

# **Stronger Communities for Children – Galiwin'ku**



## **Yalu Marnggithinyaraw Indigenous Corporation & Australian Red Cross Partnership**

**Yolngu Wanganhamirr Mitj' local SCfC Board  
are happy to present 10 programs funded under  
this initiative over 2014-2015**



# Yolngu Wanganhamirr Mitj'

## SCfC local advisory board

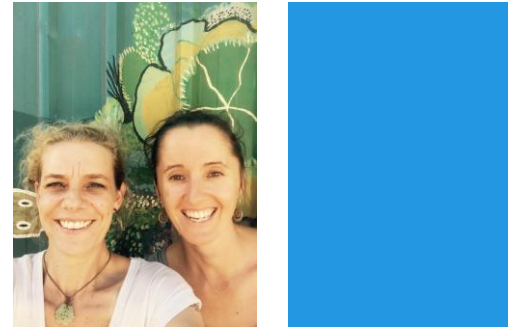
YWM began meeting in 2012 as an integrated services board of permanent work force members working with children, families and young people. Their role was to discuss and understand all the different needs Galiwin'ku families have and search for cultural values to embed into service provision. Meeting every month they shared their knowledge and experience and aimed to maintain service delivery as the permanent work force.

In 2013 they approached Australian Red Cross and Yalu to consider applying with them to run the Stronger Communities for Children program. YWM maintain the role as decision makers and advisory board to this program and do so as volunteers to the future generations of Galiwin'ku families, youth and children.

When application rounds are open YWM will receive the applications and weigh up the benefits to community based on the SCfC priorities. Community Priorities and SCfC outcomes are:

1. **Children, families and young people are benefitting.** Children, youth, families and adults are engaging in SCfC activities that benefit their physical and spiritual wellbeing. These benefits may include:
  - Children are going to school
  - Young people are engaged in community life and programs and are making decisions and positive steps for their futures
  - Individuals feel strong in their Yolngu culture and identity and how they manage their life in two worlds
  - Healthy and strong Yolngu and healthy homes
  - Learning and sharing Yolngu values and knowledge
  - Wellbeing, sports and recreation activities for active and healthy lifestyles
  - Safe places for people to care for themselves and build confidence.
2. **Yolngu ownership of SCfC:** YWM are functioning well and strong. Community members value and contribute to the SCfC program and feel like it is meeting their needs.
3. **Programs have competent staff.** Staff with the right skills are facilitating and delivering Yolngu and Balanda activities that are guided by this community and teach, celebrate and look after Yolngu culture and values.
4. **Yolngu staff are developing.** Yolngu people are employed in local programs and are continually building their skills
5. **Yolngu organisations are strong.** Yolngu organisations provide high quality services in Galiwin'ku and homelands
6. **Programs join in collective effort.** Services in Galiwin'ku and homelands are linked together and working with Yolngu community representatives to drive targeted support in a collective effort
7. **Community guides service delivery:** Activities and programs that are running reflect the priorities set out by the community and YWM. Community priorities that are changing are captured and solutions and programs are adapting.

# Yalu & ARC – Facilitating Partners



Stronger Communities for Children Program is funded under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy. Galiwin'ku has been funded until the end of 2017.

Yalu and Australian Red Cross formed a partnership in Galiwin'ku in 2012 to act as Facilitating Partners who oversee the roll out of Stronger Communities for Children. Together, they manage the contract with the Government and report every 6 months on the progress of SCfC.

Yalu and Red Cross support YWM to follow the community vision of SCfC and keep track of the goals set by community, YWM and the Government so that children, families and young people feel changes in their lives. When YWM approve a program for funding Red Cross and Yalu work with the program, sign a contract together and distribute funding to them to start their activities.

At present there are 10 programs funded under SCfC that provide employment for Yolngu people and support for

Yolngu service providers to gain knowledge and independence in bringing their programs to life. Yolngu people are encouraged to see the solutions they would like to provide for their communities and have opportunity to participate in addressing them and learning the skills to create, deliver and report on their programs.

Application rounds are normally twice per year. Programs can apply for up to six months of funding.

For more information on SCfC program please ring 0477720851, or visit at Yalu 2 building. Our email is [scfc@redcross.org.au](mailto:scfc@redcross.org.au) or [afellows@redcross.org.au](mailto:afellows@redcross.org.au)



# Gardening & Wellbeing Project

Yalu's Gardening and Wellbeing Project is aimed at families who are interested to work with Yalu staff in cleaning up their gardens and learning about creating healthy environments for their household. The project enables shared knowledge and participation in planning, choosing and planting gardens, caring for your yard and keeping it clean for children and family members to enjoy together.

Two Yalu staff are working with 6 families over 6 months to create these healthy home environments.

The Yalu staff visit the households weekly and spend time working with family members young and old to maintain the gardens and cleaning up. Young family members are encouraged to work beside the Yalu staff and learn the skills and understanding of healthy homes, discipline and respect.

Plants for Yolngu medicines and food are discussed; healthy food choices, traditional lifestyles and gurruttu are some of the things families talk about with the Yalu staff.

## + Chasing the Music – Archive and Documentary Project

The first part of this project is to create an archive of accumulated film, photos and recent interviews with musicians who participated in the beginning of contemporary music in Galiwin'ku and neighboring community's.

The second part is a documentary of this story. This documentary is aimed at making this important history accessible to the next generation and share understanding with the larger Australian community about these years and pioneers. The musicians were the first in their generation to overcome cultural barriers and lived comfortably in two worlds succeeding both creatively as musicians and culturally as role models and leaders in independent management of their bands, tours and relationships with many communities of people, including overseas.

Young people have been involved in this project and have already reflected on the impact of hearing these stories and being able to now access photos and film showing their elders living those years and lifestyle.

The archive will be stored at Shepherdson College, Galiwinku Library and Yalu for public access when it is completed. As will the documentary.

The goal of this project is to capture this untold story for the first time whilst the elders who lived it are still with us and restore pride with them in their achievements whilst sharing it with this new generation of young girls and boys. Everyone involved is hoping to inspire these young people with understanding that it is possible to do things independently and to fulfill dreams from Galiwin'ku spreading far in to the world.



# + Refuge Bay Raypirri Camps



This project aims to equip young people with knowledge and life skills, empowering them to engage with and also thrive at, the intersection of Yolŋu and Balanda worlds. Through Yolŋu-based education, the camps will engage disadvantaged young people and build their understanding of **raypirri'** including its impact on different aspects of their lives. At camp young people participate in targeted activities in a supportive environment that improves their health, emotional and spiritual wellbeing, and problem solving skills.

The camps aim to provide a range of activities and opportunities for personal development and the acquisition of life skills that will prepare young people to build resilience and take on new challenges. Young people involved can expect to be more confident and feel supported to re-connect into further schooling, training, job opportunities and positive contributions to their community.

The current phase of the program consists of 7 camps over 6 months held over weekends or in school holidays. Camp activities for the young men and women include hunting, sports, traditional construction and wood-working techniques, cooking, weaving, painting, traditional and contemporary music, camp maintenance, and peer-based discussion and reflection on the meaning of **raypirri'** in their lives. By creating a safe and supportive environment, building group cohesion through physical activities and collective challenges, participants are open to sharing their stories with the group, learning from the mentors wisdom and developing solutions together.

Families are a key partner in ensuring the skills and understanding about **raypirri'** developed through the camp are utilised and also maintained. Extended families are consulted both before and after the camp to better

understand the impact of participation in the camps on young people's lives and observed changes in behaviour.

This program is designed and driven by Yolŋu Coordinators and Mentors to meet the needs of Yolŋu youth. Through the program they are building the capacity of existing and future Yolŋu staff by supporting younger generations to join the Raypirri' Camps Team. All staff receive training and actively participate in the planning, running and evaluation of the camps. This includes the ability to undertake broader professional development in first-aid provision, public health and health intervention principles.

Aboriginal Resource and Development Services (Aboriginal Corporation) is supporting the Program Coordinator in the management of the project and exploring options for future sustainability. Partnerships with other organisations, community leaders and family members also assists in identifying young people who may benefit the most from participation in the program.

# + FAST Works Activities

FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER (FAST) NORTHERN TERRITORY

HAS BEEN RUNNING SINCE 2003



FAST Works is a program for families – parents, grandparents and children. Weekly activities supported by FAST staff create opportunities to spend time together doing activities outside of the home. Parents and children are encouraged to choose places they would like to spend time together at.

There is a meal, a parent group for discussions, and one on one, parent-child, special play. Families and FAST staff sit together and plan each week. These activities are about strengthening relationships between parents and children, families and families, families and the community as a whole, including services.

Families will be strengthened as parents/adults spend one on one time with their children doing something the child chooses to do (Special play)

Parents will be encouraged, refreshed and strengthened by spending time with other parents talking about family issues, learning new things about parenting, feeling part of a bigger group facing similar challenges; parents supporting parents.

The parents will grow in confidence in their parenting and activities will help families to be happier.

Families will develop more trust with each other because they are sharing in a safe and encouraging environment where they can relax and open their hearts to each other. Families are networking with other services

Children and families will be encouraged and supported to engage positively with school and school programs to increase their school attendance.

Activities that FASTWORKS do are:

Picnics

Family treasure hunts

Movie nights

Crafts

Cooking

Discussion nights

Basketball/sports for families

Homelands visits



# + FAST leadership training



This project is a two day training event that will be held in Galiwin'ku for new and existing Galiwin'ku FAST coordinators as well as from surrounding homelands and communities. It will be delivered by FAST Yolngu staff.

The purpose of the training is to:

- understand how FAST program can be used to help make families strong
- build up and encourage people to lead in their communities with practical skills in coordinating a FAST program for their families in Galiwin'ku, homelands and surrounding communities.
- understand the importance of networking within families and organisations to support families
- use helpful "metaphors" and cultural stories to explain understandings that promote and encourage families to make good choices
- to support new and existing coordinators in understanding administrative and reporting needs for program establishment

FAST teams currently have 4-6 casual employees and are always training more people to join and expand the program.



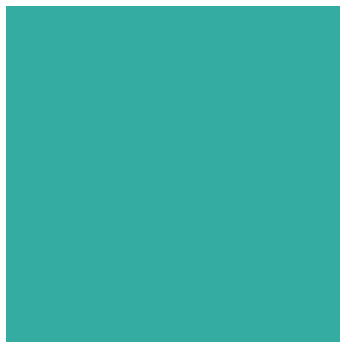
# Healing & Wellbeing Project

This project is aimed at using traditional medicines, techniques and knowledge systems to help chronically ill people in Galiwin'ku as additional support to their health plans with the clinic.

The program involves gathering and administering bush foods and medicines either with patients, or, delivering and preparing them at their houses. People themselves, or family members, can request the Yalu healing staff to assist them or patients already identified as chronic disease patients are visited by the healing team who sit with them to see what traditional medicines may assist. It is a hope of the healing team that family members become involved and learn the techniques so they can provide traditional care more regularly and with confidence.

Another aspect of this project is to share and teach young people about these traditional forms of medicine. The best place for this knowledge to be given has always been on country, with access to the plants and materials.

A partnership has been developed with the school, community and ranger program "Learning on Country" which has created the opportunity for the healing team to have whole classes learn these skills. These classes are weekly and have been enjoyed by both children and adults involved, working side by side with local Rangers.



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# Dhambala Raypirri Rom Project

Yalu and the Garrawurra Incorporation are working together in this project to provide workshops and education to children about language, culture, values and beliefs that aim to strengthen their knowledge of themselves and their community.

Traditional forms of discipline, Raypirri Rom, are key parts of a Yolngu child's life and development into being a strong and healthy adult. Raypirri Rom gives them confidence in their identity and respect for others, and explains the gurruttu system that all clans have in relation to one another. Workshops are held weekly either at Dhambala homeland, at Yalu 2 building and are also being taught in classes at the school. The workshops are aiming to be part of Culture Week at the school also.

During the school holidays, 3 workshops a week will be held so that children can continue their education in Yolngu knowledge systems and be strengthened to engage with their families and be supported in using Raypirri Rom in their school education. To be strong in culture enables children to embrace all forms of learning with respect.

This program is open to all clans and is an opportunity to encourage and recognize the shared knowledge system that Yolngu people live in. The workshops are a common ground for all children from different clans to relate to one another traditionally and as gurruttu. Program facilitators are also spending time teaching children in partnership with the school, community and rangers 'Learning on Country program'.

# SCfC On-ground Support



This project is two part time staff members within Yalu and Australian RedCross (the SCfC Facilitating Partners to government for the SCfC program), a Balanda and Yolngu team, to support all service providers who are funded under SCfC to manage their contracts and projects.

There is a broad range of support for Yolngu who may wish to establish a social enterprise under SCfC that requires them to comply with government or other mainstream expectations.

The goal of this project is to ensure that Yolngu have the best possible opportunity of providing the service requirements to the residents of Galiwin'ku. The areas of support given are:

Personal taxation, concept analysis, feasibility and planning strategies, funding applications, program monitoring and reporting, evaluations, financial administration, insurance brokerage, auspice contracts and relationships, Western governance systems, OH&S, resource and equipment acquisition and compliance issues.



Cultural interpretation and cross-cultural understandings of these complex structures associated with applying, receiving, fulfilling and reporting on funding is crucial to the roll out of this support.

SCfC has always been a program that aims to encourage and nurture Yolngu program development in the outcome for Galiwin'ku as a stronger community for children. The difficulty of having an idea that you know will help your community in important ways and then writing it up and delivering it within a funding around requires support.

All SCfC funded projects have daily access to this support, as do new applicants who are interested in apply for funding under SCfC.



# Healthy Lifestyle Mentoring Project



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In this project, the Gurrumul Yunipingu Foundation will be supporting the annual Galiwin'ku Healthy Lifestyle Festival in partnership with Miwatj and Alpa. The festival is an opportunity to up-skill community members in all aspects of festival positions. The festival will be held in the June/July school holidays providing activities for children, young people and adults. The local Festival Committee will select the health message that is focused on throughout the week through education, discussions and events.

Over a ten day period leading into the festival 14 people will be mentored in four areas of event management:

- Site management
- Stage/sound technicians
- Event coordinators/Master of ceremonies
- Management committee mentoring

Participants will assess their skills prior to the mentoring experience and complete an evaluation of