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### WE ARE ANANGU WOMEN CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND THEIR WELLBEING

(13)

NPYWC MEMBERS AT AGM PHOTO: RHETT HAMMERTON





We support 24 remote desert communities across the tri-state region of South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory (350,000 sq km).

KA<u>LT</u>UKATJARA MU<u>T</u>ITJU<u>L</u>U IMA<u>N</u>PA APUTULA KALKA PIPALYATJARA KA<u>N</u>PI NYAPA<u>R</u>I UMUWA PUKATJA YUNYARINY IWANTJA MIMILI WARBURTON TJUKURLA AMA<u>T</u>A

IRRUNYTJU PAPULANKUTJA MANTAMARU WARAKURNA WANARN KIWIRRKURRA TJIRRKARLI

KALTJITI

# DIRECTORS



**Yanyi Bandicha** CHAIRPERSON Pukatja, SA



Kunmanara Smith DEPUTY CHAIR Ima<u>n</u>pa, SA



Julie Anderson DIRECTOR Aputula NT



**Maureen Baker** DIRECTOR Warakurna, WA



**Lily Tjiweri** DIRECTOR Ka<u>lt</u>ukatjara, NT



**Nynmiti Burton** DIRECTOR Ama<u>t</u>a, SA



**Maimie Butler** DIRECTOR Papulankutja, WA



**Janet Forbes** DIRECTOR Papulankutja, WA



**Yangi Yangi Fox** DIRECTOR Pipalyatjara, SA



**Rene Kulitja** DIRECTOR Mu<u>t</u>itju<u>l</u>u, NT



**Wanatjura Lewis** DIRECTOR Ama<u>t</u>a, SA



**Dorothy Richards** DIRECTOR Mantamaru, WA

## KUNPU NYINANTJAKU

ANAGU CULTURE, GOVERNANCE & AGENCY

A collaborative approach to very significant problems is the magic of Women's Council. You are able to achieve that, whereas so many other organisations are not able to. It is not just about capacity. It is about the right idea, the right approach. Women's Council has this very interesting culturally formed democratic system and that democratic system is part of your very effective model for change.

Marcia Langton



### GROWING HEALTH, SOCIAL & CULTURAL WELLBEING IN THE NPY REGION

HOLISTIC SERVICES, LED BY A<u>N</u>ANGU INNOVATION & THE AUTHORITY OF WOMEN'S LAW:

- Domestic & Family Violence Service
- Youth Service
- Child & Family Wellbeing Service
- Tjanpi Desert Weavers
- Ngangka<u>r</u>i Traditional Healers
- Tjungu Aged & Disability Care
- Law & Culture



# MESSAGES

### LIZA BALMER CEO

This year has again challenged us all as we continued to face the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in our region. We've continued to increase our capacity in the way we do business virtually, and in 2021 we held our Annual General Meeting, including an election and a 41st year celebration, via ZOOM with 137 members present across 15 locations.

This adaptability and flexibility enables us to continue to deliver our programs and services that are demonstrating impact and resilience, and our progress has been outstanding. Our highlights cover issues including pregnancy and early childhood, improved health and wellbeing for frail aged and disabled people, increased knowledge and understanding of trauma and healing through the strength of culture and language, emerging young leaders who were previously at risk through our newly piloted Iwara program, and overcoming cycles of violence and trauma with our Anangu women's advisory group and sharing stories of courage and strength.

The key to achieving change is leadership. We celebrate our leaders who are not afraid to challenge the injustices they face and are leading change in the most innovative ways. We are not just delivering services: we are building the leadership and evidence to create widespread systemic reform to build a future for the next generation. We have also continued to develop key partnerships with organisations who can assist us in creating a better quality of life for Anangu. In addition to our partners at a local level, we also have relationships with organisations such as Jawun, Empowered Communities, Larapinta Connect, government agencies and funding bodies such as Lotterywest, all of whom have been great champions over many years.

Financially, we ended the year in a stable position. Our accounts show an increase of close to 14% in general revenue at the end of 2022, the majority of which is attributable to an increase in program funding and donations. I thank all of our staff, partners, our growing family of donors and

Ambassadors. Your commitment and contribution, and its impact, are felt every day in our vision for Anangu to have a good life now and in to the future.

As we move into 2023, the challenge is not over and our focus 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.

### YANYI BANDICHA CHAIRPERSON

During this last year we have still been dealing with the effects of COVID 19 on our communities and our work. Travel restrictions and border closures were still in place earlier in the year and travel across the NPY lands and travel for work was difficult. However, we as a Board worked hard to spread the word about the importance of vaccinations, and when COVID did make it to our communities, we were prepared.

We were really excited that our Law and Culture meeting went ahead in 2022 after a break of two years due to COVID 19. The Law and Culture meeting is very important us. Culture builds a foundation for our work at NPYWC and keeps our communities on a strong and healthy path.

I have been really happy and proud to see many young people supported by NPY Women's Council to attend boarding school outside of their communities. These young people come back with a really good education and transition to work in their home communities quickly.

This year marks my 20th year on the Board of NPYWC and I am honoured and privileged to have had the opportunity to be part of all our achievements over the last 20 years. I also want to acknowledge our past leaders at NPYWC for giving us this legacy of advocacy and transformation that we continue to strive towards.

There has also been a lot of sorry business for us out on the lands. We send our love to families missing loved ones and look forward to a healthy year ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every individual who supports the work of NPYWC in reaching our strategic goal of all 'Anangu living well in both worlds and recognise the enormous dedication and commitment or our staff.

Yanyi Bandicha

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### MORE THAN HALF THE POPULATION IN THE NPY LANDS ARE 24 YEARS OR UNDER. WE HELP YOUNG PEOPLE THRIVE BY OFFERING:

- Recreation programs & camps to keep young people active, engaged & reaching for the stars
- Family orientated case management
- A boarding school program that offers broad educational opportunities
- The Iwara traineeship & job pathway program
- Advocating for youth justice, edcuation, substance abuse prevention & mental health

IWARA PARTICIPANTS PHOTO: MICHELLE CRANE









YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED IN CASE MANAGEMENT





YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED TO ATTEND BOARDING SCHOOL, INCREASING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



HOURS OF YOUTH RECREATION ACTIVITY TO KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE ACTIVE, ENGAGED & REACHING FOR THE STARS



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YOUNG PEOPLE UNDERTOOK A PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE IWARA TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

# **HIGHLIGHTS**



### HELPING TO GROW POWERFUL YOUNG ADULTS SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

### MOVE FORWARD IN EDUCATION, WORK & LEADERSHIP

The youth we work with grow up with our program. Along the way we work to build trust and rapport with young people and their families.

Our aim is to grow individual emotional and social skills as a part of our programs, creating new pathways in education and work for young people.

When we started a new youth program three years ago in a remote community, the program was barely able to function safely because there were multiple issues with behaviour and many activities were met with anti-social conduct and volatile environments.

Through connected relationships and programs designed to engage, extend and reward young people hoping for real and meaningful direction, the community's Youth Service looks completely different. Our programs are now robust and stable, working alongside young people and their families to support new opportunities.

Young people showing emotional and social capacity have opportunities to link in with our Boarding School, lwara (work training) and the Voyages Work Experiences Programs.

### UNDERSTANDING WORK OPPORTUNITIES WORK EXPERIENCE AT VOYAGES, ULU<u>R</u>U

It's a big step travelling from a remote community to a busy tourist destination to look at employment opportunities. Six young women from Irrunytju, Pipalyatjara and Papalankutja did just that and were supported by NPYWC to attend the Voyages & NITA Education and Employment Pathways Program at Yulara/Uluru.

The program was a chance to find out more about the different jobs available at Yulara. Just being in a new and busy environment was a big eye-opener; it was the first time the girls had ever eaten at a restaurant.

The results were encouraging:

- 4 of the 6 girls said they would **maybe** like to do a 1 year traineeship at Voyages Uluru
- 2 of the 6 girls said they **definitely** like to do a 1 year traineeship at Voyages Ulu<u>r</u>u

The jobs they were most interested in were:

- working in the gallery or shop
- working in the day spa
- working in the fire station



### YOUNG PEOPLE WANT TO WORK BUT THEY NEED A HAND IWARA - A PATHWAY TO REAL EMPLOYMENT

Crossing language and cultural barriers can be challenging when you are looking for work. The Iwara program helps young school leavers get ready for real work in their communities and beyond.

lwara is an 8-week intensive program based both in Alice Springs and out bush that helps young school leavers from the remote NPY lands get ready for work. The program looks at:

- employer's expectations
- administration skills
- confidence and communication
- experience in the workplace
- experience running activities

*It's challenging & pushes you out of your comfort zone*... Iwara aims to help young people get confident and build skills for jobs that may exist in their home communities.

This finanical year we had 6 participants graduate and 7 new trainee's begin.

### 4 of the 6 2021 Iwara graduates are now employed

and the remaining 2 graduates are waiting to update their vaccination status."

# DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICE

iKU

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### WE SUPPORT FAMILIES TO OVERCOME CYCLES OF VIOLENCE.

We provide:

- An intake service for women in crisis
- Legal education and advice to help women to understand their rights and court systems
- Therapeutic casework that empowers women to live in safe environments
- Community programs to grow resistance to violence









EPISODES OF CARE





COMMUNITIES SERVICED





It's a big story, it's really sad. We've gotta slow down and talk about [domestic violence], with the young woman and girls.

A<u>n</u>angu Malparara-Malparara group member

### LEADING INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS SEXUAL ASSAULT RESEARCH CULTURALLY SENSITIVE UNDERSTANDING TO SUPPORT WOMEN REPORTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

We were noting many women were reporting sexual violence particularly within their relationships.

We wanted to explore and understand this more from a cultural context to best seek out how we could support women in this very sensitive area.

In January we published *Exploring Anangu understandings to strengthen support for Anangu women experiencing sexual assault.* No other research has been done to this extent with indigenous people anywhere in the world. The research was participatory and included voices from Domestic & Family Violence Service (DFVS) staff and Anangu co-researchers.

The research looked at:

- What are Anangu understandings of sexual assault and its effects?
- How do you talk about sexual assault with Anangu women in a safe way?
- What support do A<u>n</u>angu women need if they have experienced sexual assault?

You can read the full report on our website.



### TRAINING POLICE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE OVERCOMING WOMEN'S RELUCTANCE TO SEEK HELP FROM POLICE

This training came about due to the many women reporting to our service that they were reluctant to seek help from police because of less than satisfactory interactions with them.

We conducted a 6-week police program with the Alice Springs police which focused on understanding how to work in a trauma informed and culturally appropriate way.

The training supported police understanding across a range of key domestic violence response issues including:

- the impacts of trauma responses and behaviours that can present from domestic & familiy violence and trauma and how police can use a traumainformed practice in their own response
- understanding women's use of violence as a form of resistance
- culturally appropriate ways to talk to Anangu women about domestic violence

The result has been worthwhile. Our service has noted improvement by our service of interactions of police officers with our clients. One participant's feedback from this training was that it was "mind altering".



### INSIGHT

### A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE DFVS SERVICE

Support provided to 69 women:

- 45 new clients
- 130 calls responded to
- 10 women visited the DFVS office

18 domestic violence incidents recorded:

- 8 formal police reports and several informal police reports logged
- 224 case notes written

We supported Anangu women accross the NPY lands and other regional places they may be residing including Laverton, Adelaide, Katherine, Alice Springs, Kalgoorlie.

Emergency accommodation provided to:

- 3 women in Alice Springs
- 1 family in Adelaide
- 1 women at Marla
- 2 women and 2 children in Warakurna
- 1 woman in Warburton

Emergency evacuation for women included:

- Katherine to Alice Springs
- Marla to Port Augusta
- Docker River to Alice Springs
- Alice Springs to Kalgoorlie
- Warburton to Kalgoorlie

Support for ONE woman in one week included:

- help to attend court with detailed advocacy letter in regards to her history of violence
- assistance with Centrelink payments
- material aid provided for mobile phone, court attire, food and beverages
- accommodation and transport
- risk assessment and safety planning
- therapeutic support

### WE ARE A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, ENABLING WOMEN TO EARN THEIR OWN INCOME FROM FIBRE ART.

We represent more than 400 Aboriginal artists from 26 remote communities on the NPY Lands. We come together on Country to create unique fibre art, to earn our own money and keep culture strong.

MIMILI AND INDULKANA ARTISTS CREATED FOUR MAJOR WORKS COMMISSIONED BY GUILDHOUSE FOR AN OFFICE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN THE ADELAIDE. S.A. CBD. THE WORK DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM SHAPES IN COUNTRY, WHICH FEATURED AT DESERT MOB 2021 AND EXTENDS THE CREATIVE PRACTICE TO MORE COMPLICATED SUSPENDED FORMS AND DEMONSTRATES THE CONTINUAL INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY BY NPY WOMEN ACROSS OUR REGION.

ELIZA WANGIN, PAULINE WANGIN, BETTY MULA AND PINUKA YAI YAI FROM MIMILI SA ARE PICTURED HERE WITH A PART THE WORK. PHOTO:EMMA FRANKLIN



It's important to do important work For your Future. Tjanpi is important work For the heart. It makes me Feel lovely, good Feeling when you are weaving. It keeps our culture strong too. Doing tjanpi is a good Feeling, a happy Feeling and making money at the same time.

### DELIVERING IN REGIONS OF ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE INCREASED SALES & INCOME FOR ARTISTS

In a region of extreme economic disadvantage and poverty we made a 46% increase on artist payments from the previous financial year. This gave women in the NPY lands over \$365,396. We achieved a 5.9% increase on our sales target for the year, selling \$556,284 dollars of fibre art.

Increasing artist payments across our region is intrinsically tied to putting money directly into the hands of Indigenous women, puts food on the table and supports the wider communities and Indigenous-owned businesses.

### SHARING OUR CULTURE ELEVATING AN A<u>N</u>ANGU VOICE

This year we participated in 19 exhibitions, including exhibitions in London, Brussels, Dubai and Berlin. Exhibitions are an important part of raising artist's profile and income potential while sharing our culture.

During the year several artists wanted to explore different ways to tell and share stories of their life and culture through Tjanpi artwork. Two animations, *Tangki – Donkey* and *Kukaputju – The Hunter*, were created.

*Tangki – Donkey* tells the story of the special relationship between Anangu and donkeys in the desert community of Pukatja. *Tangki* won the Sydney Film Festival AFTRS Craft Award and the Yoram Gross Animation Award in 2022. The story has also been made into a children's picture book.

*Kukaputju – The Hunter* is a short film about a day in the life of Yanyangkari Roma Butler as she goes hunting in the bush with her clever dog, Kungka.





We are teaching Tjukurpa too. Anything that can be made, it comes through the Tjukurpa. That's how we learn and passing it on to our granddaughters for the future because it will be going on and on and on.

### WE WORK WITH ANANGU WITH DISABILITIES, OLD PEOPLE AND THEIR CARERS.

We support people with services not available in remote communities so they can stay on country with family and culture. We work with My Aged Care, National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Integrated Carer Support Service.

PHOTO: RHETT HAMMERTON







AGED + PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY SUPPORTED TO LIVE ON COUNTRY, CONNECTED TO FAMILY & CULTURE





AGED & PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY SUPPORTED WITH GOODS, SERVICES & EQUIPMENT



50 VOICES SHARED AT THE ROYAL COMMISSION PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY SUPPORTED THROUGH NDIS APPEALS PROCESSES

She (Tjungu Team worker) listens proper way, she understands me. Aged CLIENT

# HIGHLIGHTS



NPYWC DIRECTOR; MRS SMITH & TJUNGU TEAM MANAGER; KIM MCRAE BEING INTERVIEWED AFTER THE ROYAL COMMISSION HEARING

### BRINGING A POWERFUL A<u>N</u>ANGU VOICE TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Speaking at the Disability Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation of People with Disability, NPY Women's Council told the stories of the extra hardship people with a disability living in remote areas face. Lack of access to therapeutic support and basic disability support services coupled with language and cultural barriers prevent engagement with NDIS plans.

Anangu shared lived experiences, like difficulties maintaining access and contact with children when they are placed in outof-home care in far-away cities. We hope these stories act to change policies and improve the lives of those with a disability

We had met with 108 Anangu with a disability and their carers to explain what the Royal Commission was about. From our meetings we collected 51 stories outlining concerns of Anangu with a disability to present at the Commission.

### THE COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME IN SA PREVENTING THE PROFOUND ISOLATION & DEEP SADNESS OF LEAVING COUNTRY & KIN

Senior Anangu have reported that they experience profound isolation and deep sadness when they are forced to leave country to receive residential care in an urban centre when their care needs increase as they age.

NPYWC supports older people to stay on country for as long as possible by helping them with equipment services such as respite, and support for family carers. We supported 107 aged people and their carers to stay living on the APY Lands within this last financial year.

### NEW HELP FOR CARERS IN WA WITH SO FEW SERVICES AVAILABLE IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES CARERS ARE VITAL

People caring for elderly or disabled family members in remote Ngaanyatjatjara (NG) lands in WA have not had access to support until recently!

NPYWC have been funded by Carers WA to provide Integrated Carer Support Services to the NG Lands. This means we can support carers and reduce their stress, increase their skills and offer a tailored and individual support service to improve the well-being of carers and those they care for.

We work now work with 20 carers in the NG lands and 75 carers across the NPY lands.



### A SPECIAL STORY LANCE JAMES & A LOVE OF HORSES

Lance James has been painting horses for a long time. He lives out in a remote community in the Northern Territory and paints the land and hills around the community as well as the wild brumbies who roam there. He has been a Telstra Award finalist and his work is in the collection of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. His paintings of horses have been a regular feature of the Desert Mob exhibition for the past ten years.

Lance is an NDIS participant and his NDIS plan with the help of the Tjungu team's Support Coordination means that Lance can travel into Alice Springs several times a year to paint with Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists and connect with his friends and fellow painters as well as link in with important therapies such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

On a recent trip to Alice Springs Lance's physiotherapist recognised this love of horses and with the help of the Tjungu team arranged for him to meet them at the Alice Springs branch of the Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia. With the help of Innovative Community Participation, Lance is looking to be back on the horse in no time.

### NGANGKARI ARE THE TRADITIONAL HEALERS OF THE NPY LANDS.

Ngangka<u>r</u>i have looked after people's physical, spiritual and emotional health for thousands of years.

The Ngangka<u>r</u>i Program supports ngangka<u>r</u>i to continue their work. In a region with limited mental health resources, The Ngangka<u>r</u>i Program also support grass roots initiatives to grow understanding in mental health, trauma and healing.



So, through the process of this work we think of stories and we pull stories that come from our deep history and our deep knowledge, and from the language, from our law and the force that governs our land, and we pull those ideas and stories in, and we make books, we have made lots of different resources and different things that are both for our purposes of learning and for our families' wellbeing, but also for other people to learn from our knowledge.

when we come together as women and we do these workshops, one of the purposes is to strengthen ourselves and each other as we go along. It's really about bringing that kulintja, our thinking, our state of mind or however you want to def ine that, just bringing that into equilibrium. We get that from each other as we do that work together.

Tjulapi Carroll

Everybody has their connection to country, to specific stories that are connected to those places and that's where we draw our connection, that ngangka<u>r</u>i connection and it's connected to you and to that Tjukurpa, the stories, the history, the land. So we have our various things that we can heal with. But they are also very individual and specific. Those things are handed on from the grandfathers and given to the children. Then those children take on those powers that are associated to that story, to that country, to that space. And then they can go travelling and accessing those ngangkari powers.

### AN IMPORTANT A<u>NANAGU</u> APPROACH TO PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE SENIOR A<u>NANGU MEN TAKING THE</u> LEAD ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Watiku (men's) Project has developed into a powerful program led by senior men working with younger men to tackle domestic and family violence.

The program is informed by A<u>n</u>angu ways of teaching , learning and Tjukurpa, coupled with insights from western science on trauma and healing.

Key elements of the Anangu approach include:

- programs are led by the authority of senior men knowledgeable in both Tjukurpa & western mental health concepts
- the use of both cultural and western knowledge in healing
- conducting workshops and camps involving young men with correct family relationships according to the Anangu kinship system
- camps are held on country that the men have relationship to
- talking about trauma, healing, relationships and violence and what makes a strong Anangu man
- supporting the next generation of leaders to continue this work

### MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT & AWARENESS NEEDED OUTBUSH HEALING IN A REGION WITH LIMITED MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Senior Anangu talk about the lack of and need for mental health support for young people in the NPY region. They recognise many factors resulting in the poor mental health of some young people in remote communities, including intergenerational trauma, poverty and lack of opportunities.

Ngangka<u>r</u>i (traditional healers) have looked after people's physical and emotional health for thousands of years. Using this traditional knowledge coupled with western knowledge, senior A<u>n</u>angu from the Uti Kulintjaku initiative have been developing mental health resources and actions for remote NPY communities. This includes:

- working groups that share mental health information and conversations in their communities
- developing guided meditations in Pitjantjatjara, Ngaanyatjarra and English in collaboration with Smiling Mind
- working with schools to teach meditation to children
- producing books including *Tjanimaku Tjukurpa* aimed at understanding trauma and neglect

UTI KULINTJAKU WATIKU INITIATIVE, JACOB MACKENZIE AND FAMILY PHOTO: RHETT HAMMERTON WE SUPPORT FAMILIES' CAPACITY TO CARE FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE CONSIDERED AT RISK.

We work with families to:

Provide nutrition education and support to improve children's growth and development Build on family strengths to keep children safe, happy and protected

Help families navigate the child protection system

Support Anangu kinship carers



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242

PEOPLE ATTENDED 44 NUTRITION WORKSHOPS & LEARNT MORE ABOUT GOOD FOOD CHOICES & FEEDING BABIES & CHILDREN





FAMILIES SUPPORTED WITH CHILD REUNIFICATION, ACCESS VISITS, LEGAL SERVICE SUPPORT & HELP NAVIGATING THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM CHILDREN (& 106 ADULTS) RECEIVED INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT-GIVING CHILDREN AT RISK A SAFER, HAPPIER

HOME

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ANANGU KINSHIP CARERS SUPPORTED TO LOOK AFTER CHILDREN

# HIGHLIGHTS



### SUPPORTING FAMILIES' CAPACITY TO CARE FOR CHILDREN AT RISK KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE & OUT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

Supporting families' capacity to care for children is at the centre of healthy communities. Parents may find their ability to care for children affected by a multitude of complex factors including poverty, ill health and poor mental health.

The NPYWC Walytjapiti team works to make sure families in remote communities have access to therapeutic support, increasing healthy connection between caregivers and their children.

Early intervention family support is a vital key factor in reducing the chances of children entering the child protection system.

This year the Walytjapiti team worked with 106 caregivers to provide culturally safe support and ensure the safety and health of children.

The team was also excited to expand its early childhood program to Warakurna WA, a community with no early childhood services.

The playgroup program provides a vital space for families and young children to come together for activities that help children develop their physical, social, emotional, sensory, cognitive and communication skills. Caregivers can learn more about brain development and healing and engage with A<u>n</u>angu -ed content such as the Tjitjiku Inma (children's songs).

### GROWING HEALTHY CHILDREN HEALTHY DIETS ARE NOT AFFORDABLE FOR MOST FAMILIES IN THE NPY LANDS

Healthy diets are not affordable when they cost more than 30% of household income, those on welfare payments in the NPY region, would have to spend more than half (51%) of their income to access a healthy diet in their home communities. Food costs remain higher in remote communities compared to Alice Springs and urban centres.

Poor diet is a leading cause of preventable disease and premature death. Many Anangu are at risk of obesity and diet-related diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, some cancers and renal disease, which contribute to a high number of premature deaths. Healthy diets can help improve, and even reverse, some of these conditions.

The NPYWC nutrition team continue to work to address vulnerabilities to child health in remote communities including:

- supporting 242 people attend 44 education programs to increase healthy eating
- advocate for lower food prices & high quality food in community stores
- providing case management support to families with children who are growth faltering



BUSH PICNIC IN FINKE PHOTO: LÉO COULONGEAT

### KEEPING CHILDREN CONNECTED TO COUNTRY & CULTURE A GRANDMOTHER'S TWO YEAR FIGHT

When a three-year-old was taken into non-Aboriginal foster care, child protection began looking for kinship care. Kinship care is the best outcome for children removed from their parents - it keeps children safe and connected to family and culture.

The child's grandmother was contacted and expressed great interest in being the kinship carer to her grandchild. The grandmother contacted NPY Women's Council to help her understand the process. Navigating bureaucratic systems is always complicated but this is compounded when English is not a first language.

The process became increasingly complicated as the grandmother lived in a different state to her grand-daughter. The family lived in Central Australia at the tri-state junction of NT, SA and WA. During this time the child's parents also moved across borders, throwing the case into a complex limbo across states. While the Children & Family Wellbeing Service supported the grandmother and monitored the case, massive delays occurred due to changes in case direction across states, the difficulty of completing carer assessments in other states, non-transferability of carer assessments, time-lag in transferring the case via the interstate liaison officer, the timing out of assessments and

delays in probity and housing checks. This all amounted to a two year delay in the placement of the child with their family and culture.

These administrative issues also meant that the child had no potential to be re-united with it's parent either even if their situation and ability to parent improved.

The NPYWC Child & Family Wellbeing Service consistently advocated for the kinship assessment process to continue despite the complexities to ensure the young person's connection to language, culture and country continued. The grandmother was successfully assessed as a kinship carer and the child returned to family and country in July 2022.

NPYWC will continue to advocate for memorandums of understanding between tri-state child protection agencies to ensure that children are not removed from family and culture unnecessarily, that bureaucratic processes are streamlined and heartbreak for both child and family is lessened.



INCOME





### **EXPENDITURE**



### **OVERALL RESULT**

The operational performance of NPY Women's Council at the end of 2021-2022 resulted in a deficit of \$60,606. The result reflects increases in operating expenses for the corporation in response to the ongoing impact by COVID-19.

NPY Women's Council is in a good financial position and continues to have sufficient funds to meet all its current liabilities as and when they fall due. The corporation ended the 2021-2022 financial year with a current ratio of 1.28.

Detailed results are in the General Purpose Financial Report 2022 on our website.



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Mimili:	(08) 8954 7027
Pipalyatjara:	(08) 8954 8206
Umuwa:	(08) 8956 7271
lrrunytju:	(08) 8956 7160
Warburton:	(08) 8954 6089
	(08) 8954 6085
Warakurna:	(08) 8956 2836
Kiwirrkurra:	(08) 8964 8007
Aputula:	(08) 8956 0941
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TAT