



Media Release

Wednesday 3rd April 2024

KYC is proud to announce the 5 Aboriginal organisations who will receive the 2024 Marram Nganyin Mentoring Grants

The Koorie Youth Council (KYC) are pleased to announce the 5 Aboriginal organisations that will receive grants of \$335, 000 to deliver strength-based and place-based mentoring programs over three years. This is the strongest commitment from the Victorian Government to Marram Nganyin since its inception in 2016, which has now seen over 300 young people supported across the state.

Congratulations on behalf of the KYC to the following organisations:

- **Bunjilwarra Koori youth healing service** in Mornington Peninsula will deliver a mentoring program within a residential rehabilitation service for young aboriginal people in Hastings.
- **Weenthunga Health Network** in the City of Yarra will support young first nations women with careers in health/wellbeing through a mentoring program for young women.
- **Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place** in the City of Whitehorse will codesign and deliver a community led youth program.
- **Rumbalara Football and Netball Club** in Greater Shepparton will bring together young people aged 15 - 19 to co-design their own leadership program with mentors.
- **Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation** in Glenelg and Southern Grampians Shires through the Karreeta Koornong Marr project will support young people aged 12 – 25 with a three-year mentoring program which aims to connect them to culture, build leadership skills and support their future goals.

These programs are tailored by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to meet their specific needs and share a common commitment to enhancing social and emotional well-being, culture, and access to education, training, and employment. KYC's support for successful organisations follows a community-led practice, offering training and capacity building. These initiatives are driven by the community's deep understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and communities because, as First Nations people, we understand what is most beneficial for our communities.

Investment into programming that is led by local community-led organisations and groups is the pathway to ensuring our young people are supported by culture, community, and care for their wellbeing. The clear leadership and dedication from these five organisations, and our past Marram Nganyin recipients, indicates that when funding and resources are directed towards grassroots organisations, we see state-wide positive impact on our children, young people, and our communities.

Quotes

‘On the path to empowerment, self-governance isn't a privilege but an essential requirement. The Marram Nganyin grants acknowledge this reality, offering resources for Aboriginal communities to mould their own futures, nurturing a tradition of self-reliance and prosperity for successive generations.’ - **Drew Paten, Marram Nganyin Program Coordinator**

‘The Marram Nganyin grants symbolise more than mere financial assistance; they embody a dedication to Indigenous self-determination. By empowering Aboriginal-led organisations to devise and execute mentoring programs, we enable communities to surpass systemic obstacles and cultivate a future marked by resilience and fortitude.’ - **Drew Paten, Marram Nganyin Program Coordinator**

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