with South Western Sydney Local Health District's (SWSLHD) Oral Health Service to improve the oral health care of Aboriginal children across the district.

The benefit has been that children in KARI's PSP and Brighter Futures Programs have priority pathways into accessing timely and regular oral health checks, treatments and preventative dental works.

The positive impact and success of this project has been recognised by winning the 2018 SWSLHD Quality Award under the category 'Excellence in Provision of Care and Services to Aboriginal Clients'. The project was also selected as a finalist in the 2018 NSW Health Awards in the category of 'Keeping People Healthy' which acknowledges the innovation and excellence of health initiatives across the state.



KARI Clinic provides a friendly learning space





KARI Foundation

Level 2, 12 Dawn Fraser Avenue
Olympic Park NSW 2127
P: 02 8782 0300 **F:** 02 8782 0353
E: reception@kari.org.au

