



AGENDA

SANTA TERESA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Santa Teresa Local Authority Meeting of the MacDonnell Regional Council will be held at the Santa Teresa Council Office on Wednesday 3 September 2025 at 10:30 AM.

Belinda Urquhart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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- 13.1 General Non-Council Business 54
- 14 NEXT MEETING 26 NOVEMBER 2025**
- 15 MEETING CLOSED**

3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE

ITEM NUMBER 3.1
TITLE Attendance, Apologies and Leave

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
Goal 02: Healthy Communities
Goal 03: Empowered Communities
Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to acknowledge the attendance and to table, for the Authority's record, any apologies received from Members for this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes the Member's attendance at this meeting;**
- b) tables apologies received for this meeting;**
- c) records the Member absences, without notice, for this meeting; and**
- d) receives requests for future leave of absence.**

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Authority can choose to accept the apologies as presented, or not accept them. Apologies that are not accepted will be recorded as absent without notice.

4 NOMINATIONS AND CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

ITEM NUMBER 4.1
TITLE Vacancies on the Local Authority
AUTHOR Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
 Goal 02: Healthy Communities
 Goal 03: Empowered Communities
 Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This purpose of this paper is to highlight the vacancies on the Local Authority (the Authority) and to apprise the Local Authority of any legislative changes to appointments introduced in the Local Government Act 2019 (the Act).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) **officially welcomes Marie Mulladad to the Local Authority after her membership was endorsed by Council at the June Council meeting;**
- b) **notes that there is one vacancy remaining on the Local Authority; and**
- c) **calls for community nominations to remain open to fill this vacancy.**

BACKGROUND

The chart below shows the current membership of the Local Authority and their attendance at the previous meeting:

Appointed Members Santa Teresa LA	Meeting Attendance 26 March Meeting
Louise Cavanagh (Chair)	Present
Agnes Alice	Present
Mr Kopp [Robert]	Present
Leonie Young	Present
Camilla Hayes	Present
Marie Mulladad	Nomination received
Vacant	
Elected Members Rodinga Ward	
Cr Lisa Sharman	Present
Cr Patrick Allen	Present
Cr Andrew Davis	Present
Vacant	

The Local Authorities are made up of local members. They have four (4) Local Authority meetings per year and discuss things like council service delivery, project funding, project ideas and progress, finances etc.

Functions of the Local Authority (Local Government Act 2019 section 78):

- a) To involve local communities more closely in issues related to local government; and
- b) To ensure that local communities are given an opportunity to express their opinions on questions affecting local government; and

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- c) To allow local communities a voice in the formulation of policies for the locality as well as policies for the area and the region; and
- d) To take the views of local communities back to the council and act as advocates on their behalf; and
- e) To contribute to the development of the relevant regional plan; and
- f) To make recommendations to the council in relation to:
 - (i) The council's budget; and
 - (ii) The part of the council's area within which the local authority performs its functions; and
- g) To perform other functions assigned to the local authority by the Minister, in accordance with any guidelines that the Minister may make.

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Council's Local Authority Meeting Procedure, para.4.14: Nominations and Appointments states:

- a) nominations will be tabled at the next local authority meeting and considered. A recommendation on the nominations to Council will be recorded and presented with the nomination forms at the next Council meeting.
- b) in the case that there is a nomination, or nominations submitted but no timely local authority meeting (that is before the next council meeting), nominations will still be presented to the next Council meeting. The Council may appoint based on the submitted nominations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If Local Authorities do not maintain their membership numbers, their ability to make quorum for their meetings is impaired and they may not be able to commit funds to Community projects and events.

CONSULTATION

The Local Authority

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

5 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

ITEM NUMBER 5.1

TITLE MacDonnell Council Code of Conduct

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains all of the details about the MacDonnell Council Code of Conduct Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the Council Code of Conduct.

MacDonnell Regional Council Code of Conduct

Interests of the Council and Community come first

A member must act in the best interests of the community, its outstations and the Council.

Honesty

A member must be honest and act the right way (with integrity) when performing official duties.

Taking care

A member must be careful to make good decisions (diligence), and must not be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, when performing official duties.

Respect/Courtesy

A member must be respectful to other members, council staff, constituents and members of the public.

Conduct towards council staff

A member must not direct, reprimand, or interfere in the management of council staff.

Respect for culture

A member must respect different cultures, families and language groups (cultural diversity) and not be unfair towards others, or the opinions of others, because of their background.

Conflict of interest

A member must, if possible, avoid conflict of interest between the member's private interests (family, other job, business etc.) and duties.

Where a conflict exists, the member must inform the Council, Local Authority or Council Committee and not take part in the discussion or vote.

Respect for private business

A member must not share private (confidential) information that they heard as a member, outside of meetings.

A member must not make improper use of confidential information to gain a benefit or to

cause harm to another.

Gifts

A member must not ask for or encourage gifts or private benefits from anyone who might want to do business with or obtain a benefit from Council.

Accountable

A member must be able to show that they have made good decisions for the community, and have allocated the Council's resources carefully and to benefit the region.

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

The Code of Conduct Policy helps Council to ensure that the:

- MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) exercises strong and accountable governance;
- constituents of MRC are aware of the behaviours they can expect from members.

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM NUMBER 6.1
TITLE Confirmation of Previous Minutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the minutes of the previous Santa Teresa Local Authority Meeting held 4 June 2025 to be approved by the Authority.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Authority confirms the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Santa Teresa Local Authority Meeting held 4 June 2025 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

ATTACHMENTS

1. SANTA TERESA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING MEETING 4.6.2025 - MINUTES [pages]

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 10;42AM

2 WELCOME – Chairperson Louise Cavanagh

3 ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / RESIGNATIONS / TERMINATIONS / NOMINATIONS

3.1 Attendance

Local Authority Members:

Chairperson Louise Cavanagh, Member Agnes Alice, Member Leonie Young, Member Camilla Hayes and Member Robert Kopp

Councillors:

Councillor Andrew Davis and Councillor Lisa Sharman

Councillor Patrick Allen telephoned into the meeting.

Council Employees:

Ken Satour – Acting Director Council Services, Victor Morgan – Acting Area Manager, James Walsh – Manager Project Management, Lewis Gittoes – Council Services Coordinator, Ryan Rosenberg – Administration, Project Management Office and June Crabb – Coordinator Governance

Attending via Teams – Ruth Tahere and Sai Katam – Coordinators, Project Management Office

Guests:

Ellie Kamara – CEO Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation and via Teams - Benjamin Humm – NT Housing Representative

3.2 Apologies/Absentees

Apologies:

President Roxanne Kenny

Absentees:

Nil

3.3 Resignations

NIL

3.4 Terminations

NIL

3.5 Nominations

3.5.1 VACANCIES ON THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This purpose of this paper is to highlight the vacancies on the Local Authority (the Authority) and to apprise the Local Authority of any legislative changes to appointments introduced in the Local Government Act 2019 (the Act).

The membership of Camilla Hayes was endorsed at the Council meeting held 15 April 2025.

STLA2025-018 RESOLVED (Leonie Young/Agnes Alice)

That the Local Authority:

- a) welcomed Camilla Hayes as a member of the Authority;
- b) considered and accepted the nomination received from Marie Mulladad; and
- c) called for community nominations to fill the remaining vacancy.

4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

STLA2025-019 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Andrew Davis)

That the Santa Teresa Local Authority noted the Council Code of Conduct.

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

STLA2025-020 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Agnes Alice)

That the Minutes of the Areyonga Local Authority of 26 March 2025 be adopted by a resolution of Santa Teresa Local Authority.

6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

6.1 PAPERS CIRCULATED AND RECEIVED

STLA2025-021 RESOLVED (Agnes Alice/Robert Kopp)

That the Santa Teresa Local Authority noted that the papers circulated were received for consideration at the meeting

7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

STLA2025-022 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Leonie Young)

That the Santa Teresa Local Authority noted the Conflict of Interest policy.

7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION

STLA2025-023 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Leonie Young)

That the Santa Teresa Local Authority declared no conflict of interest with the meeting agenda.

8 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS

8.1 REMOTE HOUSING - REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND TENANCY TEAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This section provides an opportunity for representatives from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development to provide the Local Authority with updates regarding Remote Housing programs, repairs, maintenance and tenancy.

STLA2025-024 RESOLVED (Agnes Alice/Andrew Davis)

That the Local Authority:

- a) accepted the updates from Remote Housing representatives; and

- b) raised matters relating to housing repairs, maintenance and tenancy within the community as follows:
 - Lot 1398 – Member Leonie Youngs property being on a sinkhole, noting that an Engineer would be assigned to assess the property and provide a response back to Housing.

8.2 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Every four years, people living in the Northern Territory elect representatives to serve on their Local Government Council. Local Government is the level of government most connected to your community, and the 2025 Local Government Elections will be your chance to stand up and represent your local area.

STLA2025-025 RESOLVED (Andrew Davis/Agnes Alice)

That the Local Authority:

- a) urged all eligible residents to ensure they are enrolled to vote;
- b) encouraged community members to consider nominating as candidates; and
- c) noted that nominations open Friday 11 July to Thursday 31 July.

9 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 ACTION REGISTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides a running list of Local Authority action items as raised in previous meetings.

STLA2025-026 RESOLVED (Leonie Young/Robert Kopp)

That the Local Authority noted the update on the action item 'Invite Member for Namatjira, Hon. Bill Yan' and closed this item.

9.2 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The MacDonnell Regional Council develops Community Infrastructure plans for each community every five years. These plans are created in consultation with the Local Authority to record the community's priorities for the future development of their Infrastructure.

The Local Authority is asked to guide and support MRC staff in the development of the of the community and planning in relation to the community's infrastructure.

Priority projects discussed at the previous meeting included upgrading the Softball Oval and a Gymnasium.

STLA2025-027 RESOLVED (Louise Cavanagh/Agnes Alice)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted that a meeting had taken place in determining their priorities in relation to the development of the community's infrastructure plan; and
- b) agreed that the toilet block be their number one priority.

9.3 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT REGISTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Funding for Local Authority projects is part of a grant received from The Northern Territory Government (NTG) and invested in projects and development to benefit and improve the community.

Examples of acceptable purposes for expenditure include:

- Repairs and maintenance of community assets controlled or owned by the council. e.g. park fencing, solar lighting, road repairs and ablution facilities.
- Acquisition of plant and equipment directly related to local government service delivery. e.g. trailers, graders, garden maintenance equipment such as brush cutters, lawn mowers and pressure cleaners, rubbish bin enclosures/stands.
- Upgrade/enhancement of community facilities, e.g. sporting venues, upgrade of community ovals, basketball courts and playgrounds, shade structures, picnic areas, seating and park furniture, tree planting and irrigation; upgrade of women's or men's sheds /shelters.
- Festivals or other events – to be conducted only within the Local Authority area LAPF has been provided for.
- Community based programs – including music, art or dance; uniforms for sporting events; or preservation of culture or traditions.

'At risk funds' are funds that may include unallocated funds and/or funds that have been allocated but remains unspent.

STLA2025-028 RESOLVED (Louise Cavanagh/Leonie Young)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the 2024/2025 Project funding allocation of \$79,900.00;
- b) acknowledged that \$24,692.79 are funds currently *at risk of being returned*;
- c) allocated \$32.00 to cover the overspend to Project 2207 and closed project;
- d) accepted the progress on their current projects as at the 28th May as follows:
 - 2204 – Front entrance project, allocated \$7,655.00 to the project to cover the active Purchase order;
 - 2205 – Bin Trailers, noting that they were nearing completion; and
 - 2206 – Shade and seating at cemetery.
- e) did not consider allocating funds to the Youth Board;
- f) discussed the priority of the wishlist items and determined the following:
 - removed Solar lights at the entrance; and added
 - install Solar lights on the road to the Mens Shed.
- g) created a new project from the wishlist: Mural with historical timeline on the fence along the road into community, allocating \$101,848.40 to the project noting that the PMO Office will evaluate the requirements for this project, including associated costs, how long it will take and what details needs to be addressed.

9.4 LOCAL AUTHORITY DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Each financial year, MacDonnell Regional Council grants a discretionary fund allocation of \$4,000.00 to the Local Authority. These funds cannot be carried over from year to year and must be spent (with goods received) between 1 July and 30 June.

STLA2025-029 RESOLVED (Agnes Alice/Robert Kopp)

That the Santa Teresa Local Authority:

- a) noted that the 2024/2025 Discretionary funds have all been allocated; and
- b) noted an invoice is yet to be received from AAAC for the Easter celebration.

9.5 MRC POSITION VACANCIES REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The attached list of vacancies are opportunities for community members to contribute to the community needs, and the People and Capabilities team asks those present at the Local Authority meeting to encourage community members to apply.

Active Open Positions in the MRC Org Structure and approved by Managers: 16 May 2025.

STLA2025-030 RESOLVED (Andrew Davis/Leonie Young)

That the Local Authority accepted the list of vacant positions available with MacDonnell Regional Council in Santa Teresa.

10 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

10.1 COUNCIL SERVICES LA REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is an update of Council Delivered Services in Santa Teresa across the area of Local Government Service Delivery

STLA2025-031 RESOLVED (Agnes Alice/Robert Kopp)

That the Local Authority of Santa Teresa noted and accepted the Council Services report.

10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Community Safety, Children's Services and Youth Services for Santa Teresa.

STLA2025-032 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Louise Cavanagh)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the Community Services report; and
- b) asked when a Childcare Centre Team Leader would be appointed to their centre.

11 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

Nil

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Members of the Authority raise matters that they wish to discuss in General Council Business.

STLA2025-033 RESOLVED (Leonie Young/Robert Kopp)

That the Local Authority did not raise matters in General Council Business.

13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

13.1 OTHER NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Members have the opportunity to raise matters for discussion in relation to services provided by the Northern Territory Government and external Stakeholders. This may include:

- Housing
- Roads outside of MRC's Area
- Education
- Health
- Police
- Land Management

STLA2025-034 RESOLVED (Louise Cavanagh/Leonie Young)

That the Santa Teresa Local Authority:

- a) **noted and accepts any updates and progress on actions from the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet;**
- b) **noted that the issue with the horses will be removed from the register; and**
- c) **did not discuss any further matters.**

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 2025

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 12:18 pm.

This page and the preceding 6 pages are the minutes of the Santa Teresa Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 4 June 2025 and are UNCONFIRMED.

6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

ITEM NUMBER 6.1
TITLE Acceptance of Agenda

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda papers are submitted for acceptance by the Members for this Local Authority Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the agenda papers for this Local Authority meeting as presented, be received for consideration at this meeting.

7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ITEM NUMBER	7.1
TITLE	Conflict of Interest

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the minimum standard of behaviour expected of the Local Authority in relation to declaring personal or family financial interest that may impact on the performance of their roles and ability to make objective decisions.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes the Conflict of Interest Policy; and**
- b) that members declare any conflicts of interest.**

BACKGROUND

Conflicts of interest arise when members are influenced, or appear to be influenced, by personal interests when doing their jobs. The perception of a conflict of interest – the way it seems to the public – can be as damaging as an actual conflict, because it undermines public confidence in the integrity and fairness of MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC).

Under the *Local Government Act*, not declaring a conflict of interest or improperly disclosing information can lead to imprisonment.

Examples of conflicts of interest and improper disclosure of information:

Tendering and Purchasing – financial conflict of interest

- Example: Council has advertised for a contractor for irrigation of a football oval. A member is employed by a company which has tendered for the contract. This may affect, or it may reasonably be suspected that it could affect, their ability to make an unbiased or fair decision when the contract choice is considered by Council.

Tendering and Purchasing – non-financial conflict of interest

- Example: A contractor tendering for a Council contract for road works offers to seal the road to a member's house. The member would not be seen as impartial or fair when choosing the contractor for the job.

Information and Opportunities

- Example: a member may know a lot of information about tenders for contracts coming up in the MRC area before the tenders are made public. Conflicts can arise if the member gives this information to a friend or relative working for a company so they can have a better chance of winning the contract.

Undue Influence

- Example: a member tries to pressure a hotel in Alice Springs into providing free accommodation, because they are a member of Council.

Declaring a Conflict of Interest

As soon as practical after a member becomes aware of a conflict of interest in a matter that has come up or is about to come up before or during a meeting (council, local authority or council committee), the member must disclose or tell the relevant interest to the meeting and to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MRC.

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Details of members' interests and the nature of those interests will be recorded in the relevant Register of Interests published on the Council's website and to be available for any member of the public to look over at the Council's public office.

In addition, if a member enters into a personal or business relationship with another member or Council employee that could result in a conflict of interest, then this relationship must be reported to the President and CEO. A file note will be made and recorded on the relevant Register of Interests.

Uncertainty about whether a conflict of interest exists or not

If a member is unsure whether or not they have a conflict of interest, they should give full details to the CEO or seek independent legal advice.

The CEO does not have a responsibility to decide whether or not a member has a conflict of interest in a matter. The responsibility for determining whether a member has a conflict of interest is up to the individual member.

If you do have a Conflict of Interest

After a member has disclosed the nature of the interest, the member must not, without approval from the Minister:

- be present during any discussion of the meeting when the matter is being discussed
- take part in any decision related to the matter
- Influence another member in their decision.

Members will not become involved in the promotion or endorsement of products and/or services unless this has been approved in line with Council's policies and Code of Conduct.

Complaints Regarding Failure to Disclose an Interest

Any person may make a complaint that a member has or may have failed to disclose or tell of a conflict of interest. All complaints should be directed to the MRC CEO.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

The Disclosure of Interests Policy helps Council to ensure that:

- the business of Council is conducted with efficiency, fairness, and integrity; and
- members act in the best interests of Council and do not seek personal or family gain when performing their duties or use their public office for personal gain.

9 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS

ITEM NUMBER	9.1
TITLE	Head Health and Healing Project
AUTHOR	Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
Goal 02: Healthy Communities
Goal 03: Empowered Communities
Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for representatives from the Menzies School of Health Research to inform members about a new research project titled 'Head Health and Healing Project'. The project aims to Empower Indigenous women and the frontline workforce to respond to violence-related concussion through co-designed education and training.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes and accepts the information presented by representatives of the Menzies School of Health Research regarding the Head Health and Healing Project.

BACKGROUND

Traumatic Brain Injury is a common injury from violence that has long lasting impacts on the brain. In response to recommendations received from the community and frontline services during a previous Traumatic Brain Injury research project the 'Head Health and Healing Project' has been designed to develop evidence-based, culturally relevant educational materials that raise awareness of concussion recognition, prevention, and management.

The wider project team includes local, national, and international researchers, local organisations, peak bodies, and advocates including Synapse Australia (the national brain injury organisation) as well as the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine.

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

This project will deliver valid, reliable, and community co-designed education resources and training modules that will be integrated into healthcare protocols.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONSULTATION

The Local Authority

ATTACHMENTS

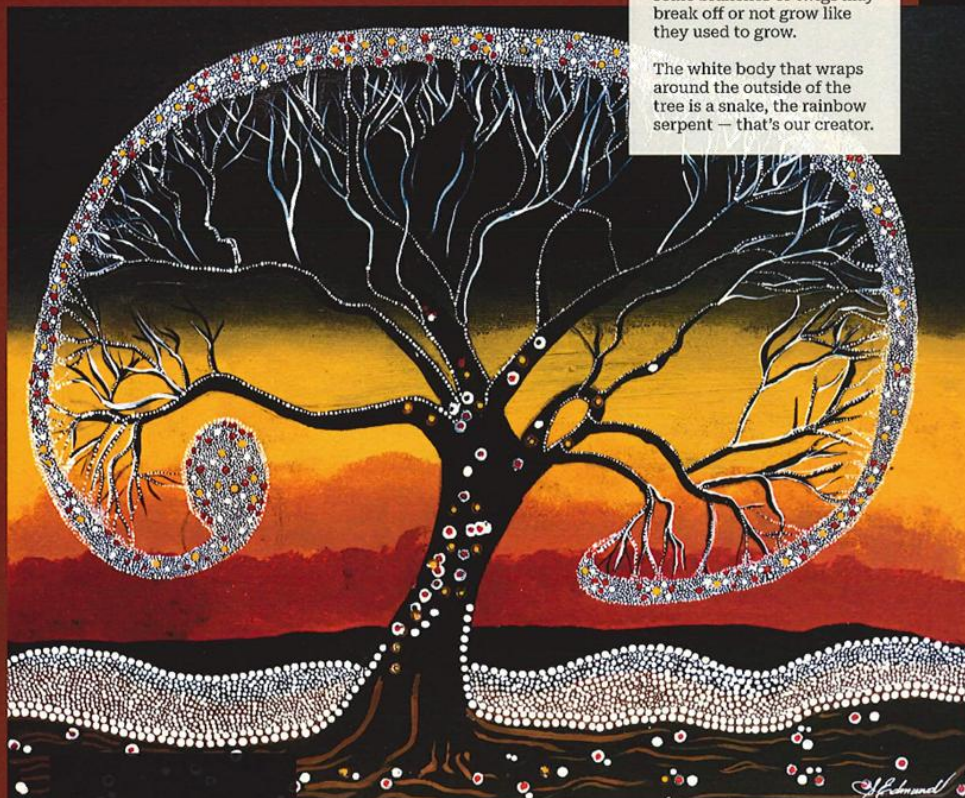
- 1 Brain Tree of Life poster
- 2 Head Health and Healing Information Sheet
- 3 Summary of the Priorities of the projects

This is the brain tree.

At the base of the painting you can see the tree trunk that comes up, that is the brain stem. It is strong and holds up our brain and sends messages between our brain and body.

Moving on from the trunk, the brain tree of life has strong branches, that branch out to smaller branches and twigs. The branches and the twigs are the neural pathways and synapses that connect to each other. They connect and allow different parts of the brain to speak to each other. Sometimes with brain injury from violence, some branches or twigs may break off or not grow like they used to grow.

The white body that wraps around the outside of the tree is a snake, the rainbow serpent — that's our creator.



All those dots you can see at the bottom of the painting, coming from the country and through the trunk, they're the neurons. That's the roots and our foundation, our basis for life including family and children. The neurons move everything up to and through the brain tree, knowledge, ancestral blood line, ancestral memory, the beginning, Dreamtime.

The dots or moving neurons can also represent other things that can affect the brain, like alcohol and drugs.

When I was painting this, I thought of my whole life, right from back even before I was even born. Back to my grandmother and my mother.

I chose to paint the tree because it goes through many seasons in life and it has to withstand a lot, like us women, because we've been so resilient in life.

We've gone through all the seasons. Autumn and winter, where twigs and branches can snap off. But fortunately, if we nurture our tree, it can grow back again to be strong.

BY SHARLENE EDMUND



This work was supported by the Australian Research Council (DE210100639).

For copies of this poster, please contact Michelle Fitts: P | 0412 216 264 E | m.fitts@westernsydney.edu.au

BRAIN TREE OF LIFE

Head Health and Healing - Empowering Indigenous women and the frontline workforce to respond to violence-related concussion through co-designed education and training

Background - Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a common injury from violence that has lasting impacts on the brain. Our research in 2022-23 (ARC DE210100639) found that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women felt they did not receive adequate information either in hospital or at their local community clinic to understand their injury, how physical violence changes brain function and strategies to manage daily symptoms. Furthermore, longstanding frontline workforce characteristics affect consistency of TBI education provided in rural and remote Australia, including: 1) high health workforce turnover; 2) lack of visiting neuropsychological services; and 3) low skills of the frontline workforce to ask about TBI and action appropriate referrals. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in central and northern Australia recommend community-led violence-related TBI education to raise TBI awareness as well as strengthen responsive supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. This project responds directly to this recommendation.

Aims - This project will deliver valid, reliable, and community co-designed TBI education resources and training modules that will be integrated into healthcare protocols. Our specific aims are to:

- Develop accessible, effective and credible, co-designed consumer-friendly education resources;
- Facilitate improved understandings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's violence related TBI risk factors and TBI needs;
- Develop effective and culturally appropriate frontline workforce violence-related TBI training modules to ensure that staff are fully equipped to provide the necessary support during recovery.

Methods - This project consists of two phases:

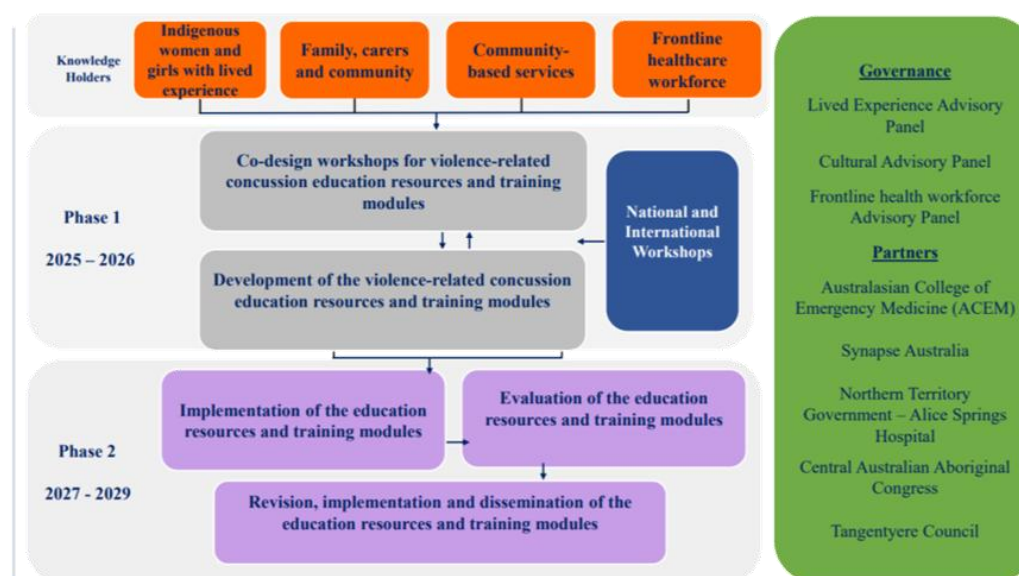
Phase 1 (0-24 months; 2025-26) - Co-design workshops and interviews for TBI education and training modules

Four participant groups will inform the education resources and training modules: a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, aged 18+ who have experienced violence-related TBI; b) family members, c) community members, and d) frontline workforce. The content and training guidelines will be developed over three rounds of yarning workshops in Alice Springs and across five communities in Central Australia. To support research transferability to Indigenous women who experience violence-related TBI nationally and internationally, the initial content generated from Central Australian yarning workshops will be presented to Indigenous women in Townsville (Australia), Toronto (Canada) and Auckland (Aotearoa New Zealand).

Phase 2 (24-48 months; 2027-29) - Implementation and evaluation of the TBI education and training modules

A mixed method study will be conducted to gather community and workforce perceptions and information on the impacts of created education resources and training modules (e.g., knowledge and skills on the brain, TBI management, healthcare experiences, follow-up and service referrals). We will explore relevancy of the content, barriers and enablers to implement and upscale the resources and training and recommendations for improvement. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who have experienced violence-related TBI, family members and frontline staff who complete training and education modules will complete interviews over three timepoints. Health staff will also complete an online survey over three timepoints.

Figure 1. Overview of the project

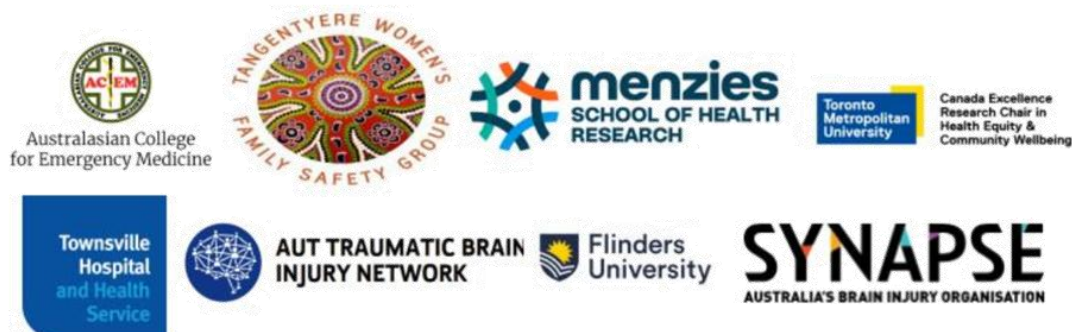


Governance and ethics - Strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance is an important aspect of co-design. The team will establish lived experience, cultural and frontline health workforce advisory panels. The research team will apply for ethics approval in mid-2025 through the NT Department of Health and Menzies School of Health Research Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) and Townsville Hospital and Health Service HREC. Appropriate approvals will also be secured for the women’s learning circles in Toronto and Auckland.

Outcomes - The educational resources and frontline training modules will strengthen the accessibility, support and recovery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who have experienced violence-related TBI and their connection with the services provided in Alice Springs Hospital as well as in remote communities, thereby reinforcing the responses of all services in Central Australia. With senior leadership from national bodies including Australasian College of Emergency Medicine and Synapse Australia, it is envisaged that the outcomes will be implemented in other locations across Australia.

Funding - The project is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council via an Ideas Grant (2037339).

Contact - For more information, please contact Michelle Fitts: +61 412 216 264, michelle.fitts@menzies.edu.au or headhealthhealing@menzies.edu.au.



Understanding the needs and priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who have experienced traumatic brain injury from violence:

A summary of the key findings

What is traumatic brain injury?

Ending violence against women and children is a national priority.^{1,2} Physical violence can generate injuries that affect brain function such as traumatic brain injury.³⁻⁵ Traumatic brain injury can occur through a range of violent behaviours including a direct blow to the head, a force transmitted from the body to the head, shaking of the body or the head, and receiving hits to the head by objects. Repeated hits to the head cause the brain to become swollen, stretched, bruised or torn. Traumatic brain injuries vary from mild (including concussion) to moderate and severe. These classifications are not related to the outcome – with growing recognition concussion can result in significant changes requiring complex and long-term supports for rehabilitation and recovery.⁶ The National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children (2022-32) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan (2023-25) highlights the critical importance of health care systems as

well as community-based services, such as legal, housing and family violence services, incorporating traumatic brain injury into their practices and policies for working with women who have experienced physical violence.^{1,2}

Background to the project

A National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) project (APP1081947; 2015-18) the research team was involved in reviewed deidentified Northern Territory hospital admissions for traumatic brain injury (2005-17). This previous project found for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, the head injury incidence rate was almost 15 times that of non-Indigenous women. In relation to traumatic brain injury, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women presented to the hospital 5 times more often than non-Indigenous women (unpublished, refer to Bohanna et al., 2018 for more information about the project).⁷

This project aimed to:

- Understand the experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in hospital for traumatic brain injury from violence
- Identify the key supports and issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who had experienced traumatic brain injury from violence
- Understand what is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who had experienced traumatic brain injury from violence and their families
- Identify the strengths and gaps in service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who had experienced traumatic brain injury from violence

Between January 2022 and December 2023, the research team completed interviews and focus groups with **four knowledge holders**: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who had experienced traumatic brain injury from violence as well as their family members, hospital staff and frontline community-based services.⁸⁻¹²

This is a summary of the key findings.



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Listening to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women about traumatic brain injury from violence

Ways Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women sustain traumatic brain injury

Within the narratives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, violence-related traumatic brain injuries were not isolated experiences; they were repetitive, occurring over prolonged periods.⁸ Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women reported hits to the head every two weeks from their partner while they were in a relationship where there was violence. This included Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men as well as non-Indigenous men.

A range of objects were used to inflict these injuries, including fists, axes, steel-capped boots, knives, steel, or wooden poles, or having their head being hit against a hard object such as hitting the floor. Household items such as cups, glass bottles, cans and drinking glasses were also used to cause injury. Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women told us they had 'lost count' of the number times they had experienced head injuries from violence.

Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women also said they had experienced non-fatal strangulation, or what was commonly referred to as choking, by their current or former partner. Non-fatal strangulation is also harmful to the brain because it reduces blood flow to the head, depriving the brain from oxygen and creating a toxic environment for brain cells.¹³ Mild oxygen deprivation through non-fatal strangulation, where there is no loss of consciousness experienced can also result in a brain injury.

Coral shared:

Black out, now suffering from memory loss, like finding hard to be telling a yarn. These are stories that have happened to me. But I can't remember it.

Kirra said about her own experience:

I notice short term memory problems in myself. I just blank out, I forget things. Sometimes someone is telling me something and then I feel lost. Other things, I put something somewhere, like, book, keys, phone. If I can't see it, I forget where I put it.

I have troubles keeping focused on one thing. I thought this was normal, it was old age. My daughter said, it's not okay and worries for me.

Katherine described the following experiences:

Any family ask me, you been drinking? Any little thing I do. It goes like that [Katherine stood up out of her chair and walked around the room], walking really stiff and I keep tripping. One little slide on the path, I'm so sloppy, I'm not even walking properly. I have to stay home.

Everyday changes from traumatic brain injury

The experience of traumatic brain injury is unique to each person but there were some common behavioural, emotional, physical and psychological symptoms Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women told us they experienced after their injury.

These included:

- Dizziness and headaches
- Memory troubles (like being more forgetful and missing appointments)
- Difficulty with attention, concentration and focus
- Troubles with problem solving and organisation
- Trouble with taking in information and thinking (sometimes described as 'mixed up thinking' by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women)
- Finding it hard to start a yarn or keep conversations going with family and friends (frequently described as 'losing the words or having the words disappear' or feeling like 'my brain went blank')
- Lack of awareness surrounding personal space
- Difficulty with controlling emotions (sometimes explained as inability to control anger or big mood swings)
- Feeling sad, depressed or anxious
- Balance and coordination troubles (stories were shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women about difficulties using public footpaths)
- Feeling tired more often

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women told us they were also living other injuries from violence including injuries to their jaws, eyes and cheek bones as well as damage to their teeth. Head, neck and facial issues left Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living with and managing pain every day.

Family and community members also noticed changes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women that were important to them including:

- Spending more time alone
- Not talking as much to family as they used to
- Walking alone on the streets
- Personality changes, like becoming wild or difficulty controlling emotions

We often heard “she wasn’t like this before” from community members.

Aunty Ruby said:

Notice she becomes silent, prefers to be alone, forget things, speaking is different, mood swings. She used to be quiet and gentle. She now gets really angry.

Another community member said:

We have noticed in the community, the number of women who have had early onset dementia, it has increased. We know in our minds, it could have come from all the violence.



Access to healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women following a traumatic brain injury from violence

Everyday barriers that can affect healthcare access

There were many factors that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women considered when deciding to access healthcare at the local hospital or community clinic. Sometimes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women felt they were unsafe or unable to go to the hospital or clinic because they were:⁹

- Worried about being reported to authorities as well as child removal by child protection services
- Managing and finding solutions to other priorities at the time including financial as well as housing and accommodation worries
- Experiencing coercive control including threats of violence from person who used violence (such as a current or former partner) if they did access healthcare. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were often also prevented from accessing a working phone or transport

Low levels of awareness and knowledge of long-lasting harm that the brain can sustain from physical violence was another perceived reasons why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women do not access healthcare after a head injury.

The characteristics of the injury – such as visibility of the injury as well as recollection of loss of consciousness also affected healthcare access. If there were no visible marks, blood or recalled loss of consciousness (or ‘blacking out’) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women often managed immediate symptoms (such as headaches and dizziness):

He come from behind me. I was standing in the kitchen making dinner. Then whack. I made sure I didn’t fall to the ground, so I didn’t go down. I held onto the bench. He didn’t knock me out, I saw stars. There was no blood. I had a headache for a few days. (Marlee)



Workforce barriers that can affect healthcare access



Lack of traumatic brain injury training and screening

Only a small number of frontline staff had completed traumatic brain injury training and education. Frontline staff self-reported they felt low levels of confidence to ask Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women about traumatic brain injury or to make informed decisions about how to include traumatic brain injury into their policies and practices.^{10,11}

Family violence and health screening protocols used by services did not directly ask Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women about traumatic brain injury. Lack of traumatic brain injury training and screening may lead to traumatic brain injury symptoms being misidentified as a mental health condition or long-term alcohol misuse, as one frontline worker told us:

As a service provider, you think, why did I not think about this earlier? Now that we are having this conversation, I can think of a few clients, one in particular who we thought had mental health issues and also had a long history of AOD [alcohol and other drugs], but it is likely that she was experiencing a brain injury after the years of violence she had suffered. But we didn't pick that up when we were working with her.

Lack of brain injury organisations and specialist services in regional and remote Australia

Lack of specialised brain injury services as well as neuropsychologists in regional and remote communities was seen as another barrier to supporting an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman who has experienced a traumatic brain injury from violence.

You get their medical histories and their police records, and they've just been basically pummelled within an inch of their life for all of their life in terms of re-occurring head injuries, re-occurring stabbings and assaults and you just look at the totality of it and go, how does this person even function at any level? But of course the problem is often being able to, there are really very few people who are specialised to give an opinion, such as [a] neuropsychologist, to come up here or work in this region so it's very hard to get a proper diagnosis.

Another frontline worker commented:

Like none of the women that we have, I don't know any who actually have a confirmed diagnosis of a TBI, like that would be the issue. So that's the difficulty for us as well, because they haven't actually been formally diagnosed with anything.

Qualities of remote primary healthcare

High turnover of the health workforce in remote primary healthcare community clinics as well as high workloads for primary healthcare professionals were also considered by frontline community-based services and hospital staff to contribute to violence-related traumatic brain injury being missed when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women presented to the community clinic:

The nurses in those communities, there might be nurses in there who haven't worked in those [communities], they fly in, fly out, they could be new nurses who miss the signs [of traumatic brain injury], because they're not as used to it.

No follow-up pathways for mild traumatic brain injury

Hospital staff and community-based services felt that existing remote healthcare pathways and follow-up care were not designed to design to all severity levels of traumatic brain injury. While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with many significant injuries were medically evacuated, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who experienced violence-related concussion received all their medical care in the community and were unaware of any specific follow-up support post-injury provided to their clients to determine if they were experiencing ongoing symptoms related to their traumatic brain injury.



Strategies to manage traumatic brain injury symptoms

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practiced activities to help with traumatic brain injury-related symptoms such as changes to memory:⁶

- Painting and weaving
- Listening to meditation music
- Completing puzzles and games

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were connected with church and womens groups. A sense of belonging and social connections was important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women:

We go down each Tuesday, have a cup for tea and lunch, there is no judgement and it's a woman's only space. (Margaret).

Friends and family helped Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with everyday tasks like shopping at the supermarket, paying bills and attending appointments:

Someone from the family talks to me on the phone when I'm at the shop so I don't forget. Sometimes my daughter or grandchildren will take a photo and send to me, "Don't forget that main ones, washing powder, meat. (Pat)

While commonly used strategies to manage traumatic brain injury-related symptoms can be beneficial for some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who have sustained traumatic brain injury from violence, for other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women these strategies were unable to be realistically implemented into everyday life. Experiencing homelessness can undermine the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to seek medical care, treatment for traumatic brain injury and to implement strategies to manage everyday traumatic brain injury symptoms.



I'm a frontline worker, what can I do?

Traumatic brain injury can affect an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman in many ways. It is important to be aware of the short- and long-term effects of traumatic brain injury that can change the way an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman acts, thinks and feels, to avoid misunderstanding her behaviour as not listening or misinterpreting symptoms as mental health conditions or long-term alcohol use. Difficulties following instructions, recalling information, attending scheduled appointments can be the after-effects of one or many injuries to the brain.

The short- and long-term effects of traumatic brain injury can be grouped into the following categories:

- Cognition – thinking, memory, reasoning, decision-making, planning
- Physical – vision, balance, coordination, other body injury, disability

- Communication – expressing emotions, ideas and thoughts as well as understanding information
- Feeling and emotions – depression, anxiety, aggression
- Identity and sense of self – personality, kinship and family roles, parenting, self-doubt

The medical records of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are unlikely to reflect their lived experience of violence-related traumatic brain injury due to the barriers that can affect their healthcare access and reporting of violence-related injuries.



It is important to:

- Work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in ways that provide support for a potential traumatic brain injury, even if a traumatic brain injury has not been confirmed
- Where possible, work in an indoor or outdoor space that is calm and quiet (such as reduced noise, reduced visual distractions, and the use of soft lighting)
- Allow extra time for someone to yarn or respond to questions
- Keep meetings short - it may be better to have a couple of meetings over several days than one long meeting
- Share information on brain health, symptoms to look out for and how to manage them
- Encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to use memory aids (including calendars, timetables, reminders pm phone) if safe to do so – for some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women these tips are helpful – but this may not be useful for everyone, particularly women who do not have safe, stable accommodation or are living with violence
- Provide care that is empathetic and understanding to where they are coming from

About this summary

This summary was informed by a three-year project funded by the Australian Research Council (DE210100639; 2021-24) that focussed on understanding the needs and priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living with traumatic brain injury from violence.

We thank the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who participated in the project and generously shared their stories, knowledge and wisdom. We also thank the generosity of community-based services and hospital staff from the three project regions located in the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales. We also thank the project advisory. The background of this summary sheet is inspired by the Brain Tree of Life (2023), created by Wakka Wakka and Darumbal woman, Sharlene Edmund. The icons in this summary sheet are inspired by Healing Her Beautiful Mind (2024), an artwork piece created by Torres Strait Islander artist, Michelle Tyhuis. For more information, please see the [project webpage](#) or contact Michelle Fitts (michelle.fitts@menzies.edu.au, 0412 216 264).

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9 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS

ITEM NUMBER	9.2
TITLE	Community Alcohol Planning Engagement
AUTHOR	Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
Goal 02: Healthy Communities
Goal 03: Empowered Communities
Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Representatives from Penangke Cultural Consultants are attending the Local Authority meeting to begin a consultation process regarding Community Alcohol Planning.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes and accepts the information provided by Penangke Cultural Consultants.

BACKGROUND

Penangke Cultural Consultants has a contract with NTG to engage the local community (Traditional Owners, Leaders and community members/cohorts) to carry out 'Community Alcohol Planning' (CAP) relating to Interim Alcohol Protected Area Opt-Out, as per the Liquor Act legislation (in effect Feb 2023 and set to finish Feb 2027).

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Penangke Cultural Consultants can be engaged to act as a local consultant in the early decision-making process and provide other optional services that may include:

- assisting with a Community Alcohol Plan
- developing an Alcohol Reference Group
- harm reduction planning
- demand reduction planning and strategy discussions
- support with accessing the CLS Grant that aims to assist with measures that respond to alcohol related harm including well-being and diversion.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONSULTATION

The Local Authority.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.

10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER 10.1
TITLE Action Register
AUTHOR Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
 Goal 02: Healthy Communities
 Goal 03: Empowered Communities
 Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a running list of Local Authority action items as raised in previous meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes that the recruitment process has begun to appoint a new Team Leader for the Childcare Centre in Santa Teresa; and
- b) closes this item.

BACKGROUND

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Santa Teresa Local Authority 03/06/2025	Children's Services Team	Raised at Community Services Report	Childcare Team Leader appointment
STLA2025-032 – requested information about when a Childcare Team Leader will be appointed.			
Update: A Childcare Team Leader was appointed shortly after the last Local Authority meeting. Unfortunately, that person has recently resigned. However, the recruitment process is already in progress to appoint a new Team Leader. Recommend closing this action.			

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONSULTATION

Children's Services Team

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER 10.2
TITLE Local Authority Project Register
AUTHOR Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
Goal 02: Healthy Communities
Goal 03: Empowered Communities
Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funding for Local Authority projects is part of a grant received from The Northern Territory Government (NTG) and invested in projects and development to benefit and improve the community.

Examples of acceptable purposes for expenditure include:

- Repairs and maintenance of community assets controlled or owned by the council. e.g. park fencing, solar lighting, road repairs and ablution facilities.
- Acquisition of plant and equipment directly related to local government service delivery. e.g. trailers, graders, garden maintenance equipment such as brush cutters, lawn mowers and pressure cleaners, rubbish bin enclosures/stands.
- Upgrade/enhancement of community facilities, e.g. sporting venues, upgrade of community ovals, basketball courts and playgrounds, shade structures, picnic areas, seating and park furniture, tree planting and irrigation; upgrade of women's or men's sheds /shelters.
- Festivals or other events – to be conducted only within the Local Authority area LAPF has been provided for.
- Community based programs – including music, art or dance; uniforms for sporting events; or preservation of culture or traditions.

At risk funds' are funds that may include unallocated funds and/or funds that have been allocated but remains unspent.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) accepts the attached Community Infrastructure Plan developed by the Project Management Team in consultation with the Local Authority;**
- b) acknowledges that \$77,956.43 are funds at risk of being returned to NTG;**
- c) notes the progress on their current projects as provided by the project management office;**
- d) closes any completed projects returning any unused funds to unallocated; and**
- e) notes that there are no unallocated funds.**

BACKGROUND

Members of the Local Authority allocates project funds to support community and sporting infrastructure, open space developments and community priorities. These projects are intended to assist communities to improve community amenity through the provision of social and community facilities.

Local Authorities must formally resolve each initiative for which this funding will be used.

Santa Teresa Local Authority Meeting 3 September 2025 – Agenda

Project 2204	Front Entrance project	\$
	Status	Committed
18-Feb-19	1 cubic metre of mulch.	-\$3,750.00
26-Feb-19	Fencing Material	-\$14,979.92
27-Feb-19	1 cubic metre of mulch	-\$1,882.76
22-May-19	Res.049 - That the Local Authority note and accept the progress on their projects including:	
	4. Allocate \$40,000.00 to the front entrance project.	\$40,000.00
27-May-20	Res.011 – Allocated an additional \$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
5-Jan-21	Invoice for concrete sleeper	-\$2,020.91
11-Mar-21	Purchase order raised for the supply and installation of shade structure.	-\$14,415.35
21-Jan-22	Sign has been designed and waiting from artwork from sign maker. Also waiting on quotes back for lighting, seating, irrigation, fencing and bbq. Project ongoing	-\$3,487.24
19-May-22	Plants ordered from the Alice Springs Nursery	-\$2,974.55
10-Oct-23	Concrete from Bunnings and bolt supplies	-\$1,639.66
15-May-24	Invoice received from AJ Nicol Fencing - materials only.	-\$21,000.00
8-Aug-24	Invoice received for the supply and installation of fencing - A J Nicol .	-\$15,347.00
11-Sep-24	Purchase Order raised with TJ Signs - design and manufacture Information Sign \$847.09	
26-Nov-24	Res.068 - Project closed - funds returned to unallocated.	-\$7,655.52
	TJ Signs Purchase Order cancelled.	
13-Jan-25	PMO update - it has been suggested that a bigger sign is required. The LA is asked to consider this and reopen this project utilising the original funds.	
4-Jun-25	Res.028 - allocated \$7,655.00 to the project to cover the active Purchase order.	\$7,655.00
	underspend or (overspend)	\$8,502.09
Project 2205	2 x Bin Trailers	\$
	Status	Committed
26-Nov-24	Res.068 - Created a new project – 2 x Bin Trailers, allocating \$35,000.00.	\$35,000.00
13-Jan-25	PMO update - in final design stage - will be ordered as soon as finalised quotes are available.	
6-Feb-25	PO raised with Modern Trailers Pty Ltd - delivery four months away.	
4-Jun-25	Res.028 - noting that the Bin Trailers were nearing completion.	
19-Jun-25	Invoice received from Modern Trailers Pty Ltd.	-\$26,636.36
25-Jul-25	PO raised with Napa Auto Parts - Battery Chargers	-\$309.20
31-Jul-25	Invoice Received \$309.20 exc GST	
	underspend or (overspend)	\$8,054.44

Santa Teresa Local Authority Meeting 3 September 2025 – Agenda

Project 2206	Shade and Seating at Cemetery	\$
	Status	Committed
9-Nov-21	Res.072 – Created a new project named Shade and seating at Cemetery and requested that the CSC obtain quotes to bring to the next Local Authority meeting.	
21-Jan-22	Manager SDC can provide pricing at LA meeting.	
30-Mar-22	Res.013 – Commits \$20,000.00 to the Shade and Seating at Cemetery project.	\$20,000.00
4-May-22	Res.029 - The DTS is to look into extending the cemetery.	
30-Jun-22	PO has been requested for shade shelter from Alice Shade and Structure. Tax invoice is received.	-\$8,499.09
23-Aug-22	Update – Tech Service Director, Simon Murphy	
	12M X 6M Shade structure purchased and due to arrive in ASP late August. Siting will need to be clarified as LA have requested that cemetery is extended to the east of existing site.	
13-Oct-22	Res.048 - Requested that Technical Services organize a meeting with community to discuss either extending the cemetery or to propose a new location. Members also requested that Central Land Council be invited to the meeting.	
7-Dec-22	Res.070 – kept project open noting that CLC have been invited to meet with MRC to discuss extending the lease and have not provided a response.	
8-Feb-23	Res.014 – Kept it open.	
31-May-23	Update from TS - Shade Structure delivered by Alice Hosetec, early December 2022.	
	The approved location of the structure will fall half in and half out of the cemetery lease.	
	Manager SCD to organise a community meeting and invite Central Land Council.	
2-Aug-23	Res.049 – Decision of the Authority is to keep the project open	
1-Nov-23	Res.068 - Accepted progress and kept project open.	
28-Feb-24	Res.010 - Project kept open - awaiting response from Central Land Council.	
31-Jul-24	Res.050 - Agreed to the following: - allocated an additional \$27,641.39; - requested to install the shade shelter first and if funds allow, to purchase and install the seats; - agreed that the shelter be constructed on a dirt base, within the existing cemetery; - will decide at the next Authority meeting to allocate funds towards a concrete floor.	\$27,641.39
26-Nov-24	Res.068 - noting that the shade shelter purchased in 2022 would be installed in the extension and a completely new shade structure installed in the existing cemetery. Council Services advised that the structure that is already in the cemetery is in poor condition with no roof and it would be beneficial to remove that one and erect a new shade structure. Members agreed.	

Santa Teresa Local Authority Meeting 3 September 2025 – Agenda

13-Jan-25	PMO update - CLC approval has been received for the area - will raise a PO for the new shade structure.	
26-Mar-25	Res.010 - Project kept open - reconfirming that the shade shelter be installed at the existing site as the current structure had deteriorated and selected the bench seats with back rests.	
11-Apr-25	PMO update - Civil team to demolish existing shade structure.	
2-May-25	Purchase Order raised with Total Project NT Pty Ltd for shade structure erection and concrete slab pour.	-\$22,131.00
28-Aug-25	No Invoice received.	
	underspend or (overspend)	\$17,011.30
Project 2233	Mural with Historical Timeline	\$
	Status	Committed
4-Jun-25	Res.028 - Created a new project – Mural with historical timeline on the fence along the road into community, allocating \$101,848.40 to the project noting that the PMO Office will evaluate the requirements for this project, including associated costs, how long it will take and what details needs to be addressed.	\$101,848.40
	underspend or (overspend)	\$101,848.40
Budget consideration		
	Balance of underspend or (overspend)	\$135,416.23
	Total un-allocated funds	\$-
	Total unspent funds	\$135,416.23

WISHLIST		
RAISED	ITEMS	ASSIGNED
26-Nov-24	Sculptures from Men's Shed	
4-Jun-25	Solar Lights on the road to the men's shed	

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS
Examples of unacceptable purposes for Expenditure include:

- Purchase of vehicles and fuel expenses.
- Payment of salaries, cash prizes or recurrent operating costs of Council.
- Meeting costs and payments to Local Authority members.
- Sponsorship by way of uniforms, travel costs and allowances.
- Purposes that are not related to local Government Services and that should be addressed by another Government agency.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The purchase of any product or service must comply with MRC's Procurement Policy.

Funds from the Grant must be fully expended within two years of receipt of funding. Failure to expend the funds may result in the funds being returned to the Northern Territory Government.

CONSULTATION

Executive Leadership Team

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Santa Teresa Community Infrastructure Plan 2025

SANTA TERESA – COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – 2025

MacDonnell Regional Council is working with the Local Authority and Councilors to plan for future infrastructure needs at Santa Teresa. Below are some current ideas. We want to hear from you as we plan for the next 5-10 years. An Infrastructure Plan that has the community's approval will guide investment and development with Local Authority Project Funding and will strengthen applications for any other funding that is available. At the moment, there is no allocated funding to pay for the infrastructure decided upon for these plans.

PRIORITY LIST

- 1) Rec Hall
- 2) Store (Extension or New)
- 3) Public Space/Info Area (Toilets & Water)
- 4) Community Based Culture Program
- 5) Park @ Old Village
- 6) Solar Lights
Battery Replacement
- 7) Swimming Pools (Toddlers/Play Pool)
- 8) More Trees & Shrubs
- 9) Speed Humps
- 10) Shade Oval, Portable Stage & Shady



BMX Track Upgrade



Support remote control car track at Wallace Camp
• Shade

MORE TREES AND SHRUBS

- East side, old village
- Mature & natives
- Plant in cooler months



OVAL

- Shaded Grandstands



- Portable stage



#1 PRIORITY – REC HALL

- New Toilet Block
- Upgrade floors
- Fix x6 overhead lights
- New fans
- Commercial clean

OTHER PROJECTS

- Drinking water trailer
- Park at old village



- Portable stage
- Men's shed
 - o (in sacred area off map)
 - o Shade & water



MacDonnell
Regional Council

10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER 10.3
TITLE Local Authority Discretionary Funds
AUTHOR Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
 Goal 02: Healthy Communities
 Goal 03: Empowered Communities
 Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each financial year, MacDonnell Regional Council grants a discretionary fund allocation of \$4,000.00 to the Local Authority. These funds cannot be carried over from year to year and must be spent (with goods received) between 1 July and 30 June.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- notes that the Local Authority spent \$3,909.09 in the last financial year with all invoices received;
- accepts the new financial year's discretionary funds of \$4,000.00;
- discusses allocating these funds; and
- acknowledges that all funds must be spent with goods received by the 30th June 2026.

BACKGROUND

Examples that Discretionary funds can be used for:

Community Christmas and New Year's Festivities Community, BBQ's, Sports weekends, Naidoc Celebration, Youth Board.

Current Financial Year Funds Allocation

Date	2025/2026 Discretionary Funds	Budget \$
1-Jul-25	Approved Funds	4,000.00

2024/2025 Financial Year Funds Allocation

Date	2024/2025 Discretionary funds	Budget \$
1-Jul-24	2024/2025 Discretionary funds allocation	4,000.00
10-Dec-24	Invoice received Santa Teresa Enterprises Ltd Donation Ltyentye Apurte Christmas Dinner	-\$2,000.00
10-Dec-24	Invoice received Santa Teresa Enterprises Ltd Donation Ltyentye Apurte Christmas Lights Competition	-\$1,000.00
26-Mar-25	Res.011 – Discusses and allocations the remaining funds of \$1,000.00 to Santa Teresa Enterprises (AAAC) for an Easter celebration.	-\$909.09
26-Jun-25	Invoice received	
Funds remaining		\$90.91

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Local Authorities decide how to best spend this money to broadly benefit the community. The Local Authority is responsible for consulting with community members to ensure that community priorities are considered when allocating discretionary funds.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The use of funds must be approved at a Local Authority meeting with a full quorum, or a form signed by more than half of the active Local Authority members.

Failure to spend the funds within the financial year (1 July to 30 June) will result in these funds being returned to MacDonnell Regional Council.

CONSULTATION

The Local Authority

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.

11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER 11.1
TITLE MRC Position Vacancies Report
AUTHOR Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
Goal 02: Healthy Communities
Goal 03: Empowered Communities
Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached list of vacancies are opportunities for community members to contribute to the community needs, and the People and Capabilities team asks those present at the Local Authority meeting to encourage community members to apply.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority accepts the attached list of vacant positions available with MacDonnell Regional Council in Santa Teresa as of 19th August 2025.

BACKGROUND

The MacDonnell Regional Council embraces its role as a significant employer for people wishing to live and work in our remote communities. It is a priority for MRC to provide meaningful employment opportunities for local people.

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONSULTATION

Keheli Nagahawatte (Katy), People and Capabilities Operations Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 MRC positions Vacant 19 August 2025



Position Vacancies

Santa Teresa

Service	Description	Type	Weekly Hours
MacKids	Educator – Early Learning	Part-Time	22.8
MacKids	Educator – Early Learning	Part-Time	32.3
MacKids	Educator – Early Learning	Part-Time	30.4
MacKids	Team Leader Children Services	Full-Time	38
MacYouth	Youth Services Officer	Part-Time	19
MacYouth	Youth Services Officer	Part-Time	19
MacYouth	Youth Services Officer	Part-Time	9.5
MacYouth	Youth Services Officer	Part-Time	19
MacYouth	Youth Engagement Officer	Full-Time	38
Council Serv	Essential Services Officer	Part-Time	19
Council Serv	Works Assistant	Part-Time	19
Council Serv	Works Assistant	Part-Time	19

Table data derived from XLOne Position Vacancy Report of Active Open Positions in the MRC Org Structure and approved by Managers: 19/08/2025



11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER 11.2
TITLE Council Services LA Report
AUTHOR Ellen Fitzgerald, Administration Officer

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
Goal 02: Healthy Communities
Goal 03: Empowered Communities
Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update of Council Delivered Services in Santa Teresa across the area of Local Government Council Services.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority of Santa Teresa notes and accepts the attached Council Services report.

BACKGROUND

Nil

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Acting Director Council Services
Area Manager
Council Services Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS

1 Council Services LA Report



Council Services Santa Teresa

May - August '25



98% First Nations Employees in SCD



7 Area Manager Visits to Community



Council Office 480 Hours of Service

Snapshot



5339 Litres Fuel Usage Total



17 Vehicles and Plant in Use



326 Bins Emptied Weekly



59 Operation Street lights
6 Non-Operational Street lights



1 Sport Grounds Maintained



9 Toolbox Talks Completed



12 Australia Post Deliveries



3 Water Tests



9 Hours of Maintenance completed at Airstrip



5 Parks & Playgrounds Inspections

Animal Management

- MRC Animal Management Michelle Hayes visited Santa Teresa in May and conducted Animal Management program
- Alice Vet Clinic currently in Santa Teresa 12.08.25. Undertaking Vet Program

Cemetery Management

- There have been 2 funerals during this period
- Awaiting new water main to cemetery
- Regular Rubbish collection

Internal Road Maintenance

- Sweeping of Bitumen Roads throughout Santa Teresa
- Road to WMF graded
- Grading of Bore and Outstation Roads

Maintenance of Parks and Open Spaces

- Monthly Report Completed and submitted
- Regular cleaning of rubbish at Parks and open spaces
- Playgrounds require maintenance. Spare parts, and equipment

Sports Grounds

- Regular Rubbish Bin Collection at Oval, Basketball Court and Skate Park
- Regular loose rubbish collection around outside of oval, Basketball Court and Skate Park

Waste Management

- Community Rubbish bins collected on Monday & Thursdays
- Landfill pit rubbish compaction and maintenance
- Inspection Report submitted monthly
- Weekly clean-up of Waste Management Facility
- Hard Rubbish clean-up is twice a month with additional clean-up of hard rubbish throughout the Santa Teresa Community ongoing
- General Waste Pit nearing capacity

Weed Control and Fire Hazard Reduction

- Weeds and grasses removed from Council compounds and buildings
- Grass and weed control at sewer ponds and airstrip
- Slashing public areas regularly
- Slashing, mowing, whipper snipper work continues throughout the community to restore buildings, parks and roadside to a tidy, safe level
- Yard work is ongoing at all MRC assets

Other

- Fencing and gates to MRC Office and yard are complete



11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER 11.3
TITLE Community Services Report
AUTHOR Annaliza Rivera, Administrator Officer

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
Goal 02: Healthy Communities
Goal 03: Empowered Communities
Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Community Safety, Children's Services and Youth Services for Santa Teresa.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes and accepts the Community Services report.

BACKGROUND

All Community Services programs continue to be delivered in line with funding requirements.

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Ainsley Roscrow – A/ Director Community Services
Sarah Grant – A/Manager of Community Safety
Kaisa Suumann - A/Manager of Youth Services
Pavithra Devasurendra - A/Manager of Children's Services
Community Services Coordinators and Administration team

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Community Services Santa Teresa LAR - May July 2025



Local Authority Youth Services Santa Teresa May - July 2025



Employees

6 staff
100% Local



Activities

27 Activities
59 Hours



Engagements

151 young people
579 Engagements



Bush Trip

0



School Support

1



Training

0



Youth Boards

1



Sport

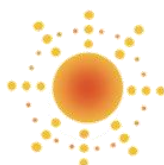
20



Events

1

Highlights



- Rec Hall Upstairs Space Now Open – The newly finished upstairs area at the Rec Hall is proving popular with the older youth (13+ years). The dedicated age limit is helping create a space where they can relax and connect away from the younger crew.
- June/July School Holiday Program – Delivered multiple activities daily, with the Rec Hall open every day for youth throughout the holidays. Engagement remained strong across all sessions.
- Santa Teresa & Papunya Melbourne Trip – A major success, supported by the Glen Iris Junior Football Club. The experience left a lasting impact, with participants still sharing stories and excitement about the trip.



Healthy, Active Days for
Santa Teresa Youth

Team Leader Maxwell Meneri Cuts the
Cake to Launch NAIDOC Festivities



The second Youth Board meeting of the year, held on 16th of July, welcomed new members who contributed to discussions on key youth issues, provided feedback on Youth programs, and explored how their input informs Council decision-making. The session also included a short leadership training component..



Local Authority MacKids Santa Teresa May - July 2025



2 Employees
100 % First Nation



12 - Enrolments



Training

- 1 Team Leader and 1 Educator enrolled in Cert III in Early Childhood Education and Care
- Team Leader attended annual Children Services Team Leader training



Service Delivery
78 Hours



36 Meals served



No Vacancies



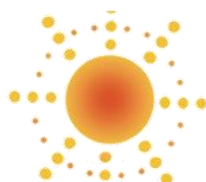
Support
42.5 Hours



**Stakeholder
Engagement**

- Catholic Care NT

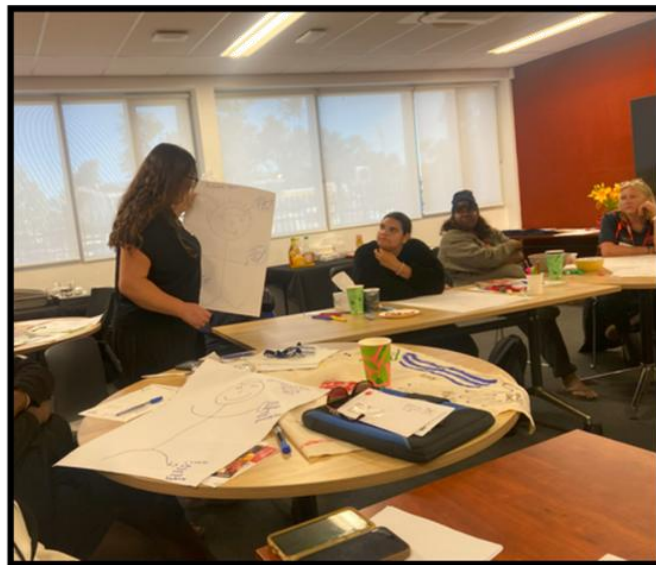
Highlights



- The Santa Teresa Childcare service has officially commenced operations, marking a significant milestone in expanding early childhood support within the community.
- The service has begun supporting local families by providing accessible and culturally appropriate early learning and care.
- At present, the Team Leader's Efforts are underway to increase enrolment and promote the service within the community.



Local Authority MacKids Santa Teresa May - July 2025



Team Leader Training July 2025

Educators and Team Leaders participated in Team Leader Training in July 2025, engaging in workshops and discussions to strengthen leadership, communication, and management skills. The sessions provided valuable strategies to support effective teamwork and high-quality early childhood education practices.



MacSafe



Local Authority Santa Teresa MacSafe Community Safety May - July 2025



- 6 Staff in the Santa Teresa Team
- No current Vacancies
- 100% Community-based Employees are Aboriginal
- 444 Hours Patrolled
- 1,512 Hours Worked
- Work: 6 hour shifts Mon-Sat Between 6pm - 12 midnight



418 Engagements
with young people



34 Engagements
with over 18's



82 Young people
taken home



31 Training
Hours



10 Are you okay?
Checks



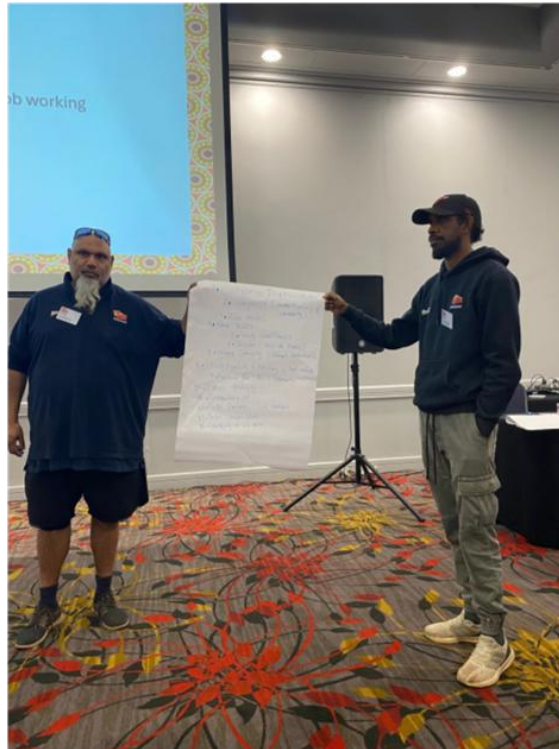
0 Community
gathering

Updates



- The Coordinator for Community Safety for Santa Teresa has been advertised. Whilst recruitment is underway Coordinator Sarah Grant will be supporting the team.
- Santa Teresa Team Leader Wayne and Senior Community Safety Officer Tyrone attended the NIAA Forum in May. It was the first time that the Forum had been held and it was a great success, with 8 Community Safety Organisations coming together from all over Central Australia. Staff were able to share experiences and discuss challenges, the Forum will be held again next year which staff are looking forward too.

**Ashley Wiseman from Imanpa and Tyrone Hayes from Santa Teresa
presenting at the NIAA Forum**



MRC Community Safety Team at the NIAA Forum



12 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER 12.1
TITLE General Council Business

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities

Goal 02: Healthy Communities

Goal 03: Empowered Communities

Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to give Members the opportunity to discuss General Council Business items.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes and discusses the matters raised; and
- b) notes that any action items arising from these discussions will be moved to the action register for Council to respond.

BACKGROUND

Nil

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER 13.1
TITLE Non-Council Business Items

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities
Goal 02: Healthy Communities
Goal 03: Empowered Communities
Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide members with the opportunity to raise matters relating to Non-Council Business.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes the updates on previous matters; and
- b) notes and discusses the matters raised.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development provides updates in regard to Northern Territory Government Services.

Matters raised at previous meetings:		
Date	Issue	Response
4-Jun-25	Lot 1398 – Member Leonie Young’s house. Property is located on a sinkhole.	An engineer will be assigned to assess the property and provide a response to Housing.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

NEXT MEETING 26 NOVEMBER 2025