

Youth Justice Reform Select Committee inquiry into youth justice reform in Queensland

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Wayikarr Marrung to you and thank you kindly for considering the YABUN PANJOO Aboriginal Corporation. For those who have previously connected with us, we have renamed from Yinda Corporation, but still hold the same knowledge and passion, but have grown our capabilities and qualifications. In respect to this, an Elder snapshot is on Page 2 for your perusal.

We have been in discussions with the Townsville Stronger Communities Early Action Group, and more broadly, Townsville Magistrates, Youth Justice, Youth Services, ATSILS, TAIHS, QLD Police Service and CYJMA regarding the re-establishment of our youth cultural camps that were previously proven to be highly successful in re-directing behaviours through knowledge and respect. The current issues and problems are dramatic; therefore, we are very happy to recommence these teachings for the betterment of all community as a matter of urgency and priority.

The structure of the camps will consist of 2 weeks of LORE and Culture strongly underpinned by the values of kinship, community, connection, and respect delivered by the three Elders of Yabun Panjoo at the Gilberton Lodge Retreat. This location is 650 km west of Townsville and given the remote locality phone and internet connection, as well as any of the other distractions facing these kids, is non-existent. Intermingled within these teachings will be the conduct of sporting endeavours such as Boxing and Rugby League, for example.

At the successful completion of the camp, the youths will be enrolled in further education in either an FSK Cert I or an FSK Cert II for a further 8 weeks with an accredited RTO of Yabun Panjoo choosing. This will continue the education trajectory of the youth whilst allowing further interaction and mentoring directly with the Yabun Panjoo Elders. The full intended flow-on effect of the education aspect is that each of them will progress to a Certificate III within the vocation field of their choice. The final education package offered by the Elders will be "The Gugila Way" which is a four-day program of employment readiness covering strength, confidence, resilience, and maintaining that employment. This will encompass "actual" job applications and job interviews within community business connections arranged by the Elders.

Our two-week camp structure will involve three Yabun Panjoo Elders accompanied by three Youth Justice staff dealing with 10 youths per camp. Given that the entire program is 10 weeks in totality, there is capability of having 4 programs per year. For these camps to be re-established, and to be successful from the beginning, the funding, and grants previously available need to be strongly re-committed.

In essence, a two week camp followed by 8 weeks of further education, which then develops into further mentoring and employment scope, will require vehicle purchase and fuel consumption; the supply of cultural artefacts and materials; safety applications and implications inclusive of Public Indemnity; purchasing of sporting equipment; the acquisition of accommodation and food at Gilberton; and not least, the knowledge and capability of Elders and gifting that knowledge to the youth.

For this to occur successfully and without shortfalls requiring unnecessary remedial actions, we strongly feel that the initial fund should be no less than \$300,000 with the ability to negotiate relative costs for subsequent ongoing 10-week programs. We are truly hoping you will strongly consider Yabun Panjoo, as we are sure you will agree with us that time is of the essence regarding the Youth Crime in Townsville along with the required responses and expectations of community.



Uncle Russell Butler

Uncle Russell is a Senior Traditional Elder of the Bandjin and Warragamay people of the Hinchinbrook Island region between Cairns and Townsville. As a boy, he learned many traditional skills and stories from his grandmother. "I went to two schools: mainstream school and my grandmother's school,". "Now it's my job to teach the youth, to pass on that knowledge and keep those skills and traditions alive." The School of International Training has had the privilege of working with Uncle Russell since 1993 and the children of this region will be gifted by having access to that same extensive knowledge. He specialises in teaching cultural and material aspects of the traditional Aboriginal lifestyle in North Queensland using stories, discussions, and bush walks to teach ethnobotany, tool making, and Aboriginal environmental philosophies. Uncle Russell is an extremely respected Community Elder of this region and is the keeper of Lore and local traditional knowledge.

Uncle Wayne Parker

An Aboriginal man from Kalkadoon Country, Mount Isa, Uncle Wayne creates a difference for young people in community through sporting programs such as boxing, among others. With Indigenous-designed and led community programs, kids grow in an environment that nurtures respect and their potential rather than being trapped in any systems. Uncle Wayne has been a cohort of Uncle Russ for many years and possesses a strong spirit that offers his knowledge of the past from a more contemporary and community-embedded perspective that resonates with all levels of life. Uncle Wayne is a qualified Boxing Coach and has mentored many young people in this region.

Uncle Dave Gugila

A proud Dunghutti and adopted Bandjin man, Uncle Dave has spent over 35 years mentoring, engaging, and coaching our next generations. He was a Rugby League Junior and Senior Coach for 34 years, having the privilege of some of those years being at the Newcastle Knights and the Redcliffe Dolphins, finishing this aspect in Townsville in 2019 with four Premierships at Brothers Townsville. He holds the ambassadorial role of 3rd Brigade Uncle at Lavarack Barracks as a Warrant Officer, which makes him the first in the history of the ADF. He enjoys conducting Aboriginal ceremonies to excite and inculcate with all peoples. As a Trainer & Assessor by trade, he has proven himself to be a wonderful portrayer of information in a style that is engaging and entertaining, with current praises from the Get Set for Work Program Coordinators of PCYC. He holds the following qualifications for the delivery of the proposed FSK Training of the ten-week program:

TAE40110 - Certificate IV in Training & Assessment

TAEASS502 - Design and develop assessment tools

TAESS00009 - Address Foundation Skills in Vocational Practice encompassing:

TAELLN411 - Address adult language, literacy, and numeracy skills

TAELLN412 - Access resources and support to address foundation skills in vocational practice

TAELLN413 - Integrate foundation skills into vocational training delivery

BSB30120 - Certificate III in Business

CHC32015 - Certificate III in Community Services

CHC33015 - Certificate III in Individual Support

BSB51107 - Diploma of Management