



**Ngaanyatjarra  
Pitjantjatjara  
Yankunytjatjara  
Women's Council**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2019/2020**

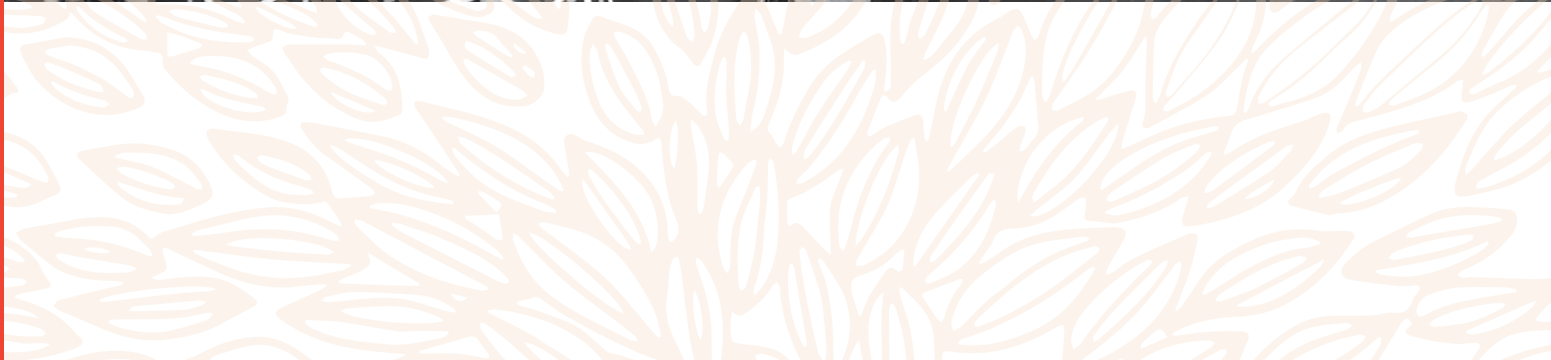






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### **Acknowledgements:**

Compilation: Nicole Sarfati

Design: Lisa Moore Design

Front cover photograph:

Ludovic Dumas.

Back cover photograph:

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Women's Council

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## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Ngapartji ngapartji** / Respect each other

**Kulinma munu iwara wanama**

**tjukururungku** / Follow the law straight

**Kalypangku** / Conciliatory

**Piluntjungku** / Peaceful and calm

**Kututu mukulyangku** / Kind-hearted

**Tjungungku** / United

**Kunpungku** / Strong



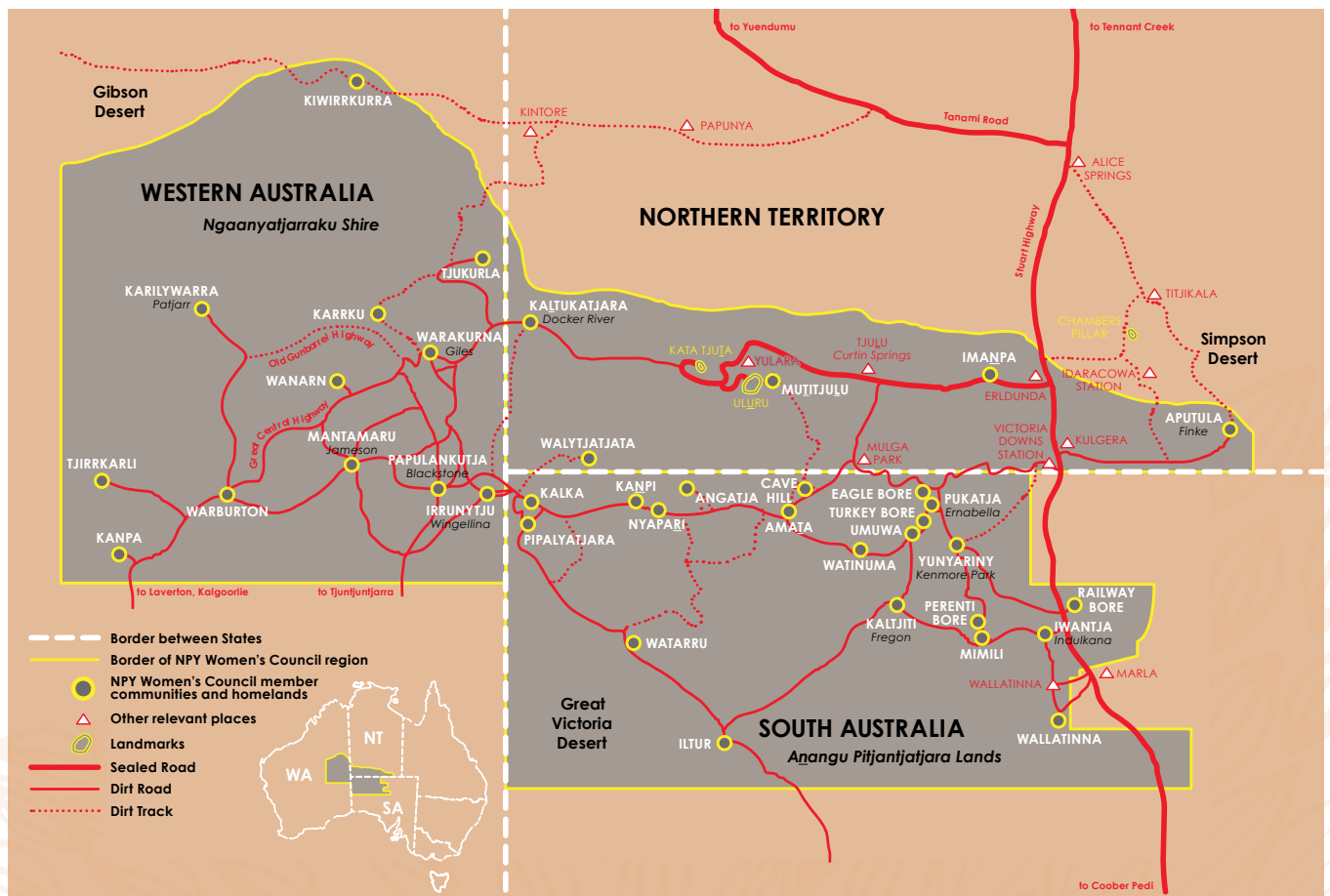
# HISTORY

NPY Women’s Council (NPYWC) represents women in the region (see map), which has an overall Aboriginal (Anangu or Yarnangu) population of around 6000. Its membership area covers a vast, remote, semi-arid expanse of 350,000 square kilometres in the tri-state region of central Australia.

The idea for a women’s organisation in the region arose during the South Australian Pitjantjatjara Land Rights movement in the late 1970s. The women felt that their needs were not being addressed and so established their own organisation, with the first meeting held at Kanpi in South Australia in December 1980.

NPYWC was separately incorporated in 1994 under the old Commonwealth *Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act*. It now comes under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth.) – the CATSI Act.

Membership is open to any woman who is at least 16 years of age and who is an Aboriginal woman from the NPY region and/or whom the Directors consider to have sufficient cultural or family connection to the region. She must be deemed by the Directors to be of good character and willing to follow the guiding principles of the organisation.





# ORGANISATIONAL CHART

## NGAANYATJARRA PITJANTJATJARA YANKUNYTJATJARA WOMEN'S COUNCIL (ABORIGINAL CORPORATION)

### ELECTED DIRECTORS 2019 – 2020

	<b>CHAIRPERSON</b> Yanyi Bandicha (Putkatja, SA)		<b>VICE CHAIRPERSON</b> Margaret Smith (Imanpa, SA)	
<b>Julie Anderson</b> (Finke, NT)	<b>Maureen Baker</b> (Warakurna, WA)	<b>Denise Brady</b> (Docker River, NT)	<b>Nyunmiti Burton</b> (Amaṯa, SA)	<b>Maime Butler</b> (Blackstone, WA)
<b>Janet Forbes</b> (Blackstone, WA)	<b>Yangi Yangi Fox</b> (Pipalyatjara, SA)	<b>Rene Kulitja</b> (Mutitjuḷu, NT)	<b>Wanatjura Lews</b> (Amaṯa, SA)	<b>Dorothy Richards</b> (Mantamaru, WA)

### KEY STAFF AND CORE ACTIVITIES

	<b>CEO</b> Liza Balmer		<b>DEPUTY CEO</b> Leisa McCarthy	
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>People and Workplace Services</b>	<b>Governance and Executive Associate</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Administration</b>
<b>Human Services</b>	<b>Domestic &amp; Family Violence Service</b>	<b>Tjungu Service (Aged and Disability)</b>	<b>Youth Service</b>	<b>Child and Family Wellbeing Service</b>
		<b>Ngangkari</b>	<b>Tjanpi Desert Weavers</b>	



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## MANAGEMENT REPORT

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Liza Balmer, CEO

*This year has been challenging for all, both professionally and personally, in so many ways, as the country faced two catastrophic events. However, NPYWC has also been constantly surprised and delighted at the creativity, innovation and resilience that the organisation has demonstrated when faced with an obstacle. Along with the rest of the world, its members, directors and staff found new ways to connect with each other and to offer continued support across the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Lands. With the advent of 2021, the challenge is not over and the focus of NPYWC will remain: supporting all Anangu, especially women and children, to have a good life, guided by culture and sound governance, through the collective agency of women.*





## GOVERNANCE

The 2019 Annual General Meeting was held in September, at Ngurupila near Wingellina community in Western Australia. An election was held and 12 directors were appointed, with Yanyi Bandicha nominated as Chairperson and Margaret Smith as Vice-Chair.

During the 2019–2020 financial year the directors met in August and November 2019, and in February and May 2020. However, due to COVID-19 and the bio-security zones, the May directors meeting was held virtually via a Zoom link.

The efforts of NPY Women’s Council (NPYWC) to design pathways and opportunities to support its Anangu workforce is important work that has continued throughout the year. The Capability Framework was launched and the Youth team and Tjanpi team participated in a trial run of the capability framework and the associated capabilities.

NPY Women’s Council undertakes this work because it is aware that it supports and engages hundreds of Anangu with life-empowering opportunities. The council engages close to 500 Tjanpi fibre artists annually; through initiatives such as the Uti Kulintjaku Project it employs men and

women to provide cultural advice and insights on complex mental health issues; and it works with interpreters and translators. As the council carries out this work, it is aware that it is strengthening the cultural governance and leadership of the region, which in turn benefits NPYWC members and their families.

The council has continued to work with the objectives of its strategic plan over the last 12 months, including:

1. Anangu culture, governance and agency – *Kunpu nyinantjaku*
2. operational excellence – *Wirura warkarinytjaku*
3. evidence-based practice – *Warka malikitja utiringanyi*
4. strong relationships – *Women’s Council-nya tjunguringu EC munu Jawun munu Anangu organisations tjuta. Warkarinytjikitja wati tjuta kulu, wati tjuta kunpuringkunyitjaku*
5. Anangu-led voice – *Nganymanyntju nguru nganana wangkangu tjitji malatja tjuta wirungku kunpu kanyintjaku rawa*
6. financial sustainability – *Business pakaltjinganytjikitjangku. Nganana wangkakatingi*





## OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Throughout the year the directors and the management group – collectively and within each of the service teams – have focused on developing program logic in order to establish an overarching monitoring and evaluation framework. This reflective thinking through research and evaluation frameworks is not only ensuring that NPYWC is identifying aspects in service delivery models that are working well, but also ensuring that it can adequately communicate on organisational achievements and impact within the region.

NPYWC continues to build on workplace systems that demonstrate an understanding of service delivery that is a strengths-based and evidenced-based approach in a trauma-informed workplace. Vicarious trauma training is offered to staff and, in coming years, other resources will be developed to promote self-care and mental wellness by ensuring that all staff have an understanding of this area.

NPYWC has a number of annual and regular meetings offering staff opportunities to listen, learn, reflect and share. Staff meetings are held every month and are designed to draw information together for staff so that they have opportunities to raise questions, seek as well as hear information on the broader work of NPYWC. The

Annual Staff and Directors Symposium (Festival of Big Ideas) is held every year in February. Holding this meeting at the beginning of the year enables staff and Directors the opportunity to listen, reflect, participate and be challenged by a range of different guest speakers and team exercises.

This year, as NPY Women's Council recognises its first 40 years of operation, the theme was 'supporting the dreams of young women, the hopes of mothers, and the vision of grandmothers'.

The Corporate Services teams, consisting of Administration, People and Workplace Services, and Finance, play a critical role ensuring the organisation is managing risk and compliance lawfully and in a timely manner. Training and development, new revenue streams and building workplace systems, culture and infrastructure were identified as key areas to strengthen in coming years.

## JAWUN

Jawun means Malpa (friend) or Waltja (family). It is a non-government organisation that assists to link Anangu and Yarnangu organisations with corporate and government partners (e.g. banks and other financial institutions, insurance companies, state and federal government departments). Jawun works in nine regions across Australia.



Since 2015 NPY Women's Council has been the lead Indigenous partner for Jawun in this region. Other partners include Western Desert Dialysis, Regional Anangu Service Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC), Nganampa Health Council, Ngaanyatjarra Council, Ngaanyatjarra Health Service, and First Nations Media.

In the 2019-2020 financial year, NPYWC hosted Jawun secondees from the following partners: Westpac, Bankers Trust, BlueScope Steel, the University of Melbourne, National Australia Bank and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

At NPY Women's Council the secondees worked on a range of projects, including:

- review of commercial insurances
- financial forecasting
- new accommodation investor brief
- human resources systems and databases
- document management systems, procedures and prioritisation
- Tjanpi Desert Weavers trademarking

## EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

NPYWC auspices the Empowered Communities (EC) initiative in the NPY Region. EC is a national program created by Aboriginal leaders from across Australia. The program operates in 9 regions in Australia, including here in the NPY Lands.

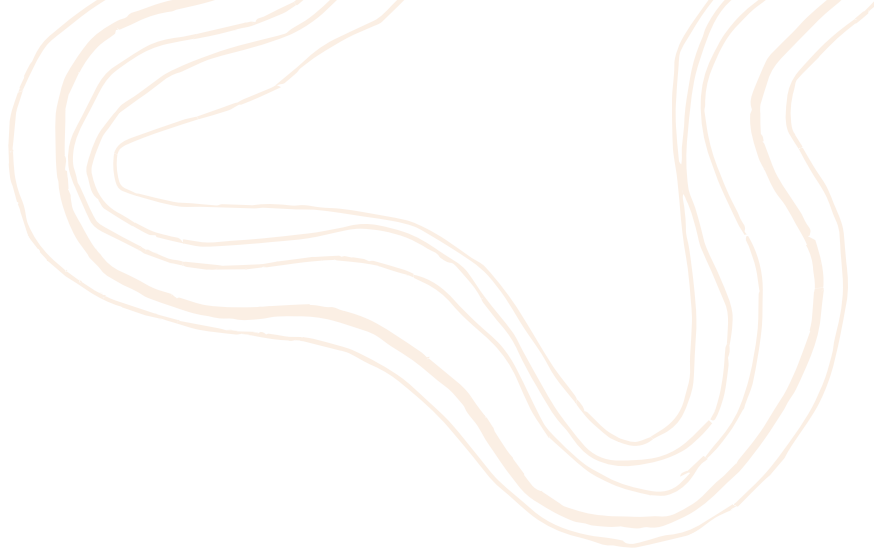
EC is working to create new and better ways for Anangu to work with government by giving greater control and decision-making power to Anangu. EC aims to make sure that programs and projects that are delivered in communities are based on the ideas and priorities of Anangu, and are delivered in the most effective and efficient way. EC is a collaboration of Aboriginal organisations working in the NPY region. Since 2013 EC have been working with 7 Anangu organisations.



A key focus for the past year has been the key priority areas and working with partners in the region to action some of these as first steps.

The 3 top priority areas that emerged from consultation with Anangu:

1. work, meaningful engagement and financial security
  - help support Anangu who start work to get the right kind of assistance and support to be successful in their jobs and to stay working for as long as possible
2. education, culture and youth support
  - support young people to transition from school to jobs so that they get the best opportunities
3. Anangu-led decision making and community empowerment
  - Kulintja Kutju: ceasing grants and joint decision making
  - continue developing and supporting the Emerging Leaders program to help the next generation of NPY regional leaders learn and grow so they are ready for the future



## RESEARCH

This year NPYWC completed a significant piece of research in partnership with the University of Sydney, Flinders University and the Poche Centre: Tjitji Atunymankupai Walytja Tjutangku – Looking after children with a disability on the NPY lands. The results have helped to inform NPYWC’s disability support services, government agencies and other service providers in the region about what Anangu need to be able to adequately care for their children who live with a disability. It has also shown how distressed families become when their children are taken away from their home communities to larger regional

centres in supported accommodation so as to meet their care needs.

## NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

NPY Women’s Council has been speaking up strongly for its clients with a disability and families. NPYWC supports the National Disability Insurance Scheme and wants it to work, but it must work in a way that is supportive of Anangu ways of service delivery. Critically, NPYWC has been arguing that it does not want the NDIS to become another hardship like CDP has been for the NPY region.





## ADVOCACY

This year NPYWC played a major role in advocating against the roll out of the cashless debit card (CDC). Members and directors spoke up very strongly at the AGM in 2019 against its compulsory roll out in the NPY region. NPYWC believes the scheme will further disempower impoverished people and does not address the root causes of poverty and substance misuse.

NPYWC also provided a submission to the Federal Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence.

For further information please refer to NPYWC's website: [npywc.org.au](http://npywc.org.au)





## YOUTH SERVICE

Christine Williamson, Manager

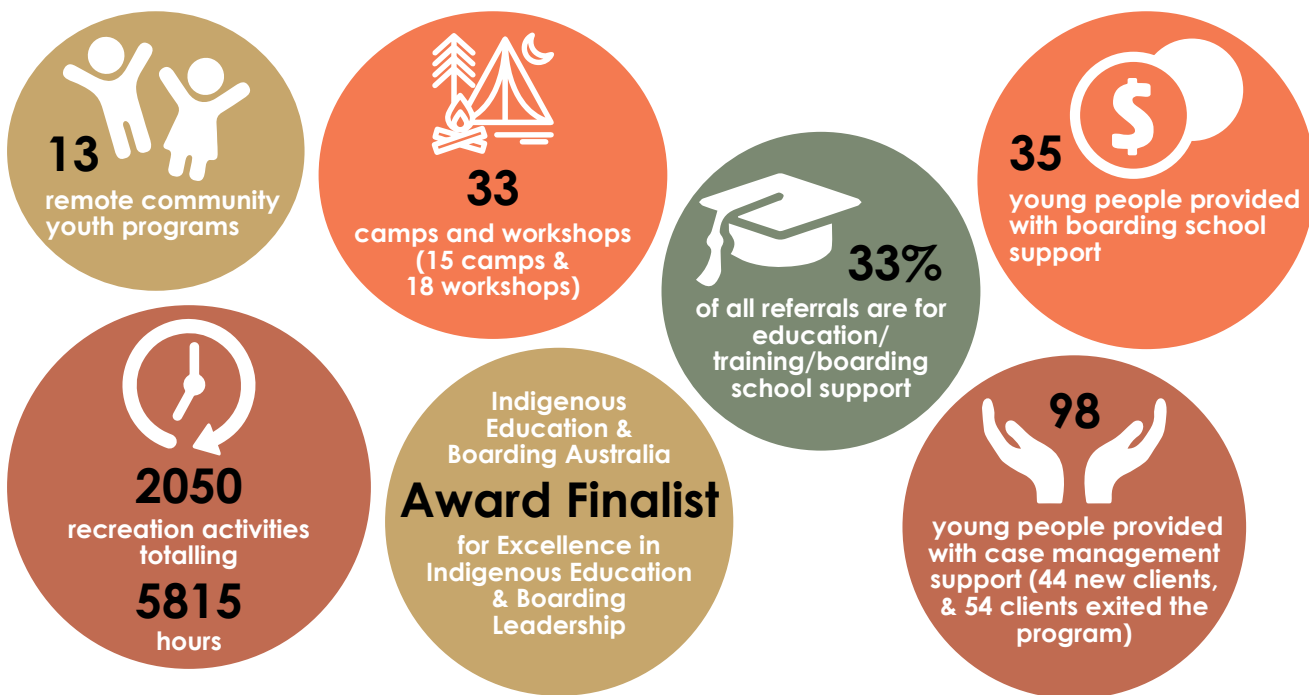
*The Youth Service helps young people living in remote central Australia achieve their goals and thrive. The service provides case management as well as fun, safe, culturally relevant recreation and diversion programs.*

*Young people are supported to access educational opportunities through the boarding school program. The Youth Service also provides a voice for young people in the NPY region on many issues including youth justice, substance abuse prevention, youth development, mental health, service provision, and education.*





THE YEAR IN A SNAPSHOT



**OVERVIEW**

This year was a year of innovation and growth. The Youth Service provided additional youth programs to two remote communities in the Ngaanyatjarra lands, bringing the total to 13 community-based Youth Programs across the NPY region.

A new education advocacy program was developed to support and provide advice and practical assistance to young people and their families in accessing secondary education.

The Youth at Risk Research Network (YARRN) was rolled out in six remote communities. YARRN is a research program investigating what constitutes a successful youth program in rural and remote areas.

As COVID-19 became a pandemic, the Youth Service had to re-evaluate options for service delivery and meaningful engagement with young people. This provided an opportunity for innovation and creativity.

The service remained connected with young people in a variety of ways: through case management and innovative activities such as driveway movie and virtual movie nights; online competitions; supply of specific resources packs for families, young women, young men and children; opportunity shops from the back of work vehicles; bike borrowing programs; t-shirt design competition; and many more.

## COMMUNITY BASED YOUTH PROGRAMS

The community based youth programs are the heart of the Youth Service. They provide Anangu youth with activities that are safe, fun and educational, as well as more intensive support through case management. This year the service started two new programs, in Mantamaru and Papulankutja in the Ngaanyatjarra lands of WA.

Highlights from these programs include school holiday activities, a softball competition at Yulara and NT softball championships.

The case management support provided by the service supports young people and their families with complex issues and provides aspirational case management. In total, the service provided intensive support via case management to 98 young people. New to the service were 44 young people, of whom 68% were supported to access education, training and boarding school.

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE

Connection to culture and family, quality and choice of education and meaningful employment for young people are priorities set by the members and directors of the Youth Service, and by the young people for whom the service exists. This is what sets the focus for the Youth Service.

### Anangu Employment

Anangu employment has steadily remained at just over 50% of program staff throughout the year. A dedicated Anangu Employment Project Officer provides valuable support for the recruitment, retention and development of all Anangu staff within the service. This year, the service also partnered with TAFE SA to ensure that the work done by Anangu can be transferred into a qualification.

In the coming year, the service looks forward to rolling out its new Iwara – Ara Nintiringanyi Program. The program will train and support young people 18 to 25 to gain valuable skills in sports management, leadership and to



graduate with qualifications and enhanced employment prospects. The Youth Service looks forward to partnering with AFL NT, Softball NT, Charles Darwin University and TAFE SA to successfully pilot this program in 2021.

### Education Advocacy

It is important for young people to have access to an education system that enables them to thrive in both mainstream and Anangu culture and knowledge, as well as have choice of education providers. For these reasons, the Youth Service continues to speak up every year about necessary improvements to the education systems. It submitted Parliamentary Senate Inquiry submissions into education in remote and complex environments, inclusive of boarding school students' experiences during COVID-19.

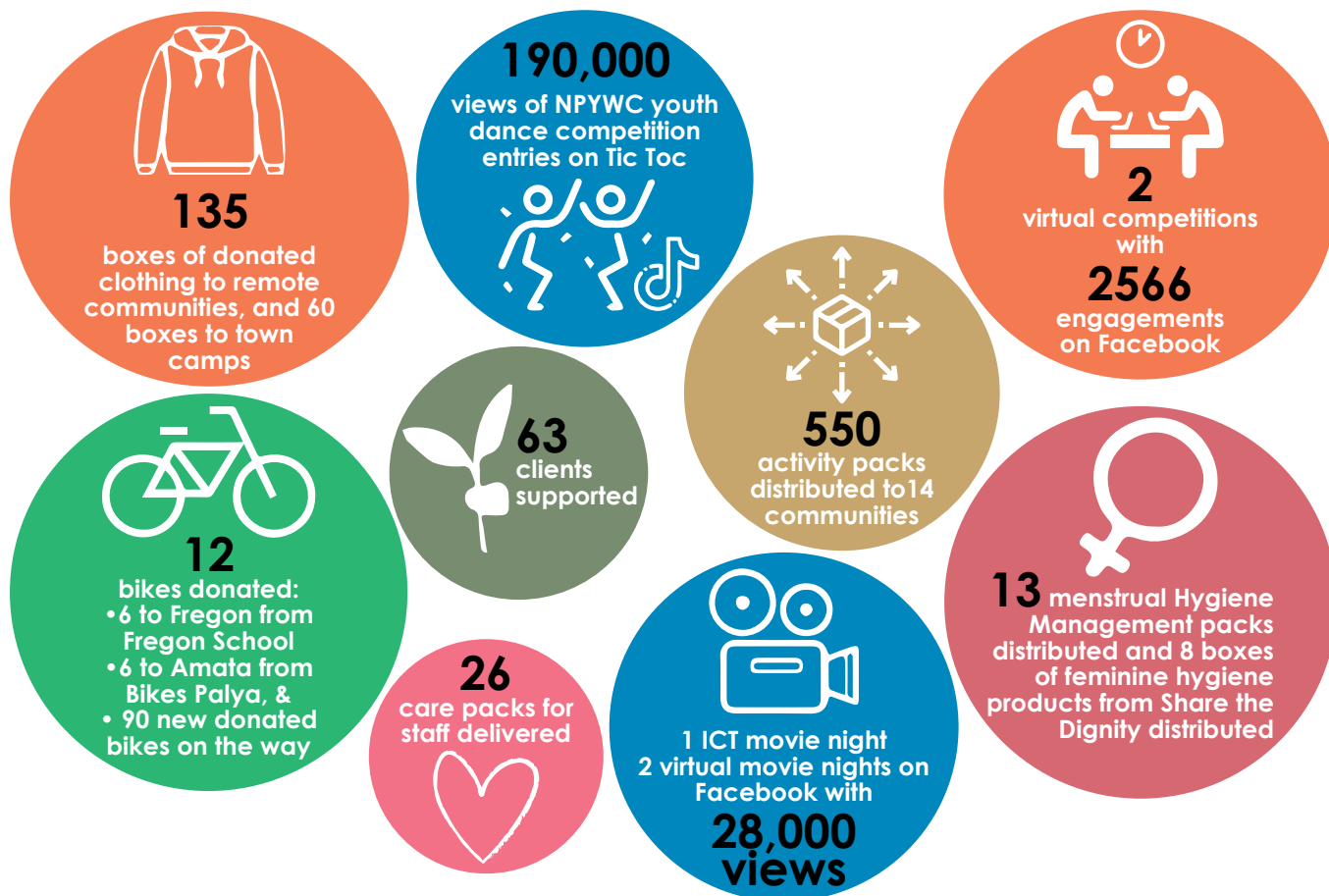
NPY Women's Council also presented at the National Youth Commission Australia's hearing on Youth Employment and Transitions, and attended the Indigenous Education and Boarding Australia symposium to advocate for young Anangu who access boarding school.

### Boarding School

The service received 102 inquiries to the boarding school program during the last year, 74% for young women. Over the 12 months, 35 young people from across the NPY region were provided with boarding school support.



IN THE 6 WEEKS PRECEDING ANNOUNCEMENTS TO LOCK DOWN AND RESTRICT ACTIVITIES BECAUSE OF COVID-19, THE YOUTH SERVICE DELIVERED:



While the Youth Service does what it can to support as many young people as possible to access boarding school, specific funding applies only to three remote communities: Pukatja, Amata and Kaltukatjara. This funding is through the Traditional Owners of the Uluru Kata Tjuta region, who include education as one of their eight key priority areas.

For young people participating in the boarding program, there is a 100% success rate of graduation for those who

reach Year 12. In 2019, there were 2 graduates and, in 2020, 3 more graduates are anticipated. The program receives a high level of interest from Anangu youth and families, with 16 people currently on the waiting list and 53 additional families having expressed their interest.

The Youth Service's boarding school program was a finalist in the Indigenous Education and Boarding Australia Awards for Excellence in Indigenous Education and Boarding



Leadership. This was a great acknowledgement of the effort and achievements by the young people, their families and communities, and NPY Women's Council Youth Service staff.

While boarding school is a great option for many, so too is university. NPY Women's Council Youth Service supported 11 young people from 3 remote communities to participate in the Marni Wingku Program at the University of Adelaide to give them an experience of what studying at university would be like.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

One of the special events on the calendar was the young women dancing at the historic closing of the climb at Uluru. Throughout the year, young women had been learning traditional dancing and tjukurpa from senior Anangu women. In October 2019, they were able to put this learning into practice with a performance for celebrations to end the tourism activity of climbing Uluru.

The Kulintja Palyaringkunyjtaku Project continues to engage young people and key community members in sensitive discussions about mental health and wellbeing; menstrual hygiene management; healthy relationships; sexual health; alcohol, drug and volatile substance abuse and domestic and family violence. In total, there were 33 camps and workshops delivered by the Kulintja

Palyaringkunyjtaku team and many more by the Youth Development Officers on these and other topics.

In partnership with the University of New South Wales, the Youth Service has implemented the YARRN research project. Young people have been very generous with their stories and time by participating in surveys that will help NPY Women's Council and the university better understand the efficacy of the Youth Service's support.

### **CONCLUSION**

While the past year has been one not quite like any other, the Youth Service has been lucky to work alongside many amazing young people, their families and communities. The service continues to adapt and grow to ensure it is responsive to the needs and strengths of young people.

The staff of the Youth Service know that there are challenges, but what they also know is that young people they assist are highly engaged in conversations about their own futures and their communities.

With almost two-thirds of all referrals to the Youth Service being for education, training and employment, the service staff recognise that young people want to move past the barriers and work with them to enhance their development. The service's attitude of 'never give up' is at the core of its work.





## BOARDING SCHOOL PROGRAM – CHANTAYA'S STORY



Chantaya was unsure of what she would be doing now, but at the time she applied for boarding school she was experiencing domestic violence. Chantaya said that going away helped her break the cycle of being in that relationship, and provided her with an opportunity that she would not have had if she had stayed in the community. She was able to focus on school, with all the resources and support she needed. She met many people and this helped build her confidence.

*'I got to do lots of amazing things like excursions to the beach, AFL, films and sports. I did a Certificate in Leadership and this has helped me a lot. When I returned to community, I think this helped me to get a job – I have been working as Financial Capability Officer at the local council for the last 8 months and enjoy helping people in my community with things like MyGov and ATO matters – that are hard for many in my community. When I first started there were no young people working at the council, now there are other young people working in aged care, school and other places. I feel really proud about being a leader, I guess by me being here I am helping encourage other young people to work, and be a role model for my community.'*

*'It was difficult as I had never been receiving any financial government assistance, so had to start from the start. NPYWC helped with all the forms, making it possible and so that we could understand – sorting out Abstudy and setting things up for me and my grandmother, so that it was made easy. We felt supported, it relieved all the stress – and without this help we would have probably given up.'*

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## TJANPI DESERT WEAVERS

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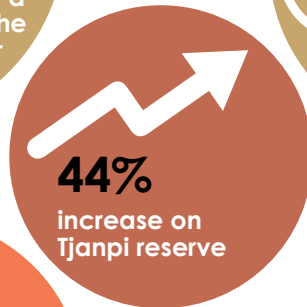
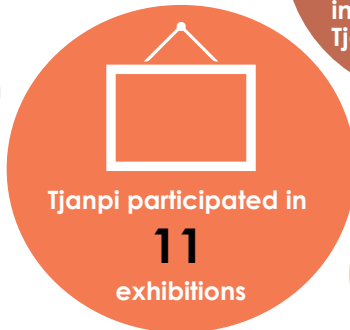
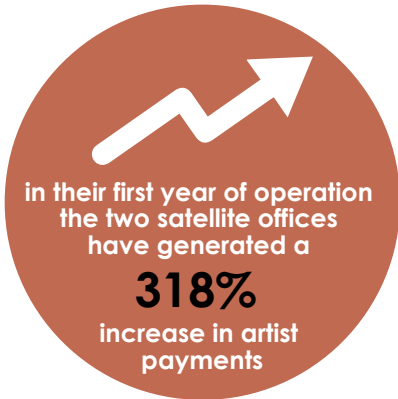
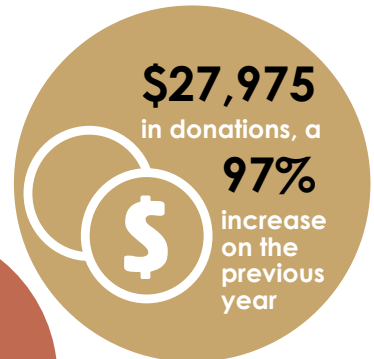
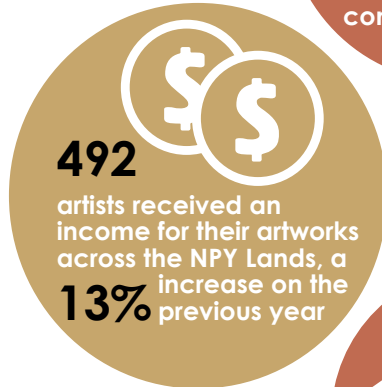
Michelle Young, Manager

*Tjanpi Desert Weavers is a social enterprise that enables women to earn their own income from fibre art. Tjanpi represents over 400 Aboriginal artists from 26 remote communities on the NPY Lands. Tjanpi is based in Alice Springs and has two satellite offices, in Irrunytju and Mantamaru, as well as field officers who travel to communities and conduct workshops, supply art materials and buy artwork.*





THE YEAR IN A SNAPSHOT





## FUNDING

Tjanpi Desert Weavers is the recipient of four-year funding from the Australia Council for the Arts. This significant support will ensure that NPYWC can continue to present Tjanpi Desert Weavers at the highest level across Australia's contemporary arts landscape.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers will continue to receive a further five years of funding from the Office for the Arts within the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications through the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) program which helps fund the operations of around 80 Indigenous-owned art centres.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers received funding from the Central Land Council to distribute 100 Tjanpi wellness kits to the NT communities of Impanpa, Docker River and Mutitjulu. The kits include raffia, wool, needles and scissors, to ensure that women can create artwork as a means to increase wellbeing. Tjanpi also received additional funding from the Central Land Council to run weaving workshops in Impanpa, Mutitjulu and Docker River in partnership with the NPYWC Domestic and Family Violence Service.

Tjanpi received funding from Lotterywest to distribute 250 stimulus packs to fibre artists across the Western Australian communities and to project the costs involved in moving operations to an online environment. This will greatly increase Tjanpi's capacity to kickstart the fibre arts economy in WA.

Following the success of the *Ngayuku papa* animation films, Tjanpi received two years of funding from the

Department of Communication and the Arts to create three more short films and a children's book using Tjanpi artworks. Community story collecting was undertaken in 2019, resulting in a story on feral cats from Irrunytju (WA) and stories about donkeys from Pukatja (SA) developed into two short stop animation films. The donkey stories will be further progressed into a children's book. Tjanpi received further funding from the Copyright Agency Limited to develop the children's book manuscript, develop storyboards, create characters and props, and photograph the narrative for the *All the animals* book project. Production has been delayed due to COVID-19 but Tjanpi looks forward to resuming this work in early 2021.

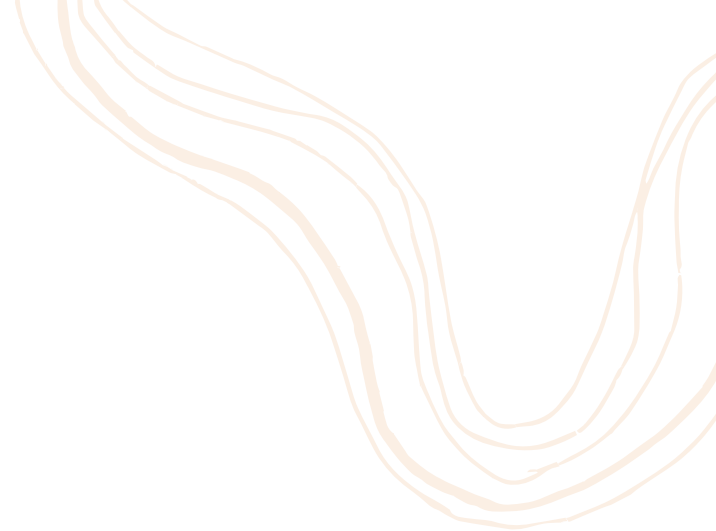
## SATELLITE OFFICES

The two Tjanpi satellite offices in Irrunytju and Mantamaru (WA) were operational for 9 months before temporarily closing due to COVID-19. However, the results have been significant when comparing NPYWC buying in these communities from the previous year. It rose from the \$5,082 that women were paid in 2018, to \$21,277 in 2019, an increase of 318% in artist payments.

## COMMISSIONS

Tjanpi Desert Weavers was commissioned to create an ambitious new work for an upcoming exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. 'Know my name: Australian women artists 1900 to now' showcases art made by women and brings together more than 150 works, drawn from the gallery's collections and other collections





across Australia. This exhibition is part of a series of ongoing initiatives to increase the representation of artists who identify as women in the gallery's artistic program. The commissioned work was created by 17 artists from the Ngaanyatjarra region, who were brought together in Warakurna to create *Kungkarangkalpa (Seven Sisters)* and a suspended skyscape representing the Pleiades star cluster.

Tjanpi was also commissioned to create work for 'Tensions 2020: Tamworth Textile Triennial'. Four artists (Dianne Ungukalpi Golding, Judith Yinyika Chambers, Joyce James and Charlotte Golding) from Warakurna (WA) created *Pitja nyawa kulila pampula (come, look, listen, touch)*, which explores and shares the multisensory experiences of the artists' engagement with tjanpi (grasses). In considering these senses (sight, touch, smell, hearing) it also invites dialogue about the women's Country, culture and artistic practices. 'Tensions' is scheduled to tour to a number of regional venues across Australia.

## AWARDS

Tjanpi artists Margaret Smith and Julie Anderson were short-listed for the 2019 Vincent Lingiari Award. Margaret and Julie's work, *Kungka kutjara Tjanpi palyanyi ngura wiru (two women making Tjanpi on lovely country)* is a self-portrait of the artists. Both have had to move from their homes to Alice Springs to look after family and for health reasons. Making Tjanpi helps them to feel good, tell important stories, and remember growing up as kids and being at home.

Tjunkaya Tapaya was accepted into the Design Files + Laminex Design Awards for her artwork, *Tjanpi teapot*. Tea is ever-present in the lives of Anangu across the NPY lands. Whether making art, telling stories, facilitating a meeting, undertaking cultural ceremonies, or holding sorry camps – a fire is made, the billy is boiled, and everyone drinks tea together. The teapot is where activities begin and end, and has become an object of great importance to the social fabric of community life.



## EXHIBITIONS

The 'Ngalya/Together' exhibition opened in August 2019 in Sydney, celebrating 10 years of collaborative work between design company, Koskela, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art centres. The exhibition featured woven lighting designs by Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Durrmu Arts, Moa Arts, Milingimbi Art and Culture, Bula Bula Arts and Ngarrindjeri Cultural Weavers. The exhibition continued onto Tarnanthe at the South Australian School of Art (SASA) Gallery, University of South Australia.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers has been working closely with Western Australia Museum to showcase major artworks held in its collections that will be installed in the newly constructed museum, scheduled for November 2020. To coincide with the opening of this long-awaited facility, the exhibition *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters*, will embark on its national and international tour from this gorgeous new building.

## WORKSHOPS

In response to COVID-19, Tjanpi Desert Weaves released an online weaving tutorial and created weaving kits to sell online. Considerable interest was generated, resulting in the sale of over 2000 weaving kits. During COVID-19, Tjanpi offered cultural weaving workshops and online tutorials direct from Warakurna and Alice Springs, to great success. Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair and the Australia Council for the Arts welcomed the opportunity to learn from senior artists in the community.



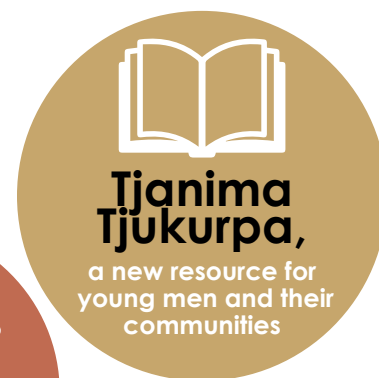
## NGANGKARI PROGRAM

Angela Lynch, Manager

*Ngangkari are the traditional healers of the NPY lands in remote Central Australia. Ngangkari have looked after people's physical and emotional health for thousands of years. The NPY Women's Council Ngangkari Program supports ngangkari to continue their work.*



## THE YEAR IN A SNAPSHOT



The 8 ngangkarj were employed part time across the communities of the region, giving over 2000 treatments to Anangu in their homes, in hospitals, nursing homes, and a range of other settings in Central Australia. In 2020, as remote communities locked down due to COVID-19, ngangkarj worked hard to support the health and wellbeing of Anangu, though they were prevented from travelling outside their own communities for several months.

The Ngangkarj Program is supporting ngangkarj to visit the mental health unit of Alice Springs hospital once a week, to treat patients who want to see a ngangkarj. The ngangkarj also regularly visit the palliative care unit, and are involved in regular cleansing of the hospital, to ensure the spiritual wellbeing and comfort of Anangu patients at the hospital.

In November 2019, the ngangkarj were invited to speak at the 10th anniversary of the Healing Foundation at the National Museum in Canberra. They have had a strong and ongoing relationship with the Healing Foundation since

its inception following the National Apology to the Stolen Generation in 2008, and were delighted to speak and sing at this event.

They also spoke at the SNAICC conference in Adelaide in October 2019, and the NT Writers Festival 2019.

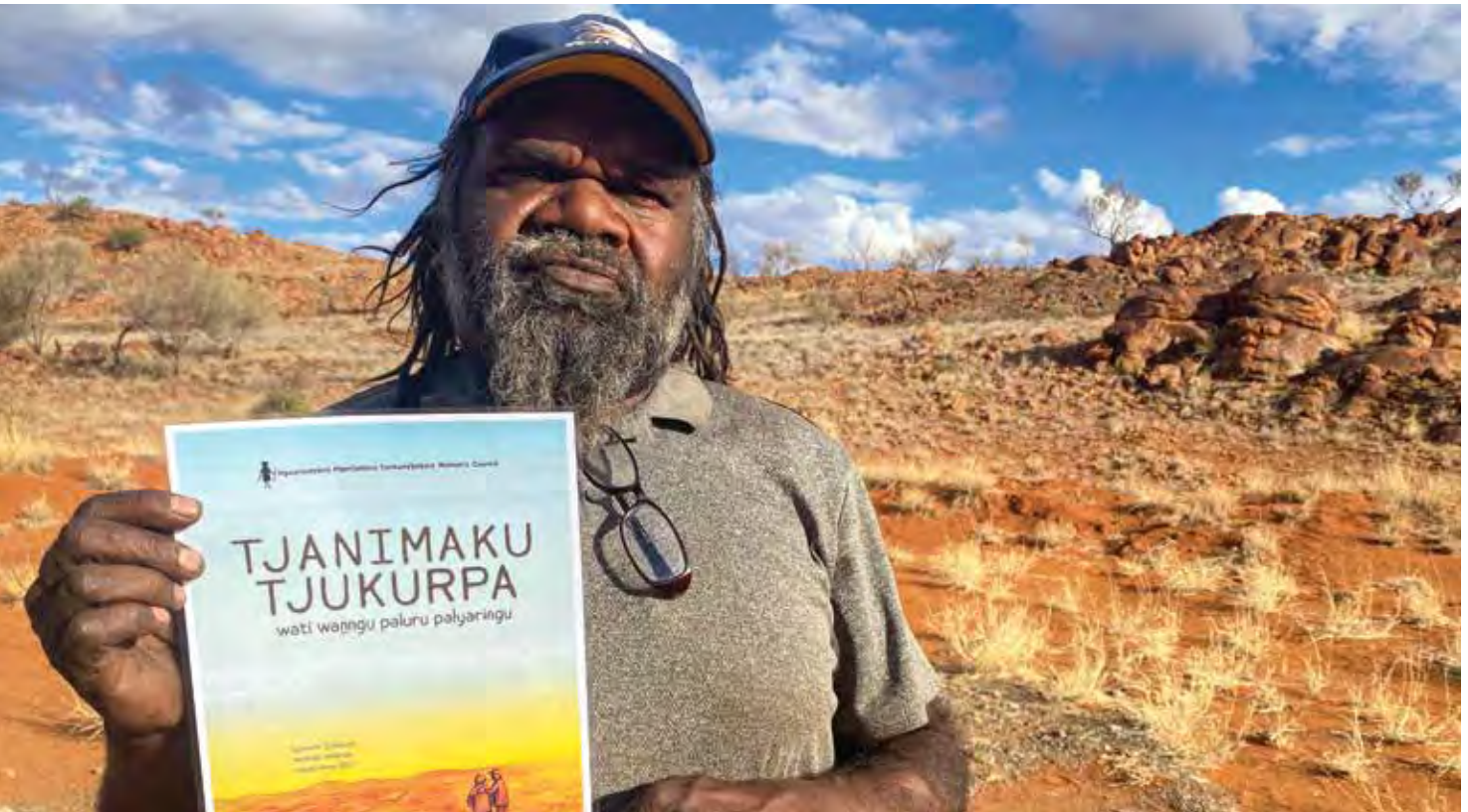
### THE UTI KULINTJAKU PROJECT

Uti Kulintjaku is a dynamic initiative led by respected Anangu cultural and community leaders in collaboration with non-Aboriginal mental health and social service professionals, to develop solutions that will address violence and trauma in communities. It employs around 20 senior Anangu women as consultants.

In Pitjantjatjara, 'uti kulintjaku' means to listen, think and understand clearly.

Uti Kulintjaku creates an environment where traditional knowledge and modern science are equally valued in





the development of solutions for better mental health and wellbeing. It facilitates clear thinking, enables safe ways to talk about difficult issues, fosters healing and empowerment and promotes finding new ways to enhance mental health and wellbeing to foster sustainable community healing.

Highly valued by Anangu and local health and mental health service providers across Central Australia for its strong positive impact, Uti Kulintjaku is recognised nationally and internationally for improving how Anangu and non-Aboriginal people work together to overcome complex issues.

In 2019, the Uti Kulintjaku team created a virtual reality work: *Waumananyi – the song on the wind*, a traditional

story about a man who becomes trapped inside a hollow log. This rich and culturally relevant resource for promoting discussion and insight into mental health in communities is addressing the complex problems of youth suicide and addiction. The VR was filmed over a week at a camp on a homeland on the border of Northern Territory and South Australia. An additional VR work was created as a meditation experience with support from the University of NSW, the Big Anxiety, and FEEL. Both VR works were exhibited at the UNSW gallery as part of the Big Anxiety Festival, an arts and mental health festival, and at the Dax Gallery at the University of Melbourne. The team presented a guided meditation in Pitjantjatjara and a performance at Art after Dark, at the Art Gallery of NSW, and gave two presentations at the *Anxiety, Culture and*

*the Future Conference*. The virtual reality work was made possible through the generous support of the UNSW, the Oranges and Sardines Foundation, and the Sir James McNeil Trust

The Ngangkari Program and Uti Kulintjaku team made a series of videos for Beyond Blue website, as an online resource for Aboriginal people about mental health and wellbeing.

As communities locked down in 2020 due to COVID-19 and many sections of the Women's Council were unable to continue delivering services in communities, the Uti Kulintjaku team decided to share their knowledge of mental health and wellbeing in small local groups in their own communities, with support from the Central Land Council and Connect WA. The Program aims to continue supporting small local groups in 2020–2021.

Uti Kulintjaku team member and NPYWC director, Rene Kulitja, was a finalist in the National Portrait prize with photographer and friend Rhett Hammerton. Rene's portrait *Pulankita pitjangu* (when the blanket came) is a powerful representation of the smothering impact of English on indigenous languages. In 2020, the portrait travelled to the Portico Library in Manchester, UK, as part of an exhibition called 'What it is to be here: Colonisation and resistance'.

### UTI KULINTJAKU WATIKU (MEN'S) PROJECT

The Uti Kulintjaku Watiku (Men's) Project is an innovative, Anangu-led initiative to develop community capacity and resilience, promote healing and prevent family violence. The project brings together a team of respected senior and younger Anangu men and non-Aboriginal health professionals to learn from each other and identify ways to strengthen Anangu identity and increase Anangu wellbeing to prevent family violence.

In 2019–2020 the men worked together to develop the story *Tjanimaku Tjukurpa* – how a young man came good about a boy who struggles with trauma and adversity but, with the guidance and support of his grandfather and extended family, finds his way. Told through the watchful



eyes of his grandfather, *Tjanimaku Tjukurpa* is a story of hope, connection and second chances, and, a story about the healing power of love.

The book builds on the men's knowledge and discussions about trauma and the importance of good role models. It is a powerful tool for communities to talk about the impact of contemporary problems on young men, and the value of strong role models.

The publication of *Tjanimaku Tjukurpa* was made possible through the generous support of the Australian Government Department of Social Services, the NT Government, the SA Government Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the Healing Foundation.

Group member Jacob McKenzie, who hails from the remote community of Pipalyatjara in SA, compares his own childhood with how young people are growing up today:

*'I learned Tjukurpa (Dreaming or Law) from going out bush with my mother and father, camping out. Going straight, [in] tjamu's (grandfather's) steps. But today it is a different generation, we are walking in a different way. Sometimes the footsteps can go wrong way.'*

'*Tjanimaku Tjukurpa*', explains Jacob, 'is telling the young people how to follow the *tjamu's* way'.

According to David Miller, a senior member of the project group, also from Pipalyatjara, *Tjanimaku Tjukurpa* is 'about the young generation taking over and looking after communities and *ngura* (country) ... It's for them to think about the future and how strong they are going to be', he says.

Stanley Windy, from Amata, says, 'That story is for everybody all around Australia. It's for people to understand and think about how to become good role models'.



## CHILD & FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICE

*Shelagh Woods, Manager*

*The Child and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) comprises the Child Nutrition Program, Walytjapiti – Intensive Family Support Service, and the Child Advocacy Program. All three programs work with children and families, addressing a range of barriers that affect child, family and community wellbeing.*

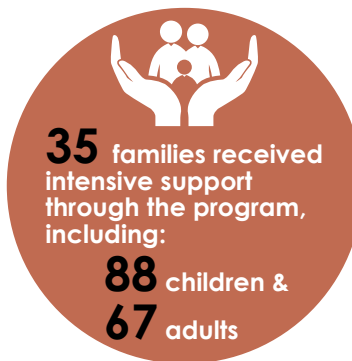


## THE YEAR IN A SNAPSHOT

### CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM



### WALYTJAPITI PROGRAM



### CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM



### CHILD NUTRITION AND WELLBEING PROGRAM

The Child Nutrition Program is in its twenty-fourth year of operation and continues to support families and children aged 0–5 years. The program provides an early intervention and prevention service for children and their families where issues related to growth faltering are identified or where children are deemed 'at risk' from

a health or welfare perspective. These activities are individually targeted and intensive nutrition intervention is carried out through case management and education and training with families. Recently, emphasis on prevention has extended to working with pregnant mothers in order to optimise the health and wellbeing of both mother and baby and promote a good start to life. The program has also





continued its public health work with community stores to ensure healthy foods are available and affordable for Anangu.

In 2019, an important research paper was published that demonstrated how nutrition interventions that the service has conducted in two communities on the APY Lands has

increased the supply and consumption of healthy foods. Entitled To Improve Food Security and Diet Related Health on the APY Lands, the report showed that the proportion of dietary energy intake from healthy foods increased by 6% over the research period – the only time this had improved since it was first assessed in 1986.

The report also showed that people's reliance on bread to 'fill up' decreased by 20%, while sugary drinks as a proportion of all drinks sold reduced from 60 to 40%. At the same time, the intake of fruit and vegetables increased from 145 to 212 grams per person per day. The service is hoping to share the story of the research project with the participating communities early next year, if COVID-19 restrictions allow.

The Nutrition program submitted a proposal to build on the To Improve Food Security and Diet Related Health on the APY Lands research, to gain a better understanding of the issues that impact on people's decisions around purchasing food. This project is planned to begin in 2021.

Maitjara Wangkanyi: Insights from an Ethnographic Study of Food Practices of Households in Remote Australian Aboriginal Communities was a paper developed from research by the nutrition program staff and researchers Suzanne Bryce, Lisa Herron, Inawantji Scales, Britta Wigginton, Meron Lewis and Amanda Lee. The paper investigates exploration of Aboriginal food practices and perspectives on food choice and highlights Anangu resourcefulness in securing food despite poverty and adversity. The paper will be published in a special issue on Indigenous health and wellbeing in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

The popular Menu Posters illustrating healthy recipes are being updated and re-distributed in communities and put up in the stores.

COVID-19 cross-border and biosecurity restrictions were a challenge for delivery of community services between March and July 2020. This downtime provided an opportunity for staff to review current resources,

undertake professional development activities and look at alternative ways to deliver services. Recipe packs were sent out to communities during the lock-down period for families to prepare healthy meals. Activity packs were prepared for families who were either in hotel quarantine in Alice Springs or from the NPY region and stranded in Alice Springs.

During the year the CFWS continued to strengthen and formalise its processes including trauma-informed methodology and the re-incorporation of formal case management procedures. The program investigated ways of sharing nutrition lessons with peers and partners, given limited Aboriginal nutrition related information in the public domain.

### **WALY TJAPITI PROGRAM**

The Walytjapiti Program is an intensive family support program that started with NPYWC in early 2012. The aim of the program is to work intensively and holistically with children (0-12 yrs) and their families where neglect has been substantiated or is at high risk of occurring.

For part of the year, COVID-19 restrictions imposed limitations on program delivery. In communities with no Walytjapiti workers, Tjitji (child) activity packs with books, games and craft activities, blankets and winter clothes were sent. Walytjapiti continued to connect with families through regular calls and check-ins. The program also supported families stranded away from their home community due to COVID-19 border restrictions by assisting with logistics for quarantine and safe return to country.

Throughout the year the Walytjapiti program supported families to navigate and engage with stakeholders and support services including Centrelink, lawyers, domestic and family violence services, and mental health and nutrition services.

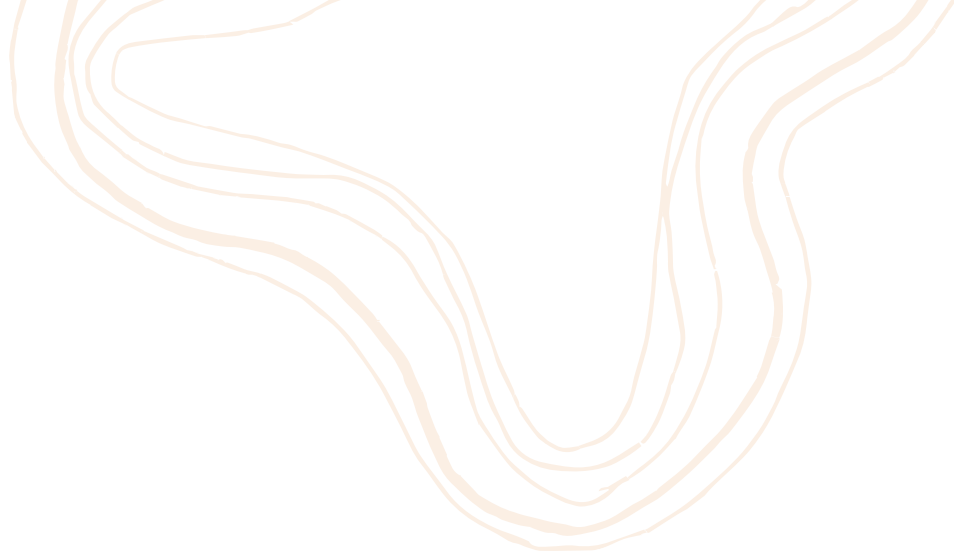
Walytjapiti continued to support families in their engagement with Department of Child Protection so that



families could maintain contact with children in out-of-home care. The program was pivotal in organising family group meetings to discuss ongoing care arrangements of children, focusing on the strengths and protective factors within families.

A series of workshops was held in remote communities to assist families gain information and knowledge in a number of areas including money management, healthy food options, sexualised behaviours, self-care, women's health, caring for babies and school attendance. Special workshops were offered to carers and family members around the impacts of violence and trauma on children and ways families can support children's safety, healing and development.





For thousands of years Anangu have sung to their babies. Integrating Western trauma theory with Anangu cultural knowledge, the Walytjapiti team worked with senior Anangu women to record a collection of children's songs in Pitjantjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra called *Titjiku Inma* (children's songs). The collection aims to build and encourage connection between children and their caregivers and will be sent out to families on USB flash drives.

### CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Child Advocacy Program provides assistance and support for Anangu families engaged with the child protection systems across the NPY tri-state region. Through individual case management and advocacy,

the Child Advocacy Officers (CAO) advocate for families to ensure that child access with family and community occurs and that, where possible, reunification occurs or kinship carers are determined.

In 2019, extra funding from Territory Families was received to hire an additional Child Advocacy Officer for the program, increasing capacity to deliver this high-demand service throughout the NPY Lands.

In 2020 one of our Child Advocacy Officer's was awarded the Foster and Kinship Carer Excellence Awards from Territory Families for making a positive difference to the life of children in care. This was the first time this award has been granted to a worker from a non-government organisation.





## DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICE

Corrina Graham, Manager

*The Domestic and Family Violence team helps overcome cycles of violence with care and respect. The service accept referrals from women living on the NPY Lands who have experienced the impacts of intimate partner, family, or other forms of lateral violence.*







## THE YEAR IN A SNAPSHOT



As with all NPY Women's Council services, 2019–2020 brought with it new challenges. The last half of 2019 was a stable period, where the office continued to be a place for women and children to take shelter. When COVID-19 hit it ushered in a time of uncertainty and new ways of working. Being unable to travel to remote communities due to the biosecurity zones and travel restriction meant that the Domestic and Family Violence team changed the way it delivered its services to ensure women still had access to workers. The safety of women, children and communities remained the focal point for all operations.

### STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO END VIOLENCE FRAMEWORK

The continued implementation of the Strengthening Community Capacity to End Violence Practice Framework (SCCTEV) resulted in some reframing and innovative work due to the travel restrictions. A review of the implementation of the framework took place in the second half of the reporting period. This has resulted in some

recommendations for change and the development of resources to assist DFVS team members to ensure the framework is embedded in their practice. In the first part of 2021, the implementation of the framework will be reviewed with NPYWC's Anangu Support Workers and a newly established Women's Advisory Group.

### WOMEN'S ADVISORY GROUP

The DFVS were successful in gaining funding from the Department of Social Services for the establishment of the Women's Advisory Group Project. The project involves recruiting Anangu women from across the NPY region to assist the DFVS in its practice and implementation of the framework. The Anangu Women's Group will be instrumental in guiding the delivery of the programs.

The aims of the project are to:

- ensure community work is directed and implemented by Anangu women



- promote trauma-informed care and cultural safety result in community ownership and leadership of against violence impacting in their communities
- ensure culture is always prioritised
- assist with healing in the communities

The development of the Anangu Women's advisory groups and implementation of the reviewed framework will take place across the NPY Lands.

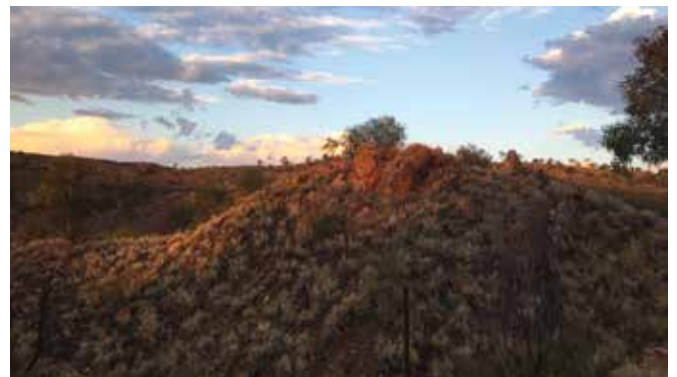
### EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS

In December 2019, members of the DFVS team travelled to the Gold Coast, Queensland, to present at the STOP Domestic Violence Conference. The women-only presentation, entitled Healing from Within: An Anangu approach to DFV, presented the unique and innovative method of working developed by the DFVS team framework.

Several other presentations to service providers were accomplished throughout the year, including training delivered to internal teams and external service providers.

### RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

The DFVS received additional funding to continue the Sexual Assault Participatory Action Research (SA PAR) research project. This project draws on the knowledge and ability of senior Anangu women to better inform and strengthen the DFVS to meet the needs of Anangu women who have experienced sexual assault. The anticipated outcomes from the project include an increased shared understanding between the members of the Uti Kulintjaku team and DVFS staff of Anangu perspectives and understandings of sexual assault; its impacts on Anangu women, their families and communities; ways to talk safely to Anangu women who have experienced sexual assault; and the types of support that Anangu women need.



## LEGAL SERVICES

The DFVS Specialist Legal Educator works with DFVS staff and women in remote communities to support safety, advocacy and education.

This year the Legal Educator worked with Anangu staff to increase knowledge of legal systems and procedures and, in turn, Anangu staff provided insight into Anangu ways of thinking about and conceptualising legal issues.

Using training from the NT Legal Aid Commission's Blurred Borders resource kit, DFVS staff spent time discussing and building greater understandings around legal stories about restraining orders, bail and parole conditions, policing, and arrest. The DFVS now holds a greater understanding of gaps in community knowledge that can be addressed through a fledgling DFVS legal education project.

Staff talked at length about threats, power and control, the word 'psychological', and emotional harm, which Anangu staff equated with spiritual harm. These conversations have led to all staff developing a more nuanced exploration of legal/illegal behaviours, and that the purpose of domestic violence orders (DVOs) and criminal procedures is to provide protection, not cause trouble.

COVID-19 has also seen an increase in funding for the programs, in the form of brokerage funding for clients and increased funding for the DFVS. The brokerage money has been instrumental in keeping women on the Lands safe.

## ADVOCACY

The DFVS continues to be an active voice for women in the NPY region. This year the service submitted several papers for both local and national issues. Some of these include:

- Northern Territory Aboriginal Justice Agreement
- Northern Territory Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Workforce and Sector Development Plan



- Northern Territory Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework
- Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence
- The House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence

Lobbying has taken place in the form of meetings with various ministers in government at state and Territory and national levels. These include:

- Minister Ken Wyatt – Minister for Indigenous Australians
- Minister Michelle Lensink – Minister for Human Services SA
- Minister Rachel Sanderson – Minister for Child Protection SA
- Minister Carolyn Power – Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention SA
- Representing NPY Women's Council in a variety of networks across the three jurisdictions of Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia

## CONCLUSION

Members, directors and Anangu support workers continue to assist the DFV team to guide the work of the DFVS to ensure women, children and communities live safe and happy lives across the NPY region. Their experience and knowledge guide the team's daily work and lead the service delivery into their communities. The DFV team and its directors look forward to developing the service in 2021.



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## TJUNGU TEAM

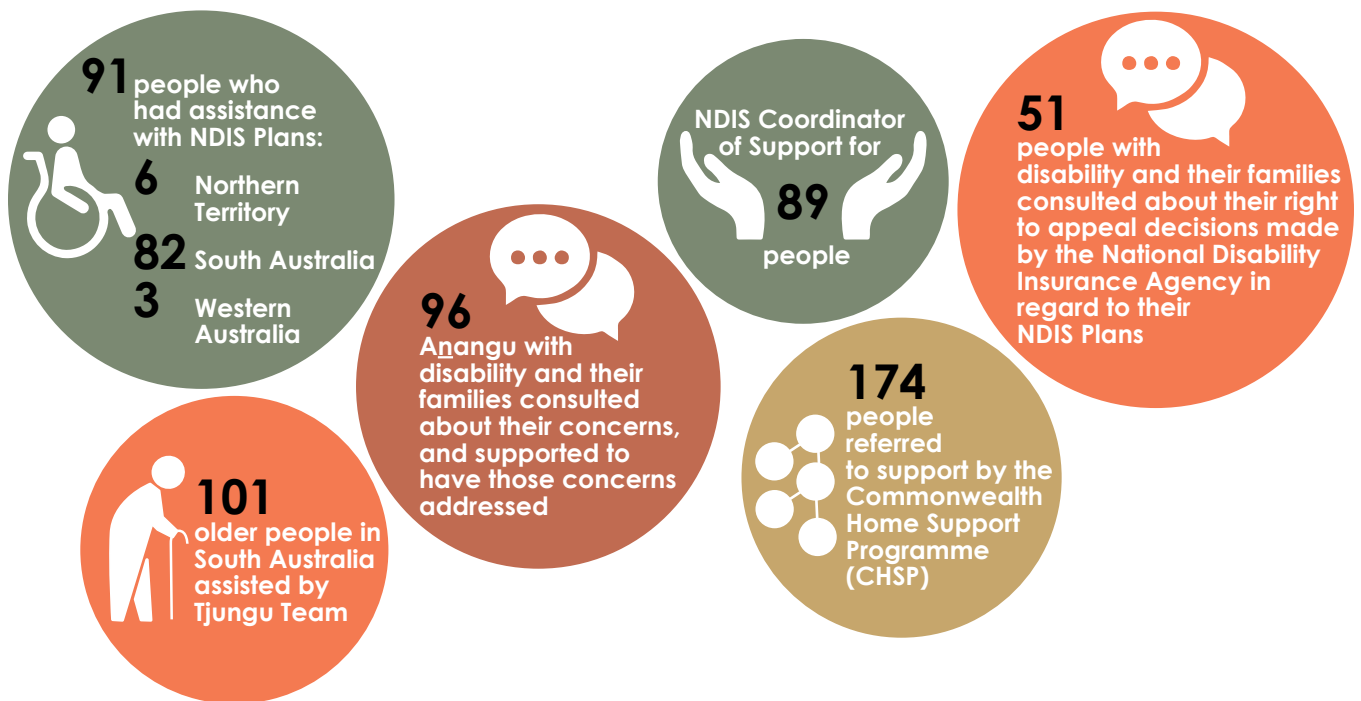
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Kim McRae, Manager

*Tjungu Team works with families and carers to support older people and people with disability to remain living on country for as long as possible by providing services such as respite, transport and equipment, NDIS supports and advocacy.*



## THE YEAR IN A SNAPSHOT



### NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)

The Tjungu team has worked extensively over the year to ensure that NDIS participants in remote communities receive culturally appropriate supports and services. The lack of service providers in remote areas has meant that even when people with disability have an NDIS Plan approved, they may not be able to access the support that is included in their NDIS Plan.

### NGAANYATJARRAKU DISABILITY

Ngaanyatjarraku Disability funding assists people with disability and their families who do not yet have an NDIS Plan and who live in WA communities that are supported by NPY Women's Council.

The service is necessary to support people with disability and their families while the NDIS is being rolled out on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. The service provides case management and flexible respite for people with disability to support them to continue living on country with their families.

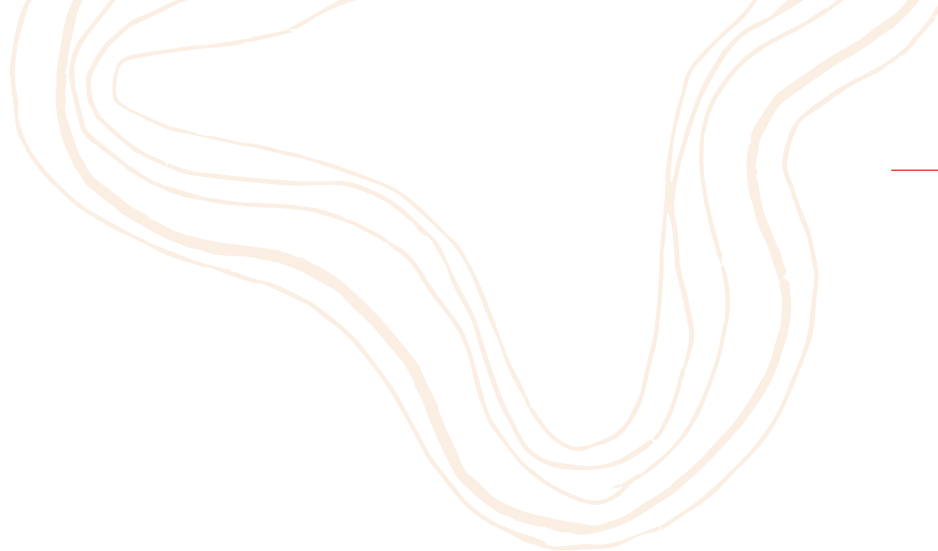
### DISABILITY ADVOCACY

The Tjungu team continued to advocate for Anangu with a disability in regards to housing support, child protection, NDIS, respite and financial support.

Tjungu regularly meets with government and other organisations speaking up for Anangu with disabilities and the elderly.







- support for Menzies Hep B Story App development in Pitjantjatjara
- increasing Social Inclusion for people in rural & remote communities consultation
- Joint Standing Committee Hearing on the NDIS

### **NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME APPEALS ADVOCACY**

The Tjungu Team helps people to better understand their NDIS Plan and what forms of support are available in their Plans. Many people on the NPY lands who have an NDIS Plan struggle to understand what support they can access, and sometimes people need help to navigate the process of appealing to the NDIS when they are not happy about what is in their Plan.

Tjungu also successfully helped people to provide the evidence required by the NDIS to meet the threshold for NDIS eligibility.

### **DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION ADVOCACY**

The Tjungu Team was nominated as an Advocate for the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. The team will support Anangu wanting to share their stories and will make a submission to the Royal Commission. Munatji McKenzie was employed by NPY Women's Council as its Aboriginal Advocate for the Disability Royal Commission.

### **AGED CARE SUPPORT SA**

Tjungu supported older people to maintain their independence and continue living in their communities through referrals to Commonwealth Home Support Program for swags, bedding and other mobility equipment, and by making referrals for respite and other needed services.

The Team also conducted My Aged Care Assessments for the Regional Assessment Service.

Advocacy includes:

- regular meetings with the National Disability Insurance Agency
- Integrated Carer Support Services Carer Counselling Clinical Advisory Group
- National Redress Scheme consultations
- Disability Royal Commission consultations
- National Disability Strategy consultations
- Aged Care Industry Reference Group Rural, Regional & Remote Working Group
- Care Plays Virtual Reality Co-Design
- NT Disability Advocacy Collective







## INTEGRATED CARER SUPPORT SERVICES (ICSS)

NPYWC is part of a consortium led by Carers SA delivering ICSS on the APY Lands. ICSS includes carer-directed support, in-person peer support, and emergency respite care.

Tjungu supported carers of old people and people with disability under the Integrated Carer Support Service which commenced in April 2020. Tjungu also provided Carer Directed Packages for practical support to assist carers in their roles, including respite and assistance with transport, and the provision of practical items such as swags and bedding during COVID-19.

## COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CHSP)

Tjungu Team worked with older Anangu and Anangu with a disability to ascertain needs that would support them living at home, in community. The Team supported the provision of swags and bedding, respite and transport to and from respite.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

Two Tjungu team programs were audited during the year and found to be compliant. They were the National Disability Advocacy Program and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission Audit.

## DISABILITY RESEARCH

The report, Tjitji Atunymankupai: Children with Disability in the NPY Lands, was published in 2019. This research, in collaboration with a team led by the University of Sydney, was conducted with the families of children from the NPY Lands who have disabilities. The research, along with an earlier report into the needs of adults with a disability from the NPY Lands, Walykumunu Nyinaratjaku, was presented at a conference in Glasgow.



Tjungu Team received a Highly Commended Award in the NT Disability Services and Inclusion Awards for Excellence in Advocacy and Promotion of Human Rights for the research report, Walykumunu Nyinaratjaku in 2019.

## INFORMATION PROJECT

A three-year project researching the information needs about disability for Anangu commenced. Tjungu Team visited the Lands to conduct an initial series of workshops to identify what information people would like and in what format. Initially the team was able to conduct consultations with people in the APY Lands, SA. Due to COVID-19 border closures and restrictions accessing remote communities, the workshops and consultations in the NT and WA were postponed.



## FINANCE

Lavenia Saville, Finance Manager

The financial statements reflect the performance of NPY Women's Council (NPYWC) for the financial year ended 30 June 2020. The second half of the financial year was disrupted by coronavirus (COVID-19), which contributed to an increase of 22% in the 2019–2020 unexpended grants. This significant increase in the recorded unexpended grants was due to the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of services to remote Aboriginal communities across the NPY region.

In a climate of continuing uncertainty, NPYWC will continue to monitor the changes in funding policies to assess potential implications to the operations, reporting and governance arrangements that these changes may impose on the organisation.

The changing funding landscape provides NPYWC with the opportunity to nurture and strengthen its relationship with government and other stakeholders with a renewed focus on maintaining current business partnerships and developing new ones.

### TOTAL REVENUE IN THE PAST FISCAL YEAR: \$21.7M

In 2020,  
**NPYWC secured**



- \$15.6M in grants
- \$2.4M approved 2018–2019 unspent funds

**Net assets**



- \$5.2M 2020
- \$5.1M 2019



In 2020,  
**NPYWC raised**

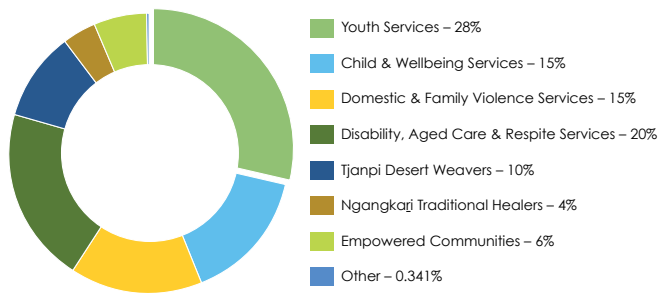
- \$0.1M in donations, an increase of **47%**
- \$1.7M own generated income through Social Enterprise Program and NDIS



In 2020,  
**NPYWC invested**

- \$15.4M to fund operating expenses

### Breakdown of funds by program service type

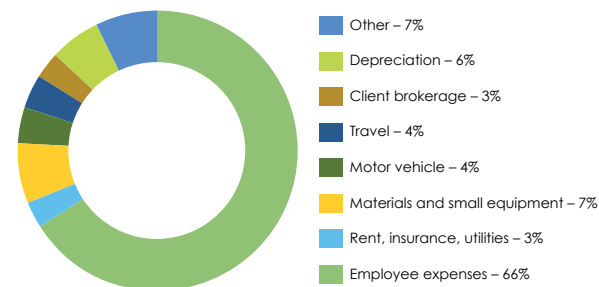


### EXPENSES

NPYWC operational expenses are largely funded by Commonwealth and state or territory governments and the philanthropic and private sectors, who make it possible for the organisation to achieve its mission of ensuring that women and children in the NPY Lands have a good life.

In 2020, NPYWC saw a decline in total expenses by \$0.1M. This is due to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on the delivery of services to remote communities.

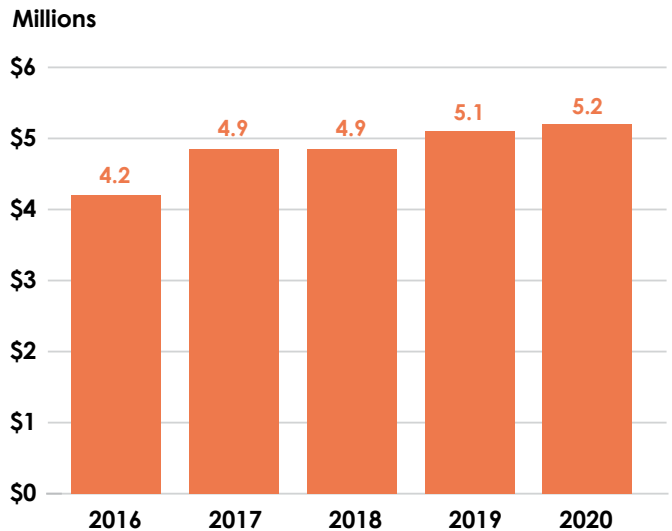
### Breakdown of expenditure



### NET ASSETS

In 2020, net assets of NPY Women’s Council have increased by \$0.1M. The organisation is in a good financial position and continues to have sufficient funds to meet all its current liabilities when they fall due.

### NPY Women’s Council net assets





The NPYWC detailed Annual Audited Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2020 can be accessed from its website – <https://www.npywc.org.au/publications/financial-reports/>



## CONTACTS

# NGAANYATJARRA PITJANTJATJARA YANKUNYTJATJARA WOMEN'S COUNCIL (ABORIGINAL CORPORATION)

### Main Office

Gate 2, 3 Wilkinson St  
Alice Springs NT 0870

PO Box 8921  
Alice Springs NT 0871

Phone (08) 8958 2345

Fax: (08) 8952 3742

Email: [enquiries@npywc.org.au](mailto:enquiries@npywc.org.au)

Website: [www.npywc.org.au](http://www.npywc.org.au)

### Remote Offices:

Amata SA: (08) 8954 6305  
(08) 8955 8187

Ernabella SA: (08) 8955 8103

Mimili SA: (08) 8954 7027

Pipalyatjara SA: (08) 8954 8206

Umuwa SA: (08) 8956 7271

Wingellina WA: (08) 8956 7160

Warburton WA: (08) 8954 6089  
(08) 8954 6085

Warakurna WA: (08) 8956 2836

Kiwirrkurra WA: (08) 8964 8007

Finke NT: (08) 8956 0941

Imanpa NT: (08) 8954 6067

Docker River NT: (08) 8955 8339

Yulara NT: (08) 8956 3086

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Pitjantjatjara  
Yankunytjatjara  
Women's Council**

