

KARI
FOUNDATION



Annual Report
2019-2020

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* Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this publication may contain the images / names of people who have passed away.





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.





Chairperson Report



As always, it will be our responsibility to ensure that whatever we do in the future leaves a long-lasting great result for Aboriginal children, families and communities.

Gary Potts,
KARI Foundation Ltd Chairperson

This year, we have focused once again on important strategies such as branding, promotion, partnership engagement and expanding our community sector support. It is here where I would like to acknowledge all the great work achieved by our CEO, Casey Ralph and Cain Slater our Head of Partnerships, Marketing and Fundraising. Both have continued to go over and above in ensuring that we are on target across all points.

I also must pay a tribute to all our great partners for their ongoing commitment that in turn has allowed us to increase our service and program commitment across many regions of New South Wales. I would especially like to acknowledge the great collaborative support given to us by the Property Industry Foundation, Parkview and Rawson Homes that now sees us own a magnificent six-bedroom house, purpose built to support our "Transition to Independent Living" program.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge all our base supporters and partners who have committed to taking this journey with us. As always, it will be the responsibility of the Foundation to ensure that whatever we do in the future leaves a long lasting great result for Aboriginal children, families, and communities.

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

Gary Potts
Chairperson



CEO Report



In a year challenged by the impacts of COVID- 19 I am extremely proud of the Foundation staff for their ability to re-direct service delivery to focus on supporting those most vulnerable.

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, largely working behind the scenes to establish many new and exciting partnership opportunities.

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. In a year challenged by the impacts of COVID- 19 I am extremely proud of the Foundation staff for their ability to re-direct service delivery to focus on supporting those most vulnerable.

In particular I want to acknowledge the efforts of the Lead with Culture Program team who provided constant support to each and every one of their clients ensuring that their wellbeing, education, and employment prospects remained as per plan.

Your dedication and support resulted in increased employment opportunities for many of our program participants which is an amazing result in times of such uncertainty.

We continued to grow the volume of programs we deliver within each of the core pillars we service. A big thank you to the many partners who make what we do possible. Your commitment to letting us drive the narrative and your unfaltering faith in our ability to deliver is beyond humbling. We look forward to securing additional partnerships that will allow us to strengthen and expand the good work we do for our communities.

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

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the amazing contribution Cain Slater, Head of Marketing, Partnerships and Fundraising, makes in branding our organisation at the highest of levels. Your tireless efforts and your ongoing commitment to creating a more united and positive future for all our stakeholders is to be highly commended.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CR' or similar initials.

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 a well-established career spanning over 40 years in the education and public sectors.

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 on both a local and national scale.



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 National Rugby League 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 National Rugby League 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.





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 National Rugby League 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.

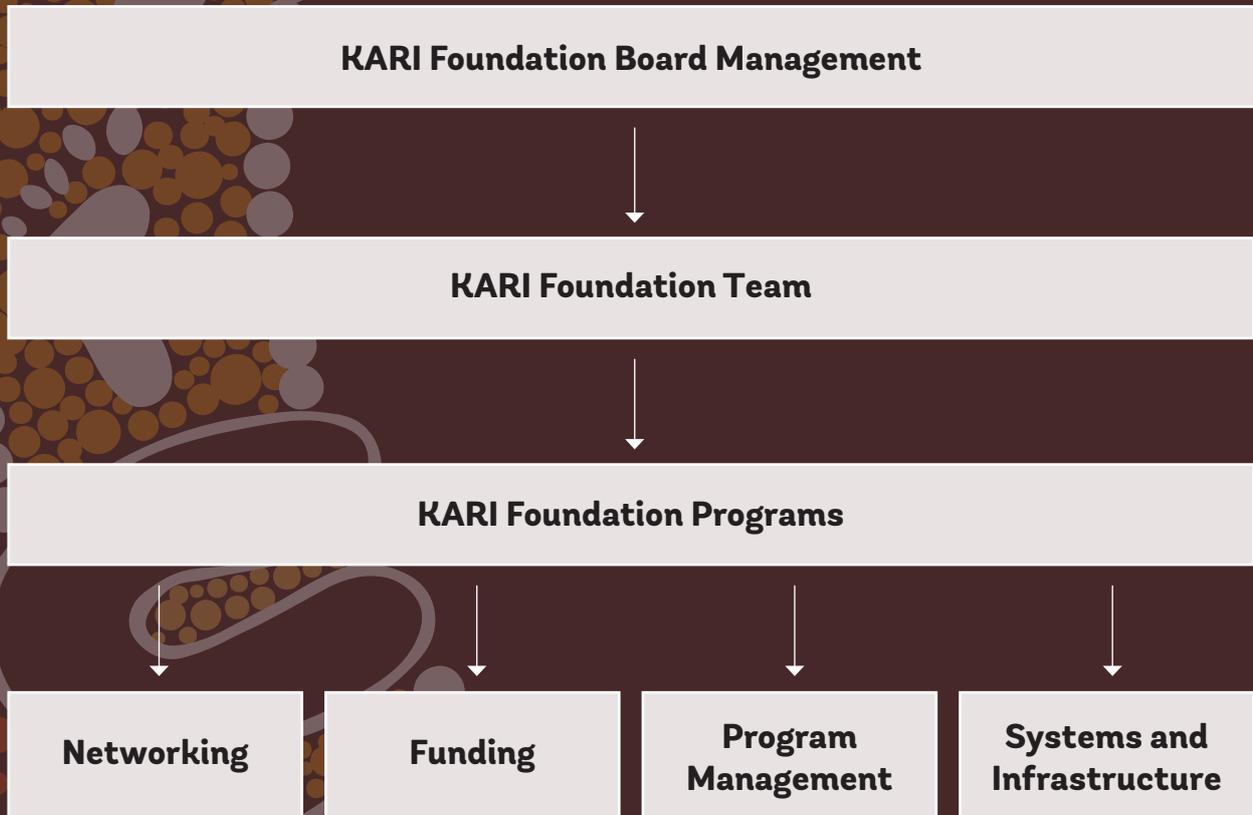
After becoming a KARI Ambassador in 2015, Beau hopes to make a real change by working alongside the Community Programs team as a mentor for KARI Scholarship holders in years 11 and 12.

KARI Foundation Ltd Services

<p>Partnership exploration</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Prevention</p> <p>Our prevention services target Aboriginal youth, families, groups and communities.</p> <p>This is done through programs and initiatives that are culturally appropriate and build capacity in individuals, families and communities.</p>	
<p>Aboriginal advocacy</p> <p>We continue to provide an advocacy support role to our community to ensure they are assisted in an appropriate manner.</p> <p>We will advocate in a positive and professional manner on any matters or issues relevant to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people.</p>	<p>Promoting community and cultural awareness</p> <p>Where appropriate, we will ensure that cultural awareness is prevalent within our service model.</p> <p>We will always proudly promote local Indigenous culture, history and values through the coordination and participation of community events.</p>	<p>Community Programs initiatives</p> <p>Our community programs target Aboriginal youth, families, groups and businesses.</p>



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>



Culture

KARI Foundation believes in the power of culture driving change. Our goal is to provide opportunity for all to stand on common ground, ask questions and be empowered by knowledge. We understand the importance of re-connecting Aboriginal people to their culture but also sharing generations of learnings and storytelling to drive an inclusive Australia on the journey of Reconciliation.

Cultural Unit

KARI's Cultural Unit delivered a blockbuster suite of programs across 2019/20. Despite significant challenges with the COVID-19 outbreak, this team again ensured all of our children maintained and developed strong connections to their cultural roots.

The Cultural Liaison Officers (CLO's) completed annual Cultural Care Plans for each child across our programs. These plans are an ongoing document that detail and promote staged cultural learning. The culmination of these plans is strong and proud Aboriginal young people with a clear understanding of their journey and connections.

Across 2019/20 the Cultural Unit expanded and grew their robust training calendar. The team established and refined a holistic training package workshop titled "Cultural Awareness, Diversity and Protocols". This program was facilitated to our carers on six occasions throughout the year across all three of our funded districts. Despite this program running at reduced capacity due to the pandemic, Carers reported an increased understanding of Aboriginal Australia and a stronger foundation for meeting the needs of children requiring care and protection.

The Unit also provided the workshop to internal staff across all KARI programs to ensure an ongoing commitment to culturally appropriate service delivery. More than 80 staff participated and the workshop is now a highlight in KARI's annual training calendar. The training provides a sombre reflection on the history of Aboriginal Australia and the impact of past policies; however, it celebrates the amazing progress of Aboriginal people and ensures cultural appropriateness is always at the heart of service delivery.

Cultural Vacation Care

The team delivered a number of exciting and engaging Vacation Care programs this year. These programs are delivered in the school holidays and offer cultural immersions across a number of learning areas. This year over 100 children had the opportunity to participate in a program. Each program runs for three concurrent days and teaches theory and practical components.

Celebrated Aboriginal Artist Danielle Mate delivered an art program and each participant developed a beautiful piece of art and an accompanying story. Our female CLO's ran a weaving program and taught our young women this intricate skill. Renowned dancer and choreographer Darren Compton of Muggera Dancers delivered a cultural dance workshop that was loved by all who attended.

In an amazing testament to the passion and resolve of the Cultural Unit, our April 2020 Vacation Care programs went virtual due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. CLO's dropped resources to each young person's door and vacation care was delivered to participants over an online Zoom link. Each young man in the Digeridoo workshop crafted their own Digeridoo from raw materials and learnt basic playing and breathing techniques. The female participants in the weaving group completed their own piece over several days under the watchful tuition of the CLO's.

Cultural Camps

Our Cultural Camps remain the highlight of the calendar for many of our young people.

Across 2019/20 the team delivered two action packed Cultural Camps at The Tops Conference Centre in beautiful Stanwell Tops. Camp programs ran across three days and more than 95 children had an opportunity to make new friends and broaden their cultural knowledge and understanding.

Uncle Les McLeod delivered an immense amount of knowledge over the course of the program; including visits to local sites and a food workshop. Children also participated in art programs and a number of Traditional Indigenous Games and sports. A highlight this year was an opportunity for participants to test their resilience on the 26 metre Giant swing.



Young Leaders Therapeutic Camps

The KARI Young Leaders program is aimed at youth between the ages of 14-18 years of age who have shown strong potential and leadership qualities. Young people are nominated and have the opportunity to have ongoing participation in gender-specific camps and programs. The program aims to increase the self-esteem, confidence, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of our Young Leaders to assist them to become strong, balanced individuals who will create strong families and positive pathways for future generations.

This year the Young Leaders embarked on a number of camps to significant destinations all across New South Wales. The groups visited a number of places including; Murrook Cultural Centre on Worimi country spending time quad biking and foraging in the dunes. Nambucca Heads on Gumbaynggirr country where they spent time fishing and learning, and down to Jervis Bay and Booderee National Park exploring and storyboarding.

Most excitingly, a select group of young people from the program who showed exemplary respect and engagement were chosen for an inaugural interstate Young Leaders trip. A group of 24 young males and females travelled to Darwin for a week of cultural learning and experiences. The group participated in a crocodile tour and wetlands exploration outside Darwin. The group then travelled to Pudukul Cultural area where they had the opportunity to be welcomed onto country by traditional custodians. There was an opportunity to spend time learning about plants, food, medicines and spending time with the local community. As a highlight of the trip, the Young Leaders spent the day exploring Litchfield National Park and spent time swimming in breathtaking watering holes and pools. The debate is still raging about who had the biggest bombs!



Litchfield National Park watering hole

The Young Leaders Program has continued to grow and this year serviced more than 50 young people. Each month the group catch up with the CLO's and participate in a specialised program consisting of rapport building, cultural learning and recreational activities.

Monthly programs have included sessions with Aboriginal Artists and Musicians, a dressing and presentation workshop for job interviews, 'Love Bites' Respectful Relationships and Sexual Health program, rock-climbing, boxing, trips to bowling and National Rugby League (NRL) matches. The rapport built between the Young Leaders cohort and our CLO's is something we are immensely proud of at KARI. We have every confidence these young people will be strong role models for future generations.



Creating art in the red sand

Cultural Unit Key Statistics

100

Children participated in Cultural Vacation Care activities

50

Young people attended the Young Leaders Program

95

Children attended a Cultural Camp

24

Young people attended the inaugural interstate Young Leaders Trip





Education

We recognise the vital need for education within Aboriginal communities both in and outside the classroom. The overarching aim of all KARI Foundation education initiatives is to bridge the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal educational outcomes.

To achieve this, we offer a variety of programs and initiatives that support a proactive and relatable approach to young people and their families, to encourage a positive and ultimately successful education experience.



HSBC Scholarship Program



In a partnership with HSBC Bank Australia that continues to go from strength to strength, the KARI Foundation have been able to financially support Aboriginal high school students across 3 service regions including Metro Sydney, South West Sydney and Western Sydney.

150 Students in years 11 and 12 received scholarships that supported their financial needs and ensure they are equipped for the year ahead.

In addition to the funding, students receive exclusive access to a number of workshops through the HSBC & KARI Foundation LEAD Program, facilitated by the Community Programs team as well as KARI Ambassador Beau Champion. These workshops focus on leadership and goal setting for life after high school.

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 to access mentoring and leadership support to ensure that they get the best outcomes for their education and reach the goals they set. Students participating in this program leave with a new range of skills, giving them the confidence and ability to work hard towards their educational goals for their final years and beyond.

To combat the unprecedented events surrounding the COVID-19 crisis, our HSBC LEAD Team held their first ever virtual zoom workshop on Wednesday 24th June 2020. We received an overwhelming number of registrations for our new online format, so much so, that we had to split sessions over two dates to effectively accommodate the number of participants.

All materials for the workshop were emailed to students ahead of time, meaning they were able to engage in activities and tasks that are usually set for face to face workshops.

All students who participated were engaged and enthusiastic with their answers and were excited to be involved in the program. As a reward for attending and participating in the workshop, students received a HSBC & KARI Foundation co-branded hoodie.

“It was a great turn out for our first virtual workshop and I’m ecstatic that we can still connect and share with our scholarship holders. It’s great to see them getting involved and thinking about their goals for the future”

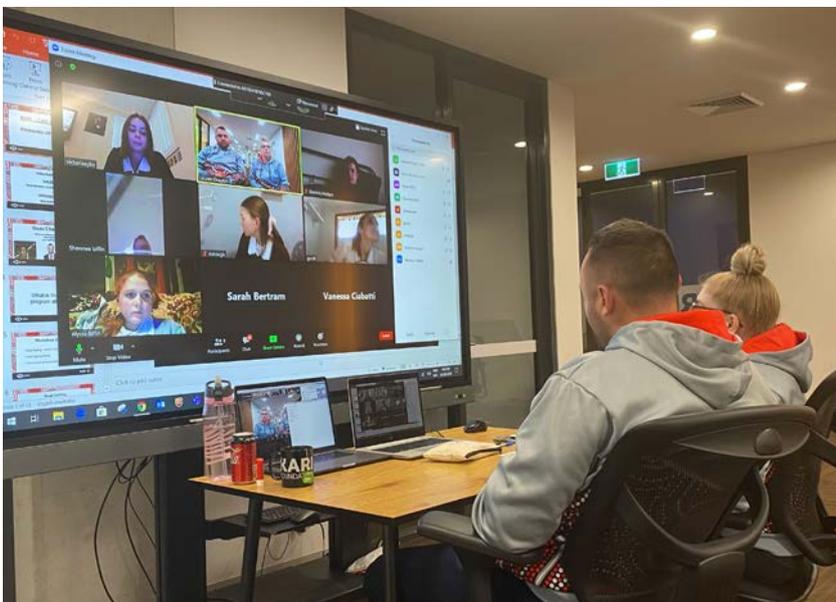
Beau Champion, KARI Ambassador and LEAD Program coordinator

The LEAD Program contains 3 workshops that are held throughout the year, each focusing on a different theme. These themes are:

Goal setting & Milestone mapping

Resilience

Leadership



LEAD co-ordinators Beau and Sarah connect via Zoom

HSBC Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

In continuation of our mutual commitment to engage Aboriginal communities, HSBC continued to engage the KARI Foundation across their Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). KARI Foundation have been a RAP partner since 2017 and have seen a number of outcomes achieved in this space.



KARI Ambassador Beau Champion Youth Workshops

In addition to the HSBC LEAD Workshops, to further engage young people, KARI Ambassador Beau Champion facilitated an extended series of workshops focusing on key themes of time management, leadership, milestone mapping and goal setting.

Beau uses these workshops to deliver a strong message to young people on the importance of knowing yourself and making the necessary changes to succeed in life.

Each workshop focused on strategies around these themes and gave young people the tools to succeed in their studies and future pathways.

Workshop 1 - Goal Setting

Students are introduced to the program and learn a little bit about KARI Ambassador Beau Champion.

Introduction to Goal Setting - What is a goal? Why do we have goals and where to start in setting your goals?

SMART Goals (Specific, Meaningful, Action Orientated, Realistic, Timely)

Goal Setting Activity - Students set goals for the upcoming term. This includes 2 Educational goals and 1 Personal goal.

Celebrating success at each milestone and why it is important to do so.

Workshop 2 - Time Management

Overview of time management and how to prioritise your tasks.

Time management activity. Students write down and prioritise their own tasks based off Covey's Time Management Model

Workshop 4 - Leadership

Overview of Leadership

What makes a good leader? What are the skills and characteristics of a good leader?

Who inspires you and why?

Developing my leadership skills activity

Aboriginal leaders, breaking the stereotypes and what role do I play in this?

Peer pressure - Who has experienced it? What was it and what did you do? What is the impact of peer pressure?

Participation in these workshops saw young people of both genders and varied goal orientations (athletic, academic etc.) positively engage, generate discussion and develop skill sets with the overall aim to assist them in the years beyond high school.

Workshop 3 - Wellbeing and Self-Care

What is Wellbeing? 5 Ways to Wellbeing (keep moving, invest in relationships, never stop learning, give to others and savour the moment)

Exploring the Self-Care mind map and Self-Care wheel

Developing an individual self-care plan



OPTUS Partnership

KARI Foundation's partnership with OPTUS aligns with our mutual community investment in Aboriginal youth. Our partnership focuses on working directly with young people to reach their full potential and work collaboratively to develop projects that support their ability to achieve, thrive and belong.

In our second successful year of partnership, we continued to work together to provide opportunities

to empower young people with an ability to understand the digital landscape and prepare for future careers and employment.

This year OPTUS provided a further 30 mentoring scholarships for Aboriginal students in Year 10. These scholarships provide students with access to mentoring, financial assistance and an invitation to participate in exclusive OPTUS workshops facilitated by OPTUS staff

focusing on employment, leadership skill development and their online digital thumbprint.

Our pilot program saw successful engagement from both students and their mentors. This year we worked collaboratively towards further improving outcomes for this program based on our findings the previous year.



KARI staff celebrate cultural exchange at the Singtel Forum

Singtel Group Regional Sustainability Forum

Hosted by our valued partners OPTUS, the Annual Singtel Group Regional Sustainability Forum was held in Melbourne in November 2019, the theme being 'Business as Usual'.

KARI Foundation CEO Casey Ralph shared her experience surrounding our ongoing partnership with OPTUS, our current successes and how the Foundation assists Aboriginal communities to reconnect with their culture through mediums such as performance and art.

International attendees also experienced a traditional cultural performance by our KARI Singers before being gifted a handmade emu caller and didgeridoo as a warm gesture of cultural exchange.



Donate Your Data Program

We continued to strengthen our partnership with OPTUS with a ground breaking digital inclusion initiative. This year OPTUS announced the launch of the Donate Your Data program (DYD), which has worked towards bridging the digital divide for the 1.1 million young Australians living in poverty.

Launching initially with its charity partners The Smith Family and the KARI Foundation, OPTUS provided free OPTUS SIM cards to young Australians in need, equipping them with unlimited national standard talk and text and 10GB data for use in Australia which will be topped up with extra data donated by OPTUS customers.

In today's world, work and study is increasingly reliant on the internet and without it, some Aboriginal youth are unable to access the same resources and opportunities as the rest of their peers.

This initiative invites eligible OPTUS Postpaid and Prepaid Mobile customers to donate their data to young Australians who need it most.

It is projected that over 13,000 students across the Smith Family and the KARI Foundation will benefit from OPTUS' Donate Your Data initiative.

"Staying connected is important for mental wellbeing, education outcomes and an ability to inspire future leaders. The OPTUS Donate Your Data initiative will build on our current partnership with OPTUS to ensure that KARI can support our young Aboriginal people's ability to achieve, thrive and belong in an ever-changing world"

Casey Ralph, KARI CEO

Our partnership with OPTUS and the Donate Your Data program has seen breakthrough moments that have created a positive impact for vulnerable youth and our broader community.

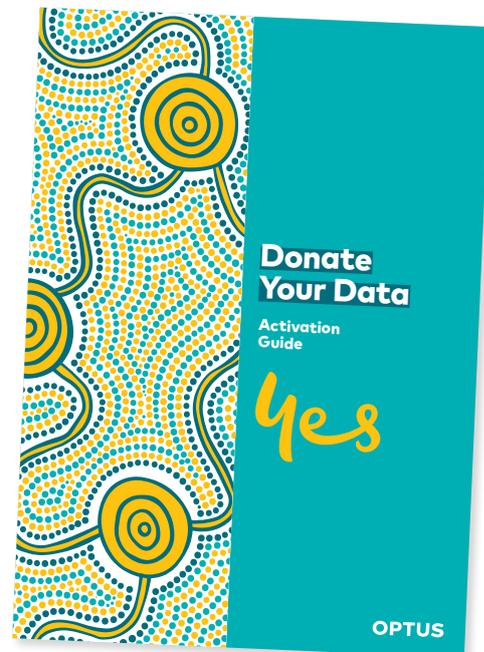
Across April 2020, we delivered the first round of 500 free sim cards to Aboriginal youth attending all levels of education. This program has continued to show positive outcomes in youth staying connected and their ability to access their education, particularly when faced with the challenges presented during the COVID-19 crisis.

"With my children not being able to attend school I had no idea how we were going to afford the internet needed to allow them to continue home schooling. When Josh from the KARI Foundation contacted us about this program I broke down on the phone knowing my kids would still be able to keep up with their school work and stay connected to family and friends."

Jane* a mother of five children in South Western Sydney



Co-Branded KARI and OPTUS hoodie



"Our partnership with OPTUS continued to deliver during this time of need. Together we were able to provide refurbished laptops, mentoring and now the Donate Your Data Program. I have no doubt that this program will have positive education outcomes but ensure mental wellness for our youth having stayed connected"

Casey Ralph, KARI CEO

MACE Foundation Family Legacy

We would also like to thank the MACE Foundation for their continued support of Aboriginal young people across our educational and scholarship programs.

The South West Sydney Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards 2019

The South West Sydney (SWS) Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards is an annual event that acknowledges the achievements of Aboriginal students and contributions made by Aboriginal community members to Aboriginal Education in the SWS region.

Before the award ceremonies commenced, KARI's Vocal Identification Program (VIP) singers performed the National Anthem.

KARI Foundation further supports the event by providing a KARI 'All Rounder Initiative' Award.

This award recognises a student from each grade (K-12) who excels in all areas of learning. The reward consisted of a medallion, as well as a book pack for grades K-6 and a gift voucher for grades 7-12.

We would like to extend our congratulations to these students for their commendable achievements.

Recipients of these awards are nominated by their teachers in a range of categories including;

Culture, courage and commitment

Literacy

Numeracy

Sporting Achievements

Attendance

Leadership, citizenship and community services

Creative and Performing Arts

Community Acknowledgement

KARI All Rounder Award winners for 2019 were:

Year 1 Zayn Tahach

Year 3 Jett Pus

Year 4 Justin Wiggins

Year 5 Jorja Smith & Bowen Murray

Year 6 Addisyn Bridges & Rontae Hughes

Year 8 Astrid Graham

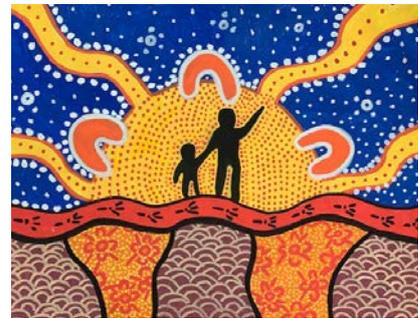
Year 10 Reagan Craig

Year 11 Melissa Scott

Year 12 Kiana Daniel



Stage at the 2019 Student Awards



The winning artwork by Amelia Fardon

Following on from previous years, young people are encouraged to create and enter an artwork that will be used for items such as booklets, and other materials used for the event.

This year's winner was Amelia Farndon. Amelia received a \$250 Eckersley's Arts Gift Card from KARI to further support and encourage her creative art at home.



Transition to Highschool Backpack Program

As the school year came to an end in 2019, families of children in Year 6 were busy preparing for the transition from primary school to high school. This experience can often be daunting and stressful for children, and can also place financial stress on families as the formative high school years often require a broader range of equipment for students.

As a way of assisting to ease the transition for Year 6 students and their families, working together with the Schools Services Directorate, Department of Education, KARI Foundation provided students in Sydney Metro and South West Sydney regions with a "Transition to High School" backpack.

These backpacks are available to every Aboriginal young person enrolled in a Department of Education school within the specified regions.

They assist families and students in making the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 a successful one. In total, we distributed 540 backpacks to families and young people.

Backpacks were distributed across multiple locations over a period of two weeks. Many teachers, parents and students left excitedly with their backpacks, knowing how much of a difference they would make.

With increased demand on this program in communities as close as Western Sydney and into Regional New South Wales, the KARI Foundation are seeking to source additional funding to expand our community reach.



A happy teacher collecting backpacks for his students

This backpack contains the following equipment:

Cultural artwork design backpack and matching pencil case

Stationery

A4 Visual Art's Diary

All subject books including maths grid book and music book

Maths protractor set

Scientific calculator





LOVE BiTES: Respectful Relationships' Program

The 'LOVE BiTES: Respectful Relationships' Program' was developed by the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) to help educate young people aged 15 to 17 years old on healthy relationship development and violence prevention.

The program allows young people the opportunity to discuss their beliefs, knowledge and thoughts around healthy relationships in a supported, non-judgemental and safe environment. They are able to do this by participating in a range of discussions and activities that are based on respectful relationships and behaviours.

Our Community Programs team has a number of staff trained to facilitate this program in high schools across the Sydney region and surrounds.

In the 2019/20 period, the team have facilitated this program to a total of 164 young people.

LOVE BiTES consists of two interactive workshops: one on Relationship Violence, and one on Sex and Relationships, followed by creative workshops and collaborative development of community campaigns.

Since commencing this program at schools, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Our team are finding that young people are engaged with the content and enjoy getting involved with the interactive workshops.

The overall aim of LOVE BiTES is to equip young people with the knowledge needed to have respectful relationships, encourage and develop their skills in critical thinking and assist them in being able to problem solve and communicate effectively. When properly equipped in these areas, young people can make the right choices for themselves and their relationships that are free from violence and abuse.

These programs were facilitated at the following schools and internal KARI programs;

Rose Bay Secondary College
(delivered in partnership with the Sydney Roosters)

Ashcroft High School,
Sista Speak Group

KARI, Cultural Unit Young
Leaders Group

KARI, Lead with Culture
Group

Participant Numbers

11

Ashcroft High
Sista Speak

34

KARI Cultural
Unit Young
Leaders group

4

KARI Lead with
Culture group

115

Rose Bay Secondary
College

LOVE BiTES
Numbers

164

LOVE BiTES

NAPCAN
PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE



**THERE'S
NO
EXCUSE
FOR
ABUSE!!**

Would your students benefit from Love Bites respectful relationship education?

For information about having KARI facilitate Love Bites in your school please contact us via email at reception@kari.org.au or call 02 8782 0300.

LOVE BITES

KARI

KARI Liverpool
Level 3, 331 George Street, Liverpool NSW 2170
P: 02 8782 0300 F: 02 8782 0353 E: reception@kari.org.au

**ABUSE RAPE
SEX INAPPRO-
PRIATE BEHAV-
IOUR ANGER
VIOLENCE AGG-
RESSION DEPRES-
SION ILLEGAL
SUBMISSION
CONTROL HURTFUL
SEXUAL ASSAULT**



"Thank you so much, I really appreciate all the time you've spent with us. I was dreading coming today but it turned out to be really informative and I am so glad I came. Thank you so much, you guys are awesome" - Female Participant

"I think the Love Bites program is a very awesome and interesting, fun program. I've learnt so much from KARI" - Female Participant

"Really great, I learned a lot about relationships and red flags and what's ok. I enjoyed the activities and the relaxing art session" - Female Participant

"Really opened my eyes to serious issues and how to properly deal with them, happy I came" - Female Participant

"It was really good. A lot of fun and very informative. I learnt a lot and have a better perspective on life and people now, thank you" - Male Participant

"It was a lot of fun and very important. It shined a light on a very heavy topic in a very fun and engaging way" - Female Participant

Employment & Business Enterprise

KARI Foundation. A Leader in Indigenous Business Enterprise.

KARI Foundation continues to offer business support and advice to Indigenous businesses both big and small, as well as community organisations from across the State. Our expert analysts offer expertise in the areas of business, financial advice as well as resource assistance to those in need. The challenges for Indigenous businesses and organisations can face are many, so having the opportunity to partner up with a larger organisation such as the KARI Foundation can be of great benefit.

Supporting non-Indigenous business to provide culturally sensitive workplaces ensures that young people participating in KARI Foundation job ready programs have a seamless transition into the working environment. We provide mentoring for both workplaces and youth in employment to ensure all parties are positively engaged and culturally supported.

KARI Leadership Program 2020

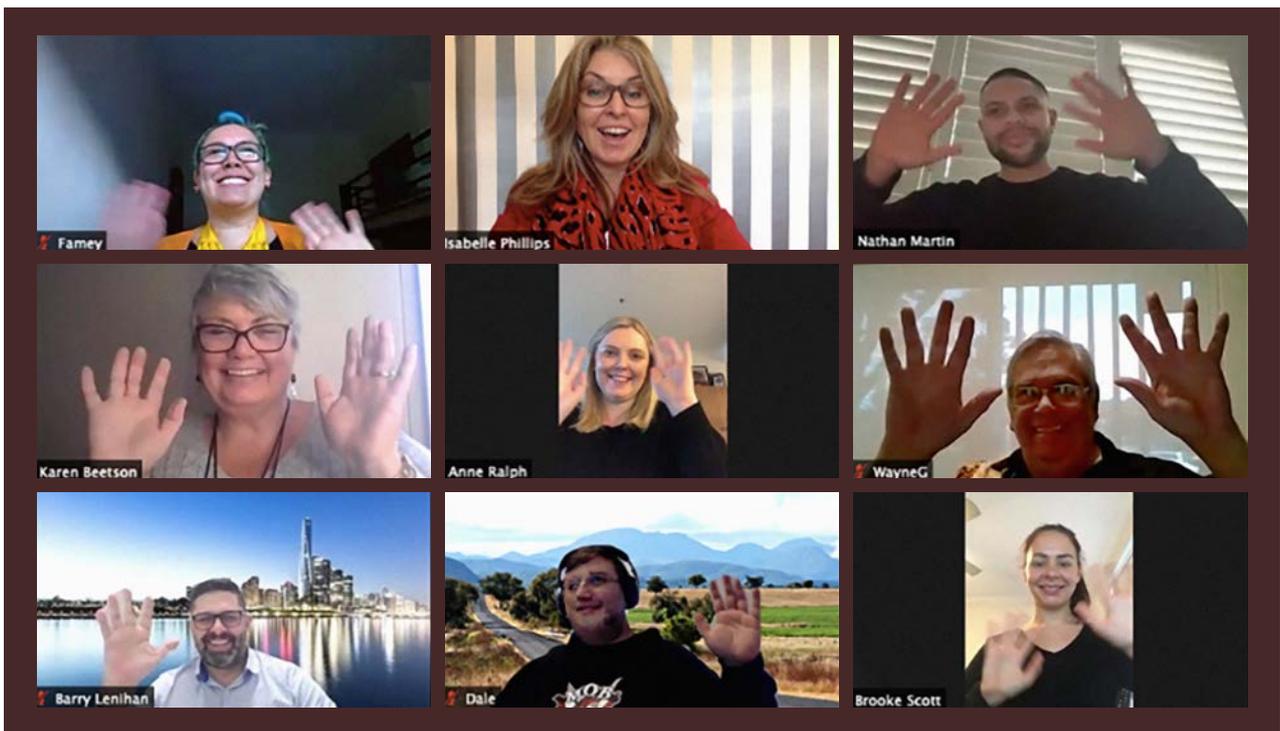
The 2020 Leadership program brought together participants from a wide range of industries that include the private sector, multi-national and state government departments. All have the same desire to learn more about themselves and to improve their skills and knowledge to enable them to take the next step in their life journey both personally and professionally.

This program has been developed for Indigenous people who operate in high level positions and include those who have their own businesses. Leadership Program designer and presenter Isabelle Phillips was full of praise for this year's members.

"We have seen great participation levels from participants this year.

Challenged by a pandemic and moving to online delivery modes at short notice did not diminish their commitment for learning or passion for building connections with each other. The group sailed through online psychometric assessments, connected via Zoom and have reached out to their own network of trusted advisors to collect and collate feedback on their leadership strengths.

The next program component continued to deliver positive psychology including strengths based leadership, neuroscience, authentic leadership and reflexive leadership."



Leadership Program Zoom session





Lead with Culture

KARI Foundation's Lead with Culture Program aims to empower Aboriginal youth between the ages of 15-21, who are disengaged from school or their community, utilising Aboriginal culture as a driving tool at the forefront of their interactions.

This program aims to build strength, resilience and pride, as well as teach our youth the importance of what it means to be Aboriginal in modern Australia. The program is delivering successful outcomes, returning youth to school, into further education, and breaking the unemployment cycle.

Together with the Department of Social Services, this program works collaboratively with education providers, local communities, government and businesses to build strength and pride in Aboriginal young people.

The KARI Foundation Lead with Culture program has also expanded to the South Coast of New South Wales allowing the program to continue to reach a larger audience and empower more Aboriginal youth and families with Culture.



Weaving with LWC Participants

The Lead with Culture program has four key pillars for success,

Unearthing the Path to Cultural Consciousness

Building the Foundations for Cultural Erudition and Mental Health

Building the Foundations for Cultural Knowledge

Cultivating Culture: Determination & Empowerment

During the past twelve months the Lead with Culture Mentors have seen outstanding results for young people in this program:

Supported over 250 clients

90 young people gained full time employment

70 youth attending high school 4 or more days per week

98% of youth in program reporting increased connection to culture

97% youth reporting increase in reliance and wellbeing

More than 100 cultural programs delivered

The Australian Government funds the KARI Lead with Culture Program in partnership with the Department of Social Services.



Our schools year 9-11 students school attendance has increased overall. Students regularly ask me when the next Lead with Culture meeting is, it demonstrates that the students enjoy the activities and time with their mentors. One student in particular who was regularly late to school since joining the program now has excellent attendance.

*Renee,
Aboriginal Student Coordinator*

Before I met my mentor I never realised the situation which I was in, not working and no real home I was living off the dole. I attended the cultural workshops, to be honest before this I did not have respect for myself, connecting me to our culture I am so much happier now. Last week I passed my P's and secured a job in construction.

*Jason,
19 year old*

I was not turning up to school as It never felt right to me, since I joined the Lead with Cultural program and worked my mentor its changed my life. I now have an excellent connection to my mob and our traditions and have reconnected with an my Aunty. Having the LwC team turn up at my school has helped me understand where I fit in and now I go every day.

*Sally,
Year 11 student*



2019 SNAICC Conference

The 8th Annual SNAICC (Secretariat of National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care) National Conference was held in Adelaide from 2nd to the 5th September 2019.

The SNAICC Conference is a platform for delegates and speakers to gather from around the country, to discuss challenges, share knowledge and experiences in raising happy, healthy and confident children. The event is hosted by SNAICC, the national non-government peak body in Australia representing the interest of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

As the leading national conference for Aboriginal children in out of home care, it allows our staff to explore what is happening in the space of programming to support children and families, as well as discover new innovations and apply these learnings to future programs.

The Clinic Team was one of many to attend the conference to present their abstract on the KARI Therapeutic Community Playgroup. Playgroup supports urban Aboriginal families in engaging with early childhood development services, through a soft-entry playgroup approach.

Attending the conference is helpful to our Clinic team as it provides ideas to robustly build on the service we provide ensuring we are delivering programming in a culturally supportive environment.

The Clinic team presented on the pilot phase of our playgroup over an 18-month period. Data collected shows that 60-70% of children who attended playgroup at one point within the pilot year were also engaging with additional speech pathologists and occupational therapists, by utilising playgroup as a soft-entry pathway to further clinical early intervention services.

We also had representatives from our Cultural Unit attend the conference, to present on Cultural Care Planning and Cultural Engagement with children and young people in out of home care.

Troy Dargan, our Cultural Unit Coordinator, spoke about the relationships the Cultural Unit have been able to build with our children and young people in care, through the various programs the team deliver, including cultural camps and workshops.

As a result of this work, our children and young people are developing a strong sense of identity and pride in culture, which sets a strong foundation for further growth and development in other key areas of their lives.

Attendance at these events is critical to ensuring that our staff are providing current, quality service provision to our communities. Having two teams successfully submit abstracts and be selected to present to our colleagues in the sector, further cements our organisation as a firm leader in the national delivery of contemporary, culturally appropriate programs and services.



Tara and Jennifer from the KARI Clinic



Cultural Unit Manager Troy Dargan addresses the SNAICC conference







KARI 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner Event

In 2019 we celebrated a significant milestone as we commemorated KARI and our 20th year of providing quality service to Aboriginal families and communities; it was a time to reflect on past successes and more importantly where we are headed into the future.

To mark the occasion, on Friday 13th September 2019 we held our 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Sydney's Darling Harbour.

Held in the Grand Ballroom, guests were taken on a visual journey canvassing key moments for KARI over the past 20 years. A performance of traditional Aboriginal dances from the Muggera Dancers allowed guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in culture from the very beginning of the night's events.

Our very own KARI Singers performed their renditions of Yothu Yindi's "World Turning" and "Djapana". The atmosphere was electric as members of the community and KARI's corporate partners reflected in unity about their experiences with KARI.

KARI Founder, Paul Ralph, shared some of his fondest memories of how KARI came to be.

"We opened our doors in 1999, just two people, myself and our co-founder Cheryl (Ralph) and that was going to be the starting point of thinking about, what can we do to make a difference in the community. We had a very little office, and very little resources, but we had a BIG dream."

After the formalities, special guest Nathan Foley performed a number of classic dance floor hits that allowed guests to let loose, socialise with friends old & new and enjoy the remainder of the evening in high spirits.

We would like to thank Ray Hadley OAM, for being our MC for this special event, as well as all of our Corporate Partners and the community. We would not be able to continue our mission of changing lives and keeping culture if it weren't for their continued support.

We look forward to seeing what the next 20 years has in store.



Roy Ah-See opens the Gala event





Corporate Thank You Event

In appreciation of the ongoing support we receive from our valued Corporate Partners, we held our annual Thank You Event on Thursday 21st November 2019, at The Locker Room in Sydney Olympic Park.

The event was a celebration of the joint achievements of the KARI Foundation and our Corporate Partners throughout 2019 and an opportunity to say thank-you for the continued support and invested funding from our dedicated partners.

The event also allows us to showcase programs that have achieved noteworthy outcomes throughout the year. KARI Ambassador Beau Champion spoke on the success of our inaugural 2019 City 2 Surf fundraising campaign and also took the opportunity to encourage all attending guests to participate in years to come.



Commitment to Positive Community Change Award 2019:

West's Tigers

Commitment to Aboriginal Excellence Award 2019:

The National Rugby League

Commitment to Aboriginal Advancement Award 2019:

Department of Social Services

KARI Champion Award 2019:

Bekir and Ireena Kilic (Pro I.T)

Commitment to Change Award 2019:

Greg Warren MP, Member for Campbelltown

KARI Partner of the Year Award 2019:

International Convention Centre (ICC)

Following Beau, KARI Fit Camp Exercise Program coordinators Blake Ralph and Elise Falloon participated in a panel discussion with CEO Casey Ralph to provide a re-cap on the success of the 2019 program. The discussion provided insight on how corporate dollar investment can provide real outcomes to our community through programs that provide life skills, social engagement opportunities and overall, support the health and wellbeing of our community.

This year, awards were presented to organisations who displayed an above and beyond approach to supporting the KARI Foundation.



Sam Glass, Director of Corporate Affairs and Communication, ICC Sydney accepts the 2019 Partner Of The Year Award

Each award recognises the commitment of an organisation or a person to bettering the future of our community.

The Thank You event continues to provide a great close to a successful calendar year built on growing relationships with our corporate partners. It also provides an opportunity for corporates to socialise on common ground, ask questions and be inspired by Aboriginal leadership and enterprise.



Mark DeWeerd, General Manager, Indigenous Strategy, NRL accepts the commitment to Indigenous Excellence Award



Dreamtime Awards 2019

The National Dreamtime Awards returned for another year on Saturday 16th November 2019 at the Star Event Centre in Sydney. The Dreamtime Awards are an opportunity for First Nations people from across our country to come together and recognise our excellence in categories of Sport, Arts, Education, Health and Community.

We are proud to sponsor the Community Person of the year award as we believe it is important to recognise inspiring individuals who are passionate about giving back to their community.

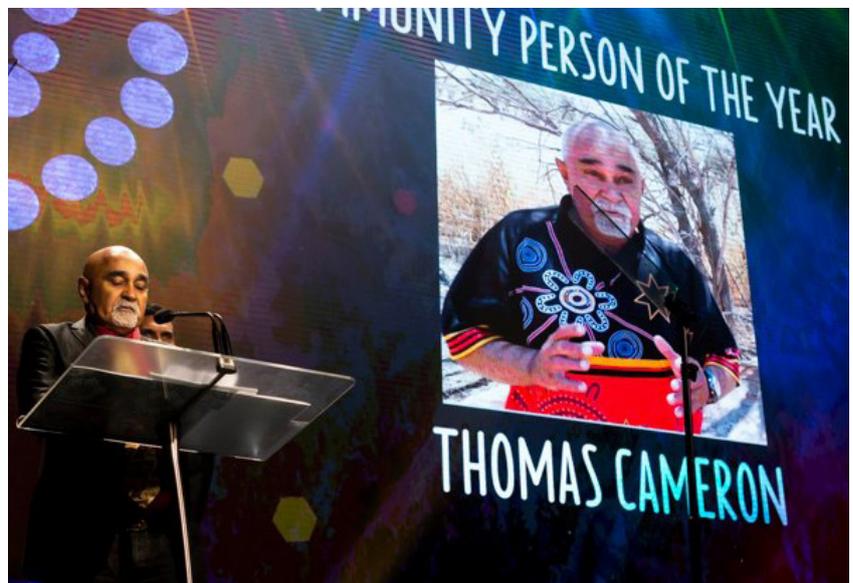
We would also like to congratulate one of our KARI Limited Foster Carers, Vicki Bowen, who had the honour of receiving a nomination in the Educator of the Year category for her commitment to providing best practice in education for Aboriginal young people in her community of South West Sydney.



Nova Peris OA -
Lifetime Achievement Award



All of the award recipients



Thomas Cameron - KARI Community Person of the Year



The night recognises excellence across 17 categories, with 3 major awards including:

Dreamtime Lifetime Achievement Award

Dreamtime Elder of the Year

Dreamtime Person of the Year



The winners of each category were:

Student of the Year:

Matthew Watts

Sports Talent of the Year:

Brent Naden

Male Artist of the Year:

Electric Fields

Educator of the Year:

Amanda Toomey

Female Sportsperson of the Year:

Ashleigh Barty

Female Artists of the Year:

Jessica Mauboy

Institute of the Year:

Institute of Koorie Education, Deakin University

Male Sportsperson of the Year:

Jack Wighton

Lifetime Achievement Award

Nova Peris OA

Organisation of the Year:

The Purple House

Female Actor of the Year:

Rarriwuy Hick

Elder of the Year:

Uncle Ralph Naden

Business of the Year:

Walkabout Barber

Male Actor of the Year:

Rob Collins

Person of the Year:

Ashleigh Barty

KARI Community Person of the Year:

Thomas Cameron

Media Person of the Year:

Brooke Boney



Community Golf Day

Members of the community gathered to tee off for KARI's annual Community Golf Day, held on Thursday 12th September 2019 at Camden Lakeside Golf Club. The skies were clear and course as green as ever as the teams of 4 took to the course.

KARI's Community Golf Day allows members of the local community and surrounds to engage with our team in a relaxed environment in order to learn more about our organisation and what we offer, as well as how they can get involved with our services.



Join us for a day on the green at our 2020 KARI Community Golf Day

Network and strengthen community connections in a relaxed and informal environment whilst supporting KARI.

<p>Date: Thursday 10th September 2020</p> <p>Time: 7:35 am registration with a shotgun start at 8:00 am</p> <p>Venue: Lakeside Golf Club, Camden, 50 Raby Road, Catherine Field</p> <p>Cost: 1 Player \$50 Team of 2 \$100 Team of 4 \$200</p> <p>Format: 4 Persons Ambrose</p>	<p>Participants receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast on arrival • Use of motorised carts • Beverages on the course throughout the day • Club house lunch • Prizes to be won and presented on the day
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Contact Community Programs on 8782 0300 or email community_programs@kari.org.au to find out more.

KARI



Golfers took pride in their KARI Foundation Golf Day Polos

Events such as these generally garner a high number of male registrations, however over the years we have seen an increase in the rate of female participation, ensuring that all members of our community are represented at events such as these.

Lunch was served for all to enjoy before the commencement of the official presentation where winners from the day were rewarded with Drummonds Golf vouchers, with other prizes including a set of golf balls.

Corporate Golf Day

KARI Foundation's Corporate Golf Day was held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 at the scenic Coast Golf Club in Little Bay providing an opportunity for our partner organisations to network and build relationships.

A post course presentation as well as lunch was provided in the clubhouse, where La Perouse were crowned champions of the day, each player receiving a painted didgeridoo along with a Drummond Golf voucher.

Runners Up were Club Menangle, walking away with a boomerang and a voucher from The Coast for another day on the green.

This year corporates had the opportunity to purchase holes on the course, where they were able to represent their organisation and its existing relationship with the KARI Foundation.

We would like to thank New South Wales Rugby League, PRO IT, HSBC, Seven Miles Coffee Roasters and WestConnex for their support.

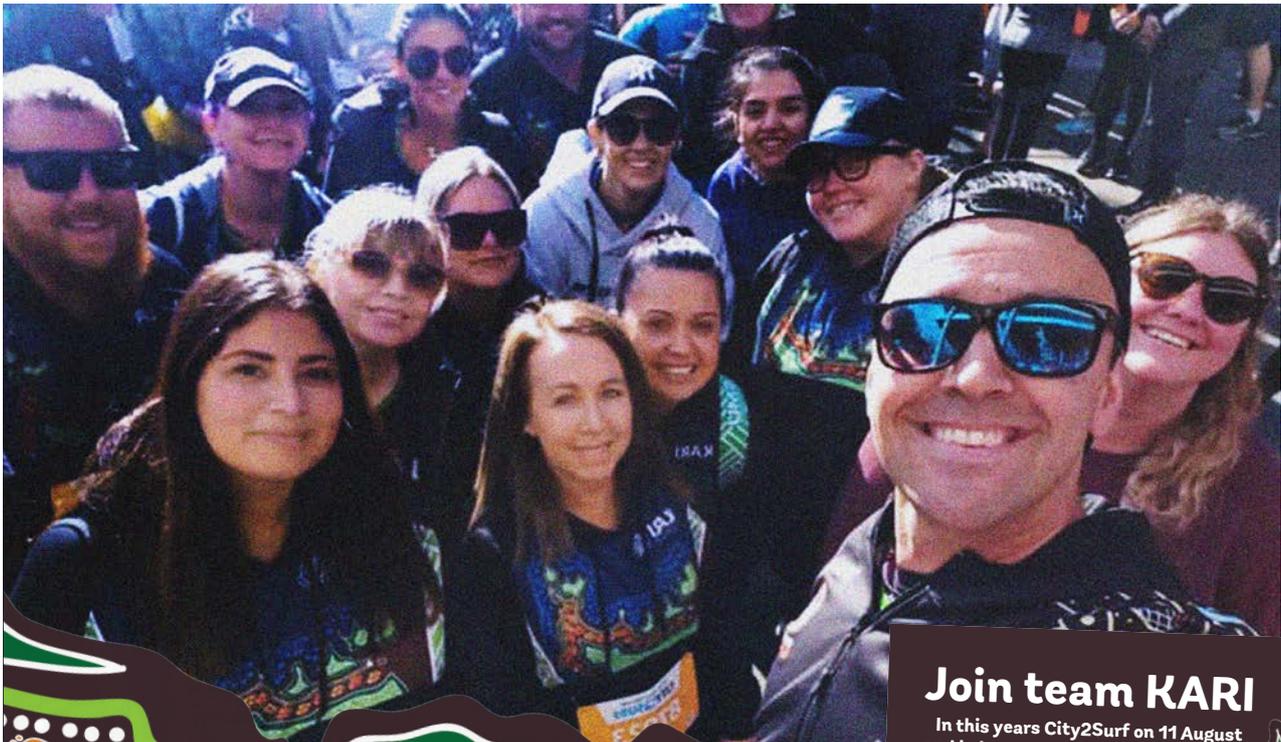


The Seven Miles Coffee Roasters Combi served free early morning coffee



Our happy golfers ahead of tee off





2019 City2Surf

Team KARI Foundation participated in our first ever City2Surf on Sunday 11th of August 2019.

As it was our first time entering a team into the world's largest fun run, (over 80,000 people participated in this year's event) we were unaware of just how much support we would receive in the lead up to the race. In our inaugural year we were excited to see over 40 entrants for Team KARI participate on the day.

Thanks to Everyday Hero, those who were unable to participate in this year's City2Surf event, were still able to raise funds towards KARI Foundation programming.

As a result of this year's fundraising efforts we were able to raise over \$22,000.00, a massive effort for all involved.

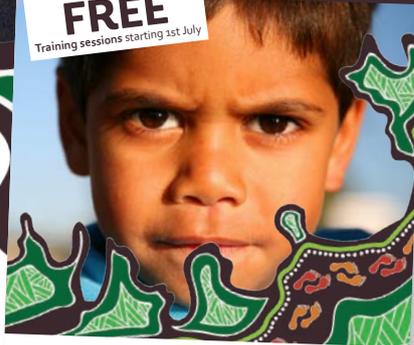
Thanks to our large team of fundraisers and supporters, we are able to put these donations towards the design and delivery of additional sport and healthy lifestyle programs for Aboriginal youth.

Join team KARI

In this years City2Surf on 11 August and help us tackle the childhood health concerns of Aboriginal youth.

FREE

Training sessions starting 1st July



EVERY DOLLAR you raise and the distance you cover will directly go towards Changing Lives and Keeping Culture.

PRIZES AND REWARDS FOR FUNDRAISING

Level:	Receive:
1	KARI Aboriginal Truckers Cap
2	KARI Aboriginal Running Singlet
3	KARI Aboriginal Hoodie
4	KARI Aboriginal Backpack

The Sun-Herald
CITY2SURF

KARI
FOUNDATION

This was the first of many years KARI Foundation will be participating in the City2Surf, and with each year we hope our team of participants and fundraisers grow, so we can continue to provide more programs in our communities and even hope to expand delivery to communities eager to engage in our brand.



Parkview, PIF House built by Rawson Homes for KARI

The opportunity to bring together leaders in both commercial and residential construction, Parkview & Rawson Homes, was something that both the KARI Foundation and the Property Industry Foundation (PIF) were excited to get behind to support. The results of which were the build of the KARI House; a 6-bedroom home, which support's youth transitioning out of the foster care system.

KARI House will provide young people leaving care a safe and supported accommodation whilst empowering them with important independent living skills based on financial education, cooking and cleaning ensuring each young person has the best possible start to their adult life.



Turning of the soil to commence construction of KARI House



KARI House

KARI Foundation would like to thank the following key suppliers for their generous support:

- ABC Scaffolds
- Accent Carpets
- B&D Doors
- Bay Timber
- Bradford
- Brancato Gyprock
- Corinthian
- DK Woods
- Donovans
- Elba Kitchens
- Fibre Flash
- Flexxi Fence
- Hudson/James Hardie
- Hudson/James Hardie
- Kingspan
- Life's Good Painting
- Melrose (Stramit + Colorbond)
- P&N Rogers
- PGH
- Rentokil
- Residential
- Riverview Landscaping
- Sonic
- Southern Cross Plumbing
- Steel Builders
- Stegbar
- Stegbar Shower Screens
- Tile Direct
- Tradelink
- Vaccaro
- Winnings





"We appreciate the support we have received over those years and value the relationships we have built."

"It was important to us to give back to the industry and community that has built us up to where we are today."

*Tony Touma, Founder
Parkview Group*

Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP and Greg Warren MP support KARI Foundation programs going mobile

KARI Foundation secured State Government funding for both the Coogee and Campbelltown electorate from Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP and Greg Warren MP for the purchase and fit out of two buses. These vehicles will ensure KARI Foundations delivery of cultural, sport, and arts programs can be mobile and facilitated in both locations.

"Dr Marjorie O'Neill MP and Greg Warren MP understand the importance of empowering community and celebrating Aboriginal culture, both these members are true champions of change".

Cain Slater, Head of Partnerships, Marketing & Fundraising

Seven-Mile Roasters Monthly Givers

KARI Foundation and Seven Mile Roasters joined forces to upskill Aboriginal youth in coffee basic and barista courses. Seven Mile Roasters attention to detail and reputation for excellence in both training and the support of Australian roaster beans ensure youth in these programs have the best opportunity for positive employment outcomes.

Young people who attended this training have increased their confidence, gained important interpersonal and customer service skills, allowing them to continue their pathways to employment.

Seven Mile Roasters coffee combi also attended the KARI Corporate Golf day to provide free early morning coffee, much to the delight to the golfers.

KARI Foundation looks forward to building on the partnership with Seven Miles Roasters during the coming years.

This year saw the KARI Foundation reach a record number of generous people supporting us through monthly donations. These donations have allowed the KARI Foundation to increase core activities and grow numerous programs throughout the year.

During this year, we have seen floods, fire, drought and the coronavirus pandemic, and still the generosity of the Australian community to invest in the lives of Aboriginal people and communities remains important.

These acts of kindness are never taken lightly by the KARI Foundation employees and Board of Directors. From everyone at KARI we thank all those who have donated to the organisation and assure you that our success would not be possible without your support.



Barista training at Seven Mile Roasters





Sport & Healthy Lifestyle

KARI Foundation delivers healthy lifestyle messaging and assessments closing the gap for Aboriginal communities through the delivery of culturally appropriate allied health services. Utilising the power of sport we provide access for communities to participate in grass roots sporting events and activities, whilst also delivering supported elite pathways for talented youth.



49th Annual Koori Knockout

The 49th Annual Koori Knockout, was held over the October long weekend from 4th to 6th October 2019, in Tuggerah, New South Wales.

The Annual Koori Knockout is an integral part of the Aboriginal Community and provides communities near and far with the opportunity to represent their culture and their teams' colours.

KARI Foundation were the proud sponsors of 70 teams through the KARI Foundation Koori Knockout Sponsorship Initiative. We were able to provide 2 tiers of sponsorship to support teams, providing playing gear as well as additional funds to support those teams who needed assistance on their journey to the Koori Knockout.

Not only does this event allow the community to showcase their local talent across each age and gender division, it allows for the Aboriginal community to come together to celebrate in a positive environment. Families come together to support their favourite teams and take part in other events that are held on the day.

Approximately 30,000 players and fans attended this year's knockout, labelling it the "modern day corroboree". Indigenous National Rugby League stars like Greg Inglis, Cody Walker, Tyrone Peachey and Andrew Fifita were in attendance to show their support.

Results for the 2019 competition were;

Mens

South Coast Black Cockatoos 40 - 12 Griffith Three Ways United

Womens

Wellington Wedgetails 6 - 4 Belbrook Dunghutti Connections

U-17 Boys

Kempsey Sharks 12 - 10 Western Koori Eels

U-16 Girls

La Perouse Panthers 34 - 0 Narwan Eels

U-15 Boys

South Taree 20 - 10 Toomelah Tigers

U-12 Boys

La Perouse Panthers 38 - 4 Butucarbin Warriors





South Coast Black Cockatoos - Winners of the 2019 Knockout

This year an Under 16's girls' competition was introduced to showcase talent in female youth, adding to the impressive displays of athleticism and passion for culture amongst the already well established men's and women's competitions.

The La Perouse under 16's girls' team took out the inaugural U/16's competition, with the overall winners of the men's competition being the South Coast Black Cockatoos.



2019 New South Wales State of Origin

Our partnership with the New South Wales Blues continues to strengthen, and for the second consecutive year in a row, we were represented as the first Aboriginal organisation to be placed on the front of the New South Wales Blues State of Origin jersey. KARI Foundation are proud to be partnered with the New South Wales Blues as their strength and determination are values we can align with.

Game 1 unfortunately did not go in favour of the Blues, beaten by Queensland 18-14. Game 2 proved that the Blues have what it takes to beat the odds and come back against a tough Queensland team. After their close defeat in game 1, the Blues found their feet again, defeating the Maroons 38-6.

In what was a nail-biting end to State of Origin Game 3, the New South Wales Blues prevailed over the QLD Maroons in the final minutes, with an exciting 26-20 win. As back-to-back champions, the Blues were stronger than ever.

KARI Foundation are proud to be the community partner of the New South Wales Blues. This partnership ensures that not only Aboriginal youth, but the Aboriginal community, can gain access to opportunities that only the New South Wales Blues and KARI Foundation can exclusively provide.

As our partnership grows to new lengths, together we can provide more opportunities for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to learn about our work, utilising the game of Rugby League as a tool to inspire and foster connection through culture and continue to raise the profile of Aboriginal Australia.





2019 Indigenous All Stars Campaign

KARI Foundation strongly supports the Indigenous All Stars campaign as it parallels our commitment to promoting and driving awareness of culture to the wider community through the sport of Rugby League.

As an extension of our long-standing partnership with the National Rugby League, and the Indigenous All Stars concept, KARI Foundation this year sponsored the Indigenous Women's Pathways Program - which included the selection of the 2020 Indigenous Women's All-Star's team.

"KARI Foundation has a commitment to promoting and driving awareness of culture to the wider community. The Indigenous All Stars provides a platform to not only promote culture but also continue to increase the opportunities for our youth, especially young women, to participate in elite pathways"

KARI CEO, Casey Ralph.

In the lead up to the All Stars matches, played at Cbus Stadium on February 22nd 2020, thirty six of the nation's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female rugby league players were selected for a series of development and selection camps.

The camps coincided with the announcement that our long-standing partnership with the National Rugby League had provided an opportunity for KARI Foundation to become the major sponsor the Women's Pathways Program.

The Women's Pathways Camps provided Indigenous female athletes, who aspire to become professional rugby league players, an avenue to better their skills. Simultaneously, learning more about their culture as well as upskilling them to educate those around them.

The final camp was held during the week of 13th to the 17th January in the lead up to the announcement of the 2020 representative team.

Indigenous Women's All Stars selector, Dean Widders said the camp provided an opportunity to bring the squad together with plenty of time to work on combinations and camaraderie before the next instalment of the All Stars on the Gold Coast.

"We're fortunate to have some incredible athletes across our game and the current crop of female Indigenous players is the best I've seen in my time, It's a really exciting time for our game and for our community and I'm so proud to support this group of talented women as they showcase the very best of rugby league on and off the field."

Dean Widders

The group of players selected to represent the Indigenous community at the Women's All Stars match were;

Jasmine Allende

Shaylee Bent

Nakia Davis-Welsh

Quincy Dodd

Layla Fauid

Tallisha Harden

Jenni-Sue Hoepper

Caitlan Johnston

Bobbi Law

Tankia Marshall

Steph Mooka

Kelsey Parkin

Kaitlyn Phillips

Shaniah Power

Rhiannon Revell-Blair

Simone Smith

Shakiah Tungai

Rebecca Young



The representative match was held on the Gold Coast at Cbus Stadium, coinciding with the celebration of the 10th year of the All Stars concept.

The Women's Indigenous All Stars were victorious against the Maori Ferns, winning 10-4 in an exhilarating match. The pre-game performances included the Women's Indigenous All Star's team embracing their culture with the Unity Dance and the Maori Ferns responding with the women's Haka.

In what was a final battle of the cultures, the Men's Indigenous All Stars team went down to the Maori All Stars 30-16. Despite the loss, both teams represented their cultures proudly, with chilling performances of the Indigenous War Cry and the traditional Maori Haka.

Partnering with the National Rugby League for the Indigenous All Stars provided KARI Foundation exclusive access to the activities during the week in the lead up to Saturday's games.

Both the men's and women's Indigenous All Stars teams participated in activities throughout the week that embraced their culture, as well as interacting with youth in attendance at the annual All Stars Youth Summit.

KARI Foundation were able to provide exclusive content to our community with live videos of the Indigenous teams training. Both the men and women put their maximum efforts into each session, proving why this exhibition match is so important to them.

In the lead up to game day, KARI CEO Casey Ralph and Founder Paul Ralph were given the privilege of presenting the jerseys to each player in a public display so fans could cheer on their respective teams. This presentation further cemented the monumental occasion of KARI Foundation appearing as the key campaign sponsor.

KARI Foundation were presented with signed jerseys from both the men and women's teams, in order to be put up for auction.

After a successful week, bidding resulted in all jerseys sold with all the proceeds raised going towards increasing the participation of Aboriginal youth in sport.



2019 Indigenous Womens All Stars

Sydney Roosters NRLW Sponsorship

KARI Foundation continued our partnership with the Sydney Roosters for the second year, building both on and off the field.

KARI Foundation featured on the Sydney Roosters National Rugby League jersey for Indigenous round, which was made more special with both organisations delivering a special art workshop at Plunket Street Primary School with Danielle Mate Sullivan the esteemed Aboriginal artist who designed the playing jersey for the round. This opportunity allowed both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth to be immersed in and celebrate Aboriginal culture. The partnership also saw the commencement of the in schools NAPCAN Love Bites: Respectful Relationships Program and the development of a new cultural awareness program.



Tarsha Gale Team

Anita Nelson

Beverly Beale

Billie Woods

Chelsea Thompson

Dakota Blacklock

Ella Simon

Illarrah Roberts

Jada Karam

Janaya Trapman

Janiyah Brown

Jannalli Eldridge

Jordan Mackensize

Kayla Moran-Kim

Keilee Joseph

Lavinia Taukamo

Maya Svagelli

Montanna Shoesmith

Nar-Neekie Cohen

Natalie Smith

Rease Casey

Seini Tesinia

Shakaya Williams

Shannon Lo

Sharika Nean

Summer Dann

Tymekqwa Duckett

Zahli Dymock

Brandi Davis-Welsh

This year sustained the focus on increasing pathways for women's rugby league between the Sydney Roosters KARI Indigenous academy playing in the Tarsha Gale Cup through to the elite National Rugby League Womens team. Congratulations to the entire Sydney Roosters Tarsha Gale side and the Roosters National Rugby League Womens teams.

Roosters NRLW Team

Jasmin Allende

Karina Brown

Kirra Dibb

Quincy Dodd

Vanessa Foliaki

Tallisha Harden

Melanie Howard

Isabelle Kelly

Bobbi Law

Amelia Mafi

Nita Maynard

Corban McGregor

Aliti Namocoe

Shanice Parker

Ruan Sims

Simone Smith

Hannah Southwell

Shontelle Stowers

Kiana Takairangi

Zahara Temara

Simaima Taufa

Rebecca Young



West's Tigers Elite Pathways Camp

The KARI Foundation and West's Tigers partnership has strengthened since its official launch in 2018. West's Tigers were this year pleased to confirm that respected rugby league coach Ron Griffiths joined the club as a Coaching Assistant for the 2020 National Rugby League season.

Ron's appointment at West's Tigers has come wholly supported by the KARI Foundation with the goal of contributing to the club's already talented team in the continued development of junior coaching and recruitment, Indigenous and community programs and mentor assistance to young players.

Having worked closely with Michael Maguire and the club's coaching staff in 2019, Ron has taken on a more formal role with the side as well as providing assistance to the club's Aboriginal and Community programs.

In addition to this, after the success of our first camp, KARI Foundation partnered with West's Tigers Foundation to provide an Elite Pathways Camp for aspiring Aboriginal footballers.

Co-designed to provide a pathway for rural youth to access opportunities that could lead to a career in the National Rugby League (NRL), participants travelled from Tamworth, Young, Armidale and Canberra to take part.

For a week of the July 2019 school holidays (9-15 July), this camp provided an opportunity for players (aged 15-16 years) to improve their practical skills, be put through their paces with West's Tigers coaching staff and broaden their knowledge surrounding the game of rugby league.

This program also provided an opportunity for KARI Foundation staff to impart cultural teachings and immerse young people in Aboriginal culture in both a traditional and modern context.

The group of 15 kicked off their busy schedule with an intense fitness training session held by the coaching staff at West's Tigers. This was followed by video analysis, gym sessions and one on one access to learn from the best in the game, including a session with West's Tigers coach Michael Maguire.

Off the field, KARI Foundation staff provided cultural knowledge share for participants and West's Tigers staff, inclusive of a leadership workshop with KARI Ambassador Beau Champion, a NAIDOC week workshop and a hands on, skills based workshop involving wood carving and traditional weapon making.

"The KARI Foundation & West's Tigers Indigenous Elite Pathways Camp was deemed a huge success this year. Not only did the camp enable the young men to develop their rugby league skills and gain an understanding of what it takes to reach the elite level, the growth in confidence and leadership throughout the week was strongly recognised by our Pathways Coaches."

Laura Smith, West's Tigers Foundation Manager

This year's camp concluded with attendees families attending a post-camp wrap up to hear about the week's events before heading over to BankWest Stadium to see the West's Tigers take on the Parramatta Eels; A fitting closure for a week spent living in the shoes of their heroes.



Camp participants attended a goal setting workshop facilitated by Beau Champion





Participant feedback solidified that this partnership is worthwhile and one that we hope to see continue to grow moving forward;

"The training and the cultural stuff was an eye opener for me. Everything that Michael Maguire told us about leadership is the key and having a good character. I learnt that everything off the field will determine what happens on the field"

Braiden Wickey,
Campbelltown, New South Wales

"It was amazing, training at the Tigers facilities was probably the best training, the hardest training, but the best training, I've ever done in my life, it was great. The major highlight this week was probably, just the cultural experiences that we did in the camp. It was really good learning about the roots and where we come from and how our ancestors used to get on back in the old days"

Toby Taggart,
Tamworth, New South Wales

"The training to learning new skills and things like that really helped me realise how far I've got to go in football"

Jack McDougall,
Canberra,
Australian Capital Territory



Goal setting is an important exercise for aspiring athletes



Wests Tigers training staff put the young people through extensive drills





Coaching Conference

The Indigenous Coaching Conference was designed to bring in coaches from across New South Wales to educate them on different aspects of coaching rugby league and provide a supportive space to share experiences and personal insights. Our second Indigenous Coaching Conference was held from 17th to the 19th of January 2020.

The conference was held in the New South Wales Rugby League Centre of Excellence providing participants with direct access and first hand insight to quality training and recovery facilities that can assist coaches in getting the most from their players.

Guest speakers included former Wests Tigers coach Wayne Pearce, current Wests Tigers coach Michael Maguire, as well as high profile guests and media identity Paul Kent, KARI Foundation CEO Casey Ralph, was also a guest speaker during the conference.



West Tigers coach Michael Maguire



Dean Feeney, Parramatta Eels

The complete list of presenters at the conference this year were;

Matt King,
Sydney Roosters

Kristian Heffernan,
New South WalesRL

Gavin Badger,
NRL Referee/Referee
Development Office

Kasey Badger,
NRL Assistant Referee

Dean Feeney,
Parramatta Eels

Andy Patmore,
New South WalesRL Womens
State of Origin Coach

Michael Maguire,
Wests Tigers

Paul Kent, Media Journalist,
Fox Sports and The
Daily Telegraph

Wayne Pearce,
Wests Tigers

Ronald Griffiths,
Wests Tigers

Casey Ralph,
KARI CEO

"I would like to congratulate KARI as I believe there is a real need to get our mob not only higher up in the coaching ranks, but to also encourage each other to take the skills learnt from the weekend back to our local communities and continue to develop as coaches."

Dean Feeney, Parramatta Eels



KARI
FOUNDATION



INDIGENOUS COACHING CONFERENCE

JAN 2020

SUPPORTED BY THE NRL



KARI Foundation

Level 2,12 Dawn Fraser Avenue
Olympic Park NSW 2127

P: 02 8782 0300 F: 02 8782 0353
E: danny.allende@kari.org.au



**A total of 10 sessions
were facilitated over
the course of the 3
days, highlighting key
areas of today's game;**

Your Coaching Journey

Coaching Philosophy

Running an Effective
Training Session

Coaching Elite
Womens Players

Attacking Play

Defensive Play

Referees

Team Culture

Working with Media

Relationship
Management

The inclusion of current referees and representatives of the media in this year's conference, allowed participants to understand other key areas surrounding the game off the field. The 'Working with Media' session in particular provided insight on how to effectively collaborate with the media in a professional manner.

As another successful conference came to an end, we can only hope to see this program grow in the years to come, allowing aspiring Aboriginal coaches to achieve their goals of one day coaching in the National Rugby League.

KARI Foundation would like to thank the National Rugby League, New South Wales Rugby League, Sydney Roosters and Wests Tigers for their support and commitment to pathways for Aboriginal coaches.

"Developing from LLT to tackle in the NRL, is a great opportunity for women in our area. Being able to do this course has also given me insight on what I need to do culturally. It is important that Aboriginal players go through; I will continue to work with mainstream organisations in my (local) area and get them to understand the importance of having Aboriginal people to lead Aboriginal people, creating self-determination and cultural competency. Thank-You KARI"

Letitia Kelly, Tweed All Blacks



Ella 7's Rugby Union Tournament 2020

The KARI Foundation Ella 7's tournament is the largest of its kind across Australia, bringing together first nation's people to represent their club in a prestigious event. In its 12th year, the KARI Ella 7's introduced the primary school gala day, a prelude to the men's and women's competitions over the weekend.

Since its commencement in 2008, the KARI Ella 7's Rugby Union tournament was held for the first time in Dubbo at Apex Park from the 5th - 7th March 2020.

The Gracie Aboriginal Pathways Women's team were crowned champions, after defeating two-time defending premiers the Highlander's. In the men's competition, the Gomerai Goannas beat La Perouse R.U.F.C in the final minutes of the game, taking them down 24-19.

"Having KARI on board now for 4 years, going into their 5th year next year, gives us stability and credibility in the community as we are not chopping and changing sponsors/partners, which I think is important.

The competition is important as it gives teams a chance to represent their region/mob and this is reflected in the fabulous jersey designs that were on show. It also gives Indigenous kids from the bush, the chance to showcase their skills in a rugby environment, especially from communities that do not have a regular rugby competition. If this tournament makes a kid think about rugby long term, we are doing something right"

Rod Willey, Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team.

In addition to high attendance numbers, the event was live streamed via the KARI Facebook page reaching 43,000 people over the duration of the weekend assuring exposure of the event and the KARI Foundation brand.



Indigenous Driver Series

The Indigenous Driver Series (JC Caffyn Plate) returned again for its 9th consecutive year. This was the KARI Foundations 5th year in sponsoring this popular Indigenous sporting event and we are delighted to continue our alignment with such a unique sport, bringing communities both urban and rural together.

During the course of the series, a number of heats took place across New South Wales the first at Albury Trotting Club, with the second taking place at Parkes Harness Racing Club. The two final races took place at Young Harness Racing Club and Tamworth Harness Racing Club respectively.

Each heat ensured the winner took a spot in the final of the JC Caffyn plate, which was held at Club Menangle on Sunday 27th of October 2019.

Held at the Fishers Ghost race meeting this event provided an entertaining way to get children and families not only involved in harness racing but allowed them to experience the excitement surrounding this unique sport.

Club Menangle hosted a wonderful event with rides, food stalls and face painting, providing endless entertainment for all community members in attendance.

The eventual winner of the final was "Ziggy Rocks" and was masterfully driven by evergreen reinsman Danny Scanlon.

The presentation of trophies was conducted by KARI Co-founder Paul Ralph and State Member for Campbelltown Greg Warren, MP.



The following racers competed in this year's major event;

Danny Scanlon

Hayden Green

Danny Gibson

Jack Wade

Scott Wade

Jinaya Niass

Todd Day

Amanda Dean

McKayler Barnes

David Caffyn



Drivers crossing the finish line at the JC Caffyn Plate





Parents & Bubs Swimming Program

The KARI Parents & Bubs Swimming Program, funded by the New South Wales Government Water Safety Fund, was designed to offer free swimming lessons to Aboriginal children from 4 months to 3 years of age.

This program aimed to increase water safety, confidence and to teach water wise skills. Participating in this program also assisted in setting the foundations for early stages of swimming skills for both parents and their children.

This years' programs were facilitated at the Holsworthy Aquatic Centre and saw a total of 27 children participate alongside their accompanying parent/guardian. The program consisted of 10 swimming lessons over 10 weeks, one 30-minute lesson per week. Participants were also provided with a KARI swim bag inclusive of a KARI brand swimming towel. On the last lesson of the program each participant was awarded with a certificate of completion.



Parents & Bubs Swimming Numbers	
Term 4 2019	14
Term 1 2019	13



Learn to Swim Program

The KARI Learn to Swim Program is designed to offer free swimming lessons to Aboriginal children from 4 to 16 years old. This program aims to increase water safety, confidence and to teach water wise skills. Children who participated in this program had the opportunity to learn, enhance and build on their current swimming capabilities.

Participants attended weekly swimming lessons under the instruction of a professional swimming teacher at Holsworthy Aquatic Centre. The program consisted of 10 swimming lessons over 10 weeks with one 30-minute lesson per week.

The program also included a safety week lesson that included multiple hand on learning stations with the aim to develop safety survival skills. These stations included basic survival swim stroke, being able to tread water for long periods of time and throwing a rope to help rescue a struggling swimmer. This was a great addition to the program and highlighted an area of pool safety many of our parents were grateful to be exposed to.

Learn to SWIM

FREE 10 week Community Swim Program

For Aboriginal Children aged 4-16 years

Learning to swim is a skill for life and also great fun!

Swimming lessons provide many benefits to children. They have the potential to save lives and are great for improving health and fitness, while also increasing confidence.

WHEN: Tuesday afternoons from 4th February - 7th April 2020
WHERE: Holsworthy Aquatic Centre

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

For more information and to register please contact Alicia Doolan on 02 8782 0300 or alicia.doolan@kari.org.au

KARI FOUNDATION

Funded by the NSW Government under the Water Safety Fund. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSW Government.



A total of 40 children participated over two terms of the Learn to Swim Program. Each participant was provided with a KARI Swim Bag inclusive of a KARI swimming towel, goggles and a swim cap. Participants were awarded a certificate of completion at their last swimming lesson.



In addition to the success of our ongoing partnerships within the Sport & Healthy Lifestyle pillar, we have formed close working relationships with the following organisations across a number of initiatives this year;

Netball New South Wales Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

This year Netball New South Wales officially announced KARI CEO Casey Ralph as the elected Chairwoman of their RAP Working Group. Netball New South Wales has been working alongside their RAP Working Group, consisting of various Aboriginal members of the Netball New South Wales community as well as Aboriginal leaders, educators, and government officials and are committed to being an integral part of Australia's reconciliation journey.

Sydney Kings Indigenous Round

The Sydney Kings kindly offered 250 KARI clients and staff free tickets to their National Basketball League Indigenous round game on Sunday the 19th January at Qudos Bank Arena against SE Melbourne Phoenix.

Racing New South Wales Golden Eagle Event 2019

The inaugural Racing New South Wales Golden Eagle event was held on 2nd November 2019 at Rosehill Racecourse with ten per cent of prize money, a total of \$750,000, donated to accredited charity organisations as nominated by the runners.

KARI Foundation was extremely grateful for our selection as one of these nominated charities, the outcome of which allowed us to provide more free programs to support community members

KARI Foundation secured the horse Behemoth the \$6,000 horse, trained by David Jolly from South Australia. A bargain yearling purchase, Behemoth had only three wins and been placed a further four times from just ten career starts before the Golden Eagle.

KARI Foundation were invited to attend the day with Racing New South Wales and experience an excellent ride by jockey Todd Pannell, seen him guide Behemoth to a close fourth place to secure a total prize money of \$376,000 with the KARI Foundation very appreciative to receive \$39,000 as a result.



BEHEMOTH



THE GOLDEN EAGLE
SAT 2 NOV
ROSEHILL GARDENS RACECOURSE



Healthy Lifestyle Programs

KARI Clinic

Since commencing in 2001, KARI's Clinic has been committed to supporting the development, health and wellbeing needs of children in KARI's Permanency Support, Early Intervention and Community Programs.

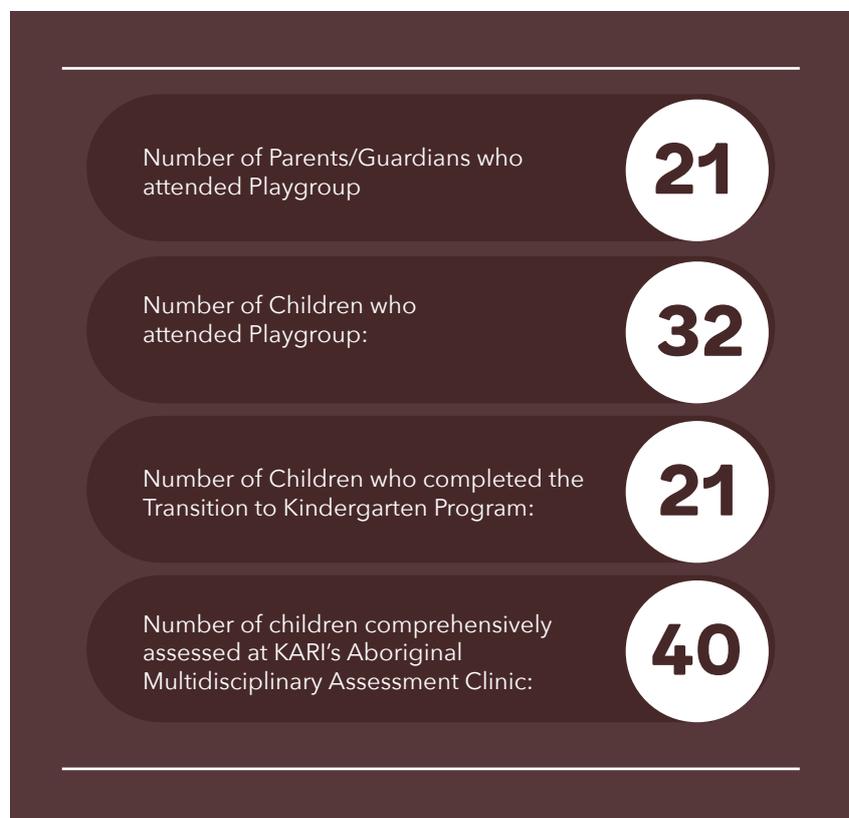
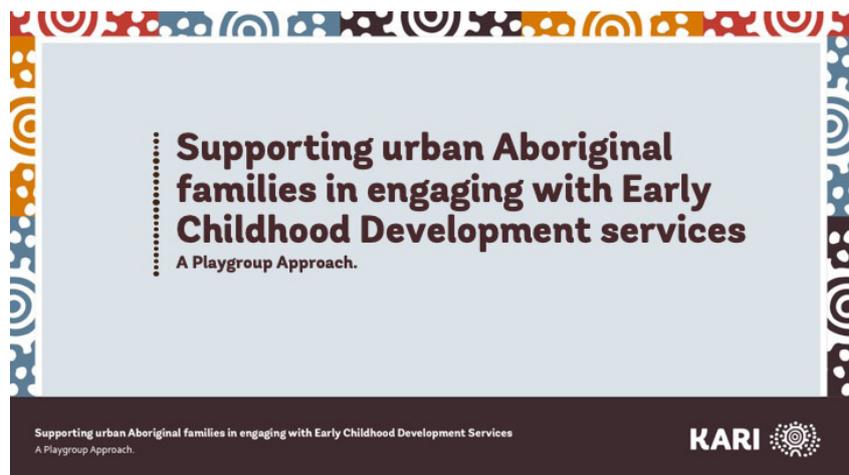
The Clinic delivers evidence based assessment and treatment services and works collaboratively with family support systems to ensure holistic and transformative care to children, young people and families.

Adult Services

Historically KARI's clinic has targeted support and services to children and young people. With the growth of the Permanency Support Program (PSP) into Restoration and Family Preservation came the need to look at what clinical services we could provide directly to parents who were being supported in these programs. One of our largest achievements for this financial year was the planning and expansion of our clinical services to include mental health and drug and alcohol support for parents working towards having their children restored into their care or parents working to preserve their family unit. With this we welcomed a clinical specialist/psychologist to our team and also worked in collaboration with our New South Wales Local Health District partners in creating a targeted tertiary referral pathway into local Drug Health services.

Community Playgroup

KARI's supported community playgroup has been operational since 2015 and we welcome many families from the local community into this service weekly. In partnership with KARI's Community Programs team, our Community Playgroup service was showcased at the 2019 SNAICC conference in Adelaide where we spoke about the collaboration between our two programs and the local community in supporting Aboriginal families to engage with early childhood development services.



Literacy Pathway

Literacy skills are a key indicator of educational success, access to employment and levels of social participation. It has long been recognised that Aboriginal children do not meet parity in literacy skills compared with their non-Indigenous peers. To enhance the literacy skills of young school aged children in our service a new targeted program was developed by our Speech Pathology team to add to our suite of early intervention programs targeting children in Kindergarten and improving their literacy skills across multiple skill areas (e.g. vocabulary, decoding, blending, inferencing). We have seen a small cohort of children attend this intensive program across the past year and are currently evaluating the data collected. Anecdotally positive outcomes were observed throughout the program and we hope to further develop and roll out a literacy enhancement program for a larger cohort in the coming year.

Carer & Staff Wellbeing

We had the amazing opportunity to partner this year with the Yoga Impact Charity in delivering a series of yoga classes to both staff and carers from our Out Of Home Care program (OOHC). Both caseworkers and carers have a very important job in looking after KARI's children and young people, so we aim to support their overall wellbeing to ensure they are at their peak to do their job. It was hoped outcomes such as better sleep, improved mobility, and improved stress levels would be achieved.

This was the case where benefits were reported across both the carer and staff groups with the staff group also reporting a reduction in stress symptoms from pre to post program evaluation.

To further support our OOHC carers, our team of psychologists piloted a carer support group this year. It was specifically designed for the purpose of decreasing carer stress and strengthening carer-child interactions. Evaluation of this program showed clinically significant reductions for most participants across parenting stress indicators and indicators associated with improved carer-child interactions. Qualitatively carers also reported that attending the group contributed to their feelings of connection towards KARI and to other carers in the program along with a decreased sense of isolation. With the successful outcomes of this pilot we plan to continue this program across the upcoming year.



Staff participating in Yoga



Telehealth

As COVID 19 descended upon us in early 2020, like across greater KARI, our work environments changed along with our service delivery in a very short period of time.

As part of KARI's COVID Safe plan, all clinical services transitioned to a telehealth model of care.

The shift was fast with many new learning curves for both staff and clients. Once up and running we were able to view the benefits of using telehealth in our service delivery, namely having more reach to clients who previously found it challenging logistically to attend appointments at our clinic sites.

Evaluation of the use of telehealth in our practice model will be completed with a view to maintain this service delivery mode well into the future.



Clinic Team meeting via Telehealth

Training

Our scope to provide training to both caseworker's and carers grew dramatically over the past 12 months. Our psychologists continue to provide education to prospective new Out Of Home Care carers regarding the impacts of childhood trauma and attachment disruption on child development and behaviour and the caring/parenting practices that support recovery.

We have developed and facilitated workshops for both carers and caseworkers in parenting/working with adolescents and identifying and responding to mental health concerns in this age group.

We are also working quite closely with our casework colleagues across all Permanency Support Programs (PSPs) in providing perennial education and upskilling in managing and responding to a range of mental health and comorbid risks in both adults and children.

In collaboration with KARI's youth worker and mentor team we commenced the development of a training package to support onboarding youth workers and mentors to enhance their work in supporting our children and young people experiencing significant behavioural challenges.



Flagship programs

We continue to run our Transition to School Program which aims to prepare all children with language, literacy, fine motor and social-emotional skills essential for commencing kindergarten.

In 2019 we saw 21 children participate in our 10 week program. We held groups onsite in our clinic and also ran an outreach group partnering with our local Aboriginal Preschool, Coota Gulla. Our outcomes continue to trend in positive outcomes with all children experiencing measurable growth against all key skill development areas.



Children participating in letter writing practice with our Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist.



Promoting oral health during Dental Week 2019

KARI's partnership with South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) continues to facilitate access and priority pathways into a range of health services for our clients.

This partnership allowed us to comprehensively assess 40 children across the year to ensure their medical, developmental and mental health needs were all met and for warm referrals facilitated to external services where required.



Celebrating Book Week 2019

The SWSLHD Community Paediatrics team has supported the ongoing facilitation of KARI's Aboriginal Multidisciplinary Assessment Clinic (KAMAC) where comprehensive medical and allied health assessments are provided to children in our PSPs living across this region.





Creative & Performing Arts

Aboriginal people communicate and connect through language, song, art and dance. KARI Foundation provide supported pathways to engage Aboriginal young people and communities in traditional and contemporary art practices, impart cultural knowledge and support the cultural strengthening of our community. This is accomplished by facilitating arts programs that nurture the talent of current and emerging artists, non-Indigenous and Corporate Australia in these ancient arts of storytelling

2019 Vocal Identification Program and Showcase

The 2019 Vocal Identification Program (VIP) grew to new heights with audition numbers exceeding previous years, making the selection process all the more harder for our program coordinators.

VIP is run in partnership with Public Schools New South Wales and provides an opportunity for high school aged students with an interest and talent in vocal performance to connect with other aspiring artists.

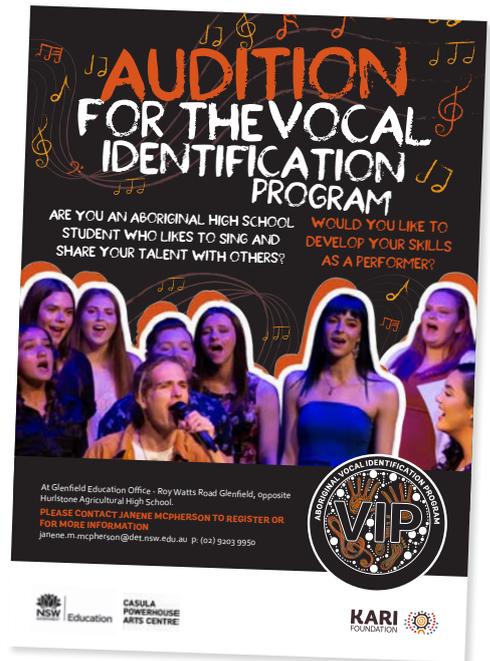
The program is facilitated through a series of workshops which provide guidance and support to students with the overall aim to increase their confidence and ability to perform publicly. The workshops focus on subjects such as improving vocal technique, learning and practicing how to use sound equipment, building self-esteem and demonstrating leadership qualities in a group environment.

This program supports pathways for youth who participate to perform in a safe and supported environment, with the opportunity to perform and showcase their talent to their family and friends as a final end to the program.

On Friday 16 August 2019, the annual showcase was held at the Casula Arts Powerhouse. This event provides the platform for the VIP participants to express themselves through song and demonstrate what they have learnt and how they have improved throughout the program.

The group of 19 performed a variety of songs on the night, from current hits to much loved classics and provided a truly entertaining show. As a group, participants performed the National Anthem in language together and the finale showstopper 'You Will Be Found' from the musical Dear Evan Hansen, displaying skills based on working with other singers and adapting their voices in a group environment.

Family, friends, KARI Staff and Public School New South Wales Staff are invited to attend the VIP Showcase event which has been a key feature of the program for a number of years. It has always proven to be a great way to celebrate the success of the group and a way to reward them for all their hard work throughout the year.



VIP Group performance

"It is always an exciting time seeing how far these youth have come from the beginning of the program. Some of them have been quite timid and shy, but once they step onto that stage a brand-new version of them comes out and it's incredibly rewarding to see that."

Blake Ralph, KARI VIP Coordinator

KARI Singers

The KARI Singers are one of the most talented Aboriginal vocal performance groups. Graduates of the Vocal Identification Program (VIP), these vocalists pride themselves on sharing culture, providing professional and high-quality performances tailored to their audience. The group captivates audiences with their unique sound and performance style offering unique Aboriginal songs as well as modern pieces with a cultural flare.

This year the KARI Singers have been in high demand, performing at many prominent corporate and community events held around New South Wales.



The group perform at ICC

Recent performances have included;

8 July 2019	OPTUS NAIDOC 2019 Celebration
7 August 2019	ICC Performance
13 August 2019	CQ University Sydney Graduation
19 August 2019	First State Super Theatre Opening - ICC Sydney
2 September 2019	Opening of the Western Sydney Airport Experience Centre - Badgerys Creek
13 September 2019	KARI 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner
2 November 2019	Clubs New South Wales Conference Dinner
9 November 2019	RANZCO Congress (Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists)
20 November 2019	ICC Sydney Performance
3 December 2019	AusRail PLUS Conference and Exhibition 2019
9 December 2019	PCOA19 Conference (Professional Conference Organisers Association)
11 December 2019	CQ University Sydney Graduation
18 December 2019	Sydney Roosters RAP Launch
17 January 2020	Australia Day Lunch 2020
26 January 2020	Australia Day Concert - Sydney Opera House
30 January 2020	Arinex Conference (Architects of Inspiring Experiences)
4 February 2020	ICC Sydney Performance
5 February 2020	ICC Sydney Performance
27 June 2020	Opening of the WestConnex M8 Tunnel



Regional New South Wales Vocal Workshops

In late November 2019, KARI Singers' Coordinators Blake Ralph and Sarah Bertram, took a team to visit Dubbo, New South Wales to provide a series of singing workshops to budding local performers. Two workshops were held over the course of two days at Yarradamarra Centre, Dubbo TAFE.

The workshops provided students with an opportunity to learn more about their craft as well as their culture. The workshops covered basic vocal technique, stage presence and movement as well as work on cultural and group songs including Yothu Yindi's 'Djapana'.

The aim of this program was to identify a small group of performers and present them with the opportunity to travel to Sydney in January 2020 for a special performance alongside the current KARI Singers cohort.

"We had a great turn out at both workshops and were able to educate the students on how to achieve the best outcomes with their voice, as well as how to adapt them when performing as a group. It's great to be able to bring this program to areas like Dubbo and we can only hope to continue doing so in other parts of regional New South Wales in the future"

Blake Ralph, KARI Singers Coordinator

KARI Foundation
Creative & Performing Arts

VOCAL WORKSHOPS

26 - 28 November 2019

We are seeking Aboriginal young people (Year 7 -12) who have a talent & passion for singing!

Dates: Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28 November 2019
Time: 9am - 3pm
Where: Yarradamarra Centre, Dubbo TAFE

Please contact Yvonne Hill - Senior Education Officer for more information e: yvonne.l.hill@det.nsw.edu.au p: (02) 6841 3853

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

KARI FOUNDATION



Our visitors from Dubbo experienced some of Sydney's iconic landmarks

Regional Vocalists Sydney Camp

Following the Christmas holiday break, KARI Foundation hosted the selected young people from regional New South Wales from the 13th January to 17th January 2020 in a week long vocal camp.

Due to their talent and outstanding display of character during the workshops, the group of young women were given the opportunity to travel to Sydney for a week filled with culture, vocal workshops, excursions to visit some of Sydney's well known attractions like Luna Park and participate in a special performance alongside the KARI Singers.

Throughout the week the group learned songs such as 'I Am Australian' in Dharawal language, as well as the National Anthem in Eora Sydney local language. A guest choreographer attended one of the workshops to teach the group a dance piece to accompany their performance of 'I Am Australian'.

Not only was the week about furthering their skills as performers, it was also a chance to provide them with cultural workshops, where they were educated on some of the more traditional customs of their culture.

Leanne Hudson from KARI's Cultural Unit provided a weaving workshop, where the participants made bracelets from raffia. This workshop was a great way to include culture during their stay, and also provided them with a souvenir to remember the experience.

"We're really focusing the importance of culture. I think it's important for our kids to be proud of who they are and where they come from and who they represent in their mob and their family"

Blake Ralph, KARI Singers Coordinator

After a week of rehearsing and perfecting their performance, they were able to put their talents to the test, by performing at Corporate Club Australia's, (CCA) Australia Day Lunch, held on Friday 17th of January at Sydney's International Convention Centre (ICC). The performance captivated the audience with their inspiring rendition of both pieces.

Many thanks go to Raymond Ingrey, Chairman of the Gujaga Foundation for translating the lyrics to 'I Am Australian' and his contribution to the success of this program.

"Workshops and experiences like these shape kids and who they are. Not enough kids know their culture and I think it's very, very important as it's a part of who we are."

Sarah, Dubbo Regional Vocalist

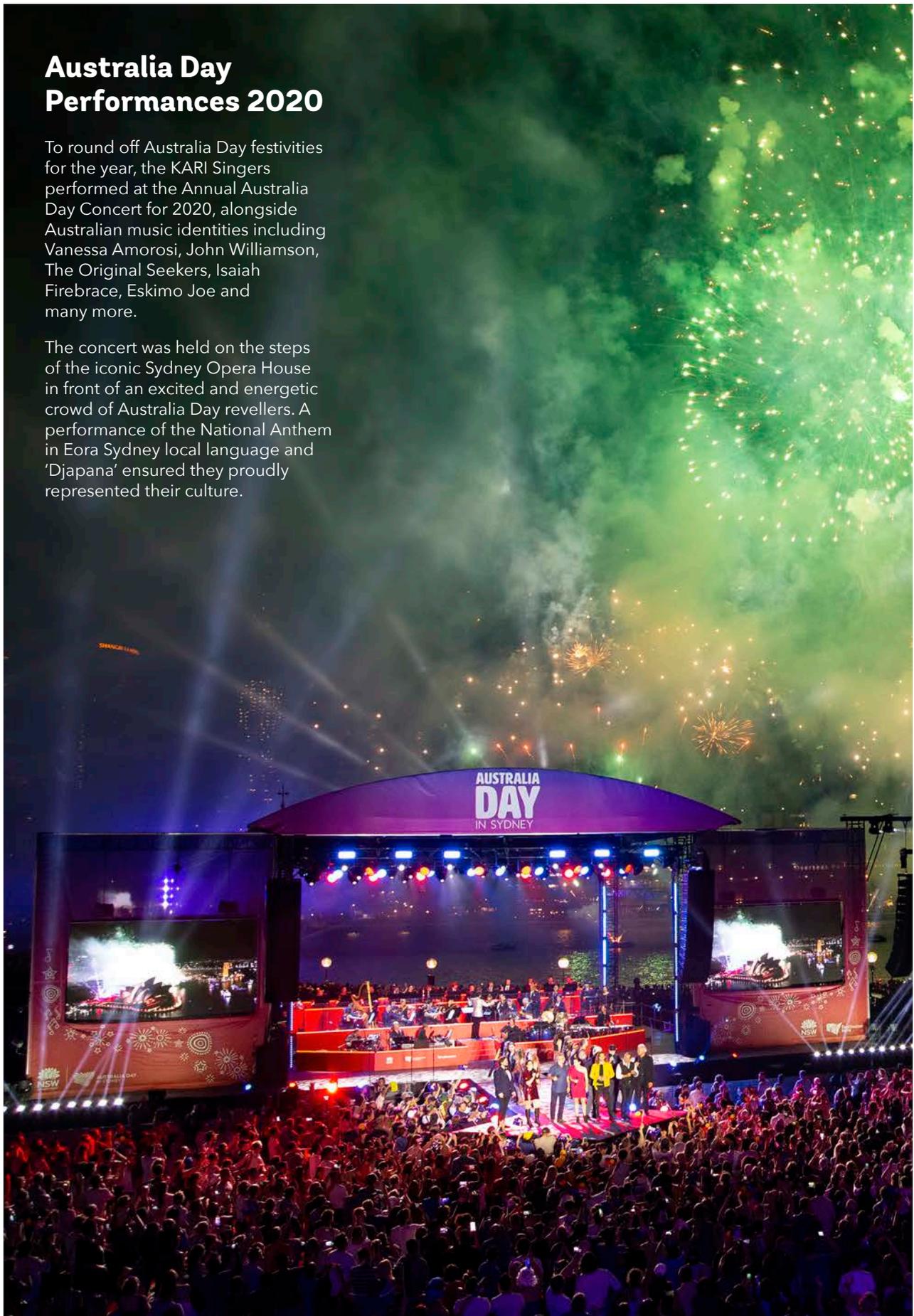


Performance day at the CCA Australia Day Lunch

Australia Day Performances 2020

To round off Australia Day festivities for the year, the KARI Singers performed at the Annual Australia Day Concert for 2020, alongside Australian music identities including Vanessa Amorosi, John Williamson, The Original Seekers, Isaiah Firebrace, Eskimo Joe and many more.

The concert was held on the steps of the iconic Sydney Opera House in front of an excited and energetic crowd of Australia Day revellers. A performance of the National Anthem in Eora Sydney local language and 'Djapana' ensured they proudly represented their culture.





KARI Singers at Barangaroo



Traditional meets contemporary on Australia Day

Don't Dream its Over

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the KARI team had to cease performances and rehearsals, but isolation didn't stop them from doing what they love. The group continued to meet weekly via Zoom to discuss new and exciting ways to continue learning their craft and performing together from the safety of their homes.

They worked together to find innovative ways to entertain the community with their isolation rendition of Yothu Yindi's 'Djapana'. This song is always highly requested of the singers by our corporate partners and they were thrilled to be able share this through the KARI Social Media network via Facebook and Instagram channels.

Following the success of the Djapana video, the group were able to collaborate with some special guests on an uplifting song, just in time for Reconciliation Week 2020 (27 May to 3 June 2020).

KARI Singers directors Blake Ralph and Sarah Bertram were able to reach out to some their musician friends to collaborate with the Singers on a special performance

of "Don't Dream It's Over", originally performed by Crowded House. The video featured high profile Australian musicians such as Human Nature, John Foreman on piano, Victor Rounds on bass and Abraham Rounds on drums.

Thanks to online technology, they were able to collaborate with these artists all over the world, Human Nature who were located in Las Vegas, John Foreman in Melbourne and Abraham Rounds in Los Angeles.



The KARI Singers were joined by some friends for the Don't Dream It's Over video

"These videos have offered a great learning experience for our Singers in the form of recording from home and understanding how these videos are put together from a technical and performance aspect."

Blake, KARI Singers Director

"This experience has also taught us as directors of the program how to be adaptable and continue to support our Singers virtually. By making these isolation videos, it has taught us new skills that we will continue to use into the future"

Sarah, KARI Singers Director



John Foreman on Keys

Don't Dream its Over Facebook Statistics

KARI Share

Views:	18,300
Shares:	176
Likes:	194

Arts Centre Melbourne Share

Views:	6,500
Shares:	45
Likes:	114

Ray Hadley Share

Views:	16,000
Shares:	103
Likes:	337

Total

Views:	40,800
Shares:	324
Likes:	645
Total Reach:	41,120
Engagement:	5,102





KARI Sing Star Competition

The positive reception and outpour of support from the 'Don't Dream it's Over' video inspired the group to develop the KARI Sing Star talent search; an online competition where young people could send in a video of themselves performing for a chance to win a KARI Foundation prize pack. The prize packs included a KARI hoodie, KARI backpack and a Westfield gift card.

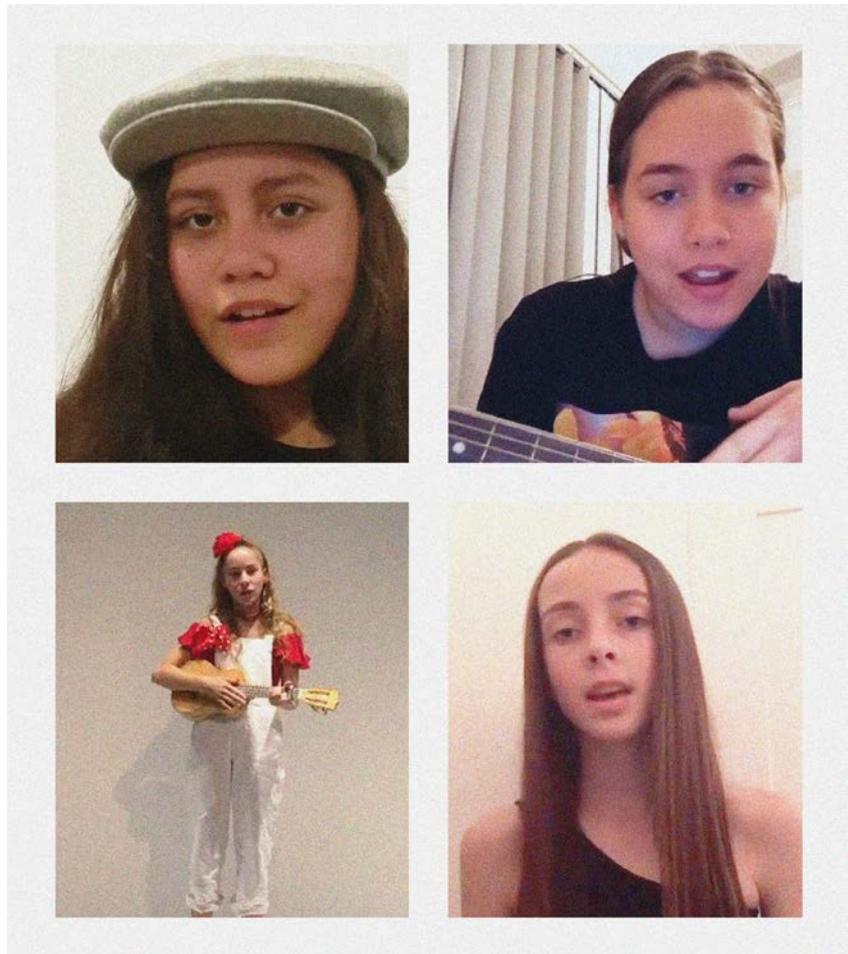
We received a number of entries from all over New South Wales with the following young people the lucky prize winners;

Ages 6-12

- Winner Montanah, 12
(Penrith, New South Wales)
- Runner Up Monique, 12
(St Helens Park, New South Wales)

Ages 13-18

- Winner Casey, 14
(Engadine, New South Wales)
- Runner Up Sarah, 17
(Dubbo, New South Wales)



KARI Sing Star Winners

The competition was a success overall and like many of the adjustments made to programming during the COVID-19 period, presented opportunities for the team to brainstorm ways to effectively engage our young people in local and regional communities into the future.



Blake and Sarah promoting the competition

Sing Star Competition Social Media Statistics

Facebook Statistics

Views:	12,212
Shares:	102
Likes:	111

Instagram Statistics

Likes:	199
Plays:	1,327
Reach:	3,508

Social Media Statistics Definitions

Reach: Refers to the number of users who saw your specific Facebook post.

Engagement: Is a measure of the actions people are taking on your page/post.





Youth Art Workshops

During the October 2019 school holidays, two art workshops were hosted for young people in the South West Community, facilitated by local Aboriginal artist Danielle Mate.

The workshops were hosted to help bolster and maximise the number of entries submitted by young Aboriginal participants in the 2019 Mil-Pra Art Exhibition. The program allowed participants the opportunity to ask Danielle questions they had relating to art as well as utilise the opportunity to learn a range of paint based techniques and how to express their ideas and stories onto canvas.

On completion of the program all artwork was entered into the Mil-Pra Art Exhibition. This was a great opportunity for young people to see their artwork on display during the launch at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.

28th Annual Mil-Pra AECG Exhibition

The 28th Annual Mil-Pra AECG Exhibition launched on Saturday 30 November 2019 at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. This exhibition celebrates the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in art across South West Sydney and the surrounding region.

This year's exhibition featured an exciting variety of artworks, with different media used, including paintings, ceramics and sculptural pieces by artists of all ages living in both New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Students who participated in school holiday art workshops with artist Danielle Mate also had their pieces entered and on display at the exhibition.

The theme for the 2019 exhibition was "Hear My Voice". KARI Foundation was proud to sponsor a number of categories and congratulate the winners.

KARI Award (open to adult artists)

1st prize - Family Tree
Alison Collins

2nd prize - My Voice, My Country
Joeann Tanginoa

Student Awards

Primary - The Animals and People That Have Passed
Cailyn Iro,
Newbridge Heights PS

Secondary - Spiritual Man
Ghazi El-Sankari,
Punchbowl Boys High

Other awards included:

The Maria Lock Award

The Liverpool City Council's Mayor's Choice Award

The Bruce and Carol Kendall OAM Memorial Award

The Kate Nicholas Liverpool Women's Services Award

The Family and Early Childhood Art Award



KARI Foundation are proud to sponsor the Mil-Pra Exhibition as it allows the Aboriginal Community to express culture through art and provides a creative way to share culture with the local community.

Family & Communities

KARI Foundation works with communities and together identify the gaps in services to build capacity across co-design programs that deliver positive change. We also provide initiatives to some of our most vulnerable community members to support their social and economic needs.

WestConnex Indigenous Driver Program

The KARI Foundation and WestConnex partnership has been able to provide Aboriginal youth with the WestConnex Aboriginal Driver Program. This program aims to empower Aboriginal young people across South Western Sydney by assisting them to gain their driver's license and afford them the opportunity to gain independence and full-time employment.

The first stage of the 2019 program saw KARI Foundation provide group classes to Aboriginal youth, hopeful to attain their learner's permit. Our participants were taken through a 5-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 5-week course, participants sat for their L's test, in order to obtain their learner's permit. Once achieved, participants received 10 free driving lessons for their participation in this program. This not only helped provide financial assistance in purchasing lessons, it ensures that our young people are confident and following safe driving practices on our roads.

This program created a great opportunity for young people to have access to support and mentoring. KARI mentors assisted to ensure our young people were attending their lessons and on the right track to being able to obtain their Provisional License.

Over the course of this program a total of 340 lessons were provided to young people.



KARI Staff celebrate the successes of our program participants



Gaining their provisional license gives our participants their independence



WestConnex Aboriginal Learner Drivers Program

In 2020 we partnered with TAFE New South Wales to provide the Aboriginal Learner Drivers Program. This program was facilitated to help support and provide Aboriginal young people with the assistance and skills required to obtain their Learner Driver's Licence.

During the COVID-19 period, this program was offered through connected learning via web conferencing technology as part of a virtual classroom.

A total of 20 young people participated in virtual classroom sessions where young people from different locations were provided ease of access and connection in real time.

On completion of the program, participants were able to sit their Drivers Knowledge Test with fees exempted.



WE ARE NOW TAKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Aboriginal Learner Drivers Program

- Get your learners permit with an online course with TAFE NSW
- Participants must be 16 years and older
- Participants must be located in NSW
- Participants must be Aboriginal
- Access to a laptop or smartphone is necessary to participate in this program
- Participants will need to be able to attend a RMS office to complete their examination
- Course is online, various times

The program includes

- Practice your test online
- All resources and information will be provided to you by post
- Support while you learn at home and acquire your learners permit
- Resourced by RMS and TAFE NSW
- TAFE NSW will book your learners test for you to attend at your local RMS at the end of your course
- Fee exemptions on testing for up to 12 weeks

FREE PROGRAM | **LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE**

To register your interest please contact Alicia Doolan on 02 8782 0300 or alicia.doolan@kari.org.au

NSW TAFE NSW WestConnex Transurban KARI FOUNDATION

"The program is amazing, I am very thankful for the opportunity as its going to make a big difference to me having my P's. The driving instructor is great, he gives me a lot of constructive feedback and helps me and explains everything step by step. I am improving every lesson and can see the difference from when I first started my lessons and my confidence is growing with each lesson. Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate."

Male Participant, 21

2019 Elders Hampers Christmas Drive

The KARI Elders Christmas Hamper Program allows KARI Foundation an opportunity to provide Elders in our local communities financial relief during the Christmas period.

Each year, the Community Programs team provide a number of Elders groups with a generous hamper filled with goods to be enjoyed over the Christmas season.

The 2019 program was another welcomed success providing our local Elders groups with a total of 130 hampers. All hampers were hand packed and delivered by the KARI Community Programs Team.

Hampers like these provide our Elders with resources to lighten the financial stress that can affect all communities this time of year. Hampers are packed with food items including long life & tinned goods, rice, tuna, recipe bases, cordial, pasta & sauces, as well as a few Christmas specialities.

The hampers are stocked, packed and delivered by the Community Programs team to ensure that our Elders are supported over the holiday period and provides our team an opportunity to engage with our local Elders during their visits ahead of the holiday season.



Elders in our community look forward to receiving their hampers each year

Deliveries were made to the following Elders Groups:

Hoxton Park Elders Group

Minto Elders Group

Tenterfield Ave Residents

Fairfield Elders Group

Guntawang Aboriginal Resources Inc. Womens Group

Bankstown Elders Group

Penrith Elders Group (Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation)

La Perouse Elders Group (Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation - Yarra Bay House)

Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation Group

130

Hampers Delivered

Indigenous Community Groups Support

We continued to support and sponsor our local Indigenous community groups inclusive of the Illawarra Men's group as well as many others who provide services to their local community.

Our sponsorship of the Illawarra Men's group included their end of year Christmas luncheon, the purchase of lawn mowing equipment and 50 back to school Indigenous back packs that were distributed to local Indigenous students who attend the groups high school mentoring program.

Sponsorship was also provided for the annual South Coast Indigenous Family Golf Day Event. This was the tenth consecutive year that KARI, and now the KARI Foundation, has been the main sponsor and saw around 120 men, women and young people attend on the day.



Members of the Illawarra Men's Group



Elders Hampers COVID-19 Drive

In addition to the Christmas drive, we provided our local Elders with 80 essential food hampers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, due to restrictions, Elders were unable to meet in their respective Elders' groups who provide ongoing support to our Elders communities inclusive of social interaction, support and assistance in ensuring their ongoing needs are met. Our aim was to help support well-being and ease the financial stress during such a difficult and unusual time.

Each hamper was delivered directly to homes by the Community Programs team. This was to ensure that social distancing requirements were met and the correct safety procedures were practiced.

It also gave the Elders an opportunity to have some face to face contact with people outside of their homes. The feedback we received from our Elders was phenomenal, the Community Programs team were able to make a real difference to their current, isolated routines.

Visiting the Elders also gave staff the opportunity to check in and enjoy a quick yarn with each of them. During our visits it was evident that the Elders were missing the social aspect of meeting with their local groups.

In response to this, the Community Programs team have been maintaining regular contact with our Elders, calling them weekly and/or fortnightly to check in and have a much-needed yarn.

"We're very thankful to have received these hampers"

"Thank you, KARI, for thinking of us"

"You have no idea how much this means to me and how grateful I am"



Covid safety measures were practiced during hamper deliveries



Elders were happy to see our staff and have a yarn

The hampers included a large variety of items such as:

Rice, Pasta & pasta sauces

Soups

Coffee, Teabags and Sugar

Tinned goods

Cereals

Recipe Bases

80

Hampers Delivered

The Community Programs team are proud they have the ability to make such a difference to the lives of our local Elders communities, ensuring some of our most vulnerable community members are supported throughout even the most difficult of times.



You are cordially invited to attend the

Illawarra Aboriginal Debutante Ball 2019

"This event is another perfect example of how Police can work in a positive way with our community; we know it works. The engagement of 6 male youth is commendable; a sight not often seen in an urban community, and has set a great example for how we can continue to work together to break barriers and forge positive relationships"

*Lauren Drayton, Manager
Community & Communications*

KARI Foundation hope to see the Illawarra community hold its Debutante Ball annually and reach the same positive outcomes the KARI Limited Debutante Ball has achieved over 8 successful program years.

Illawarra Debutante Ball

KARI Foundation proudly sponsored the Illawarra communities first ever Debutante Ball, held at the Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow on Friday 8th November 2019.

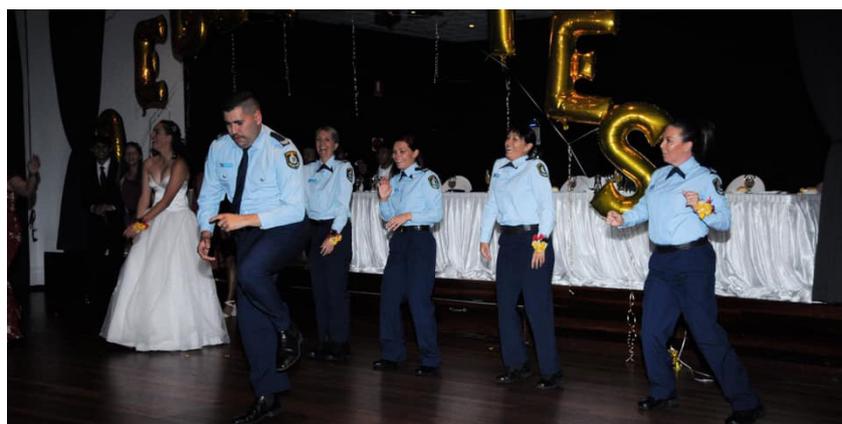
The group consisted of 6 male and 6 female participants, who were each partnered with a Police Officer from the Wollongong and Lake Illawarra Local Area Commands (LAC).

Debutante Balls are a great initiative to strengthen the relationship between the Aboriginal community and their local Police Force. The night consists of the group making their 'debut' to their community with their partner, followed by a group dance piece. These events are not possible without the support of the local Police command, as well as supporting partners.

Families and friends were invited to celebrate with their debutantes after formalities ceased, allowing everyone to reflect on their accomplishments.

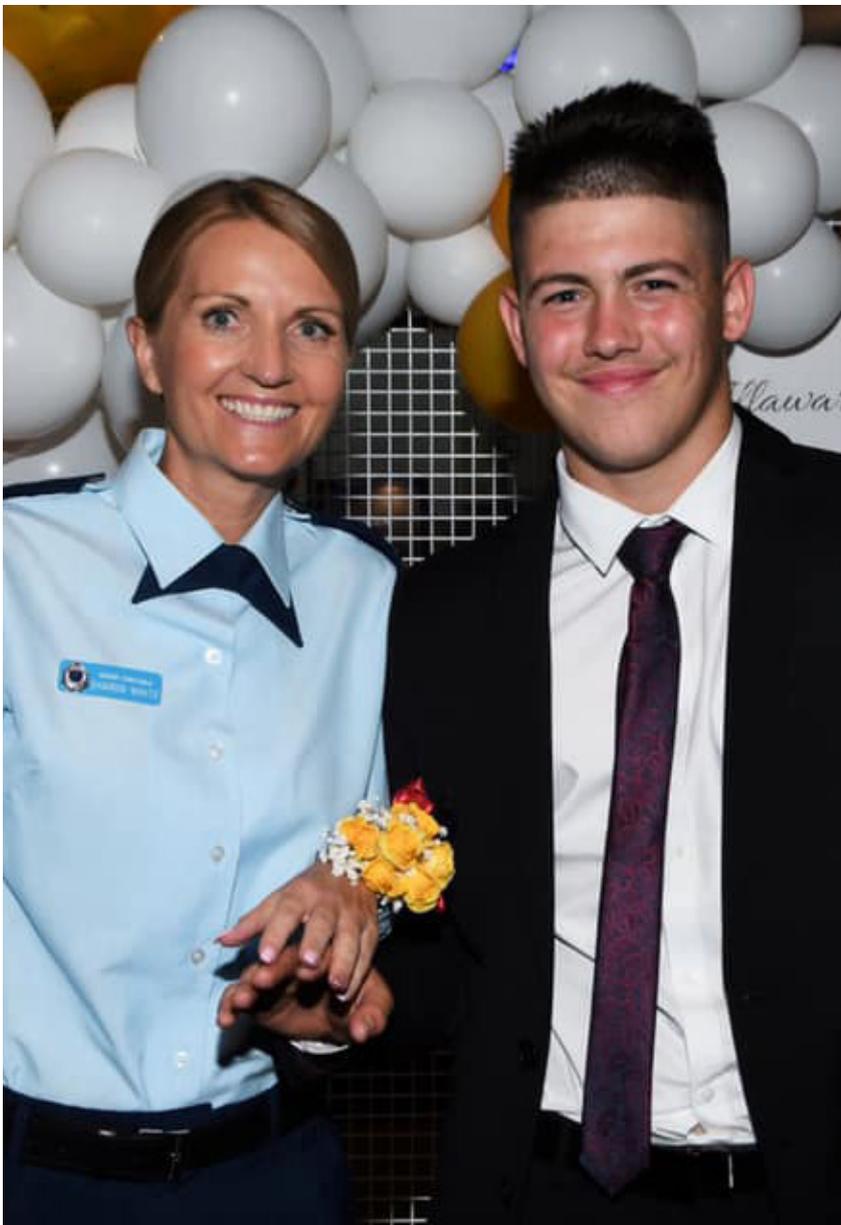


Participants in the Illawarra Debutante Ball



Police officers from the Wollongong and Lake Illawarra LAC celebrate







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