

HEALING STRONG

Public Evidence & Outcomes Overview

Evidence of delivery, engagement and outcomes - without disclosing Ngarra's program model

PUBLIC EVIDENCE OVERVIEW | SEPTEMBER 2026



HEAR • LISTEN • REMEMBER • THINK • KNOW

Culture. Healing. Accountability. Stronger Futures.

This document demonstrates Ngarra's experience, outcomes and public practice position without publishing the internal program model, curriculum, facilitation methodology, staff tools, participant resources or system configuration.

Why this document exists

Healing Strong was developed by Ngarra Aboriginal Corporation in response to an identified gap in culturally safe behaviour-change support for Aboriginal men across the Hunter Region. This public evidence overview has one purpose: to demonstrate that Healing Strong is an established Aboriginal-led response with documented delivery experience, measurable program activity and emerging participant outcomes. It does not explain how the program is taught.

The evidence is public. The recipe is not. Ngarra is sharing what was delivered, what was observed and what was learned - not the internal curriculum or methodology.

Healing Strong 2025-2026: evidence at a glance

40 Aboriginal men commenced	30 completed	75% completion rate	4 cohorts delivered
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26 reported full-time employment	14 specialist referrals	20 Out on Country days	3 community / stakeholder activities
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Reporting period: 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. Outcomes were compiled from Ngarra attendance registers, referral records, facilitator case notes and participant follow-up records.

What the figures show - and what they do not

Public evidence	What it demonstrates	Evidence boundary
40 men commenced; 30 completed; 75% completion	Sustained engagement across a substantial behaviour-change intervention.	Completion is an engagement measure. It is not, by itself, proof that violence has ceased.
26 participants reported full-time employment during or following participation	Practical stability and workforce participation were significant outcomes reported through follow-up and case-management records.	Ngarra does not claim Healing Strong alone caused each employment outcome.
14 participants referred to specialist services	The program identified needs beyond its scope and connected men to additional support.	Referral is evidence of pathway activation, not proof of the specialist service outcome.
20 Out on Country cultural days	Culture and Country were active elements of participant engagement rather than occasional add-ons.	The public document does not disclose cultural session content or facilitation methods.

Evidence of change beyond attendance

Ngarra's final impact reporting recorded progressive changes observed by facilitators across the reporting period. These observations included increased personal accountability, improved emotional awareness, greater understanding of the impacts of domestic and family violence, increased willingness to seek support, stronger communication and greater confidence in setting personal goals.

Ngarra also recorded stronger engagement with support services, cultural connection and practical stability. These are important because behaviour change occurs within a person's broader life, not only during a scheduled group session.

What Ngarra learned from frontline delivery

Frontline lesson	Why it matters for Closing the Gap
Men often presented with interconnected justice, housing, employment, AOD, mental-health, family and practical barriers.	Programs are more likely to lose people when systems treat each issue as unrelated. Community-controlled services need capacity to coordinate around the whole person.
Some participants required additional individual encouragement and practical support to remain engaged.	Equal access does not always mean identical service delivery. Responsive engagement can support participation while maintaining accountability.
Specialist referrals were necessary for needs outside Ngarra's scope.	Strong ACCOs need funded referral relationships and system-navigation capacity, not pressure to become every specialist service.
Culture strengthened confidence, belonging and engagement for participants.	Cultural safety is not an optional extra. Aboriginal-led delivery can create conditions for engagement that mainstream models may not reproduce.
Attendance and completion did not tell the whole story.	Closing the Gap measurement should distinguish activity, outputs and meaningful outcomes.

Cultural evidence

Across the reporting period, Ngarra delivered 20 Out on Country cultural days on Worimi Country and recorded facilitator observations of stronger cultural identity, increased participation in cultural discussions, greater cultural confidence, improved peer relationships and a stronger sense of belonging. Ngarra's public position is that culture supports engagement, identity and responsibility. The internal cultural content and delivery method remain Ngarra's own.

Evidence integrity

Ngarra deliberately distinguishes between what can be evidenced and what cannot. Participant self-report is not treated as automatic proof that a partner or child is safer. Employment, attendance, referrals, facilitator observations and participant follow-up provide useful evidence of engagement and progress, but causal claims are kept proportionate to the evidence available.

Ngarra's standard is simple: do not claim change where the evidence cannot support the claim.

What remains internal to Ngarra

This public overview does not publish Healing Strong's curriculum, session sequence, facilitator prompts, exercises, participant resources, internal training materials, assessment tools, detailed case-management workflow, CSnet configuration or implementation methodology. Those materials are retained by Ngarra Aboriginal Corporation.

Why this matters to the Closing the Gap Review

Healing Strong provides a frontline example of an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation identifying a local gap, building a culturally grounded response, maintaining engagement with men who

often face multiple barriers, and developing an evidence base that moves beyond simply counting referrals or attendance. Ngarra's experience supports stronger shared decision-making, full-cost ACCO investment, place-based flexibility, Aboriginal-led data capability and outcome measurement that reflects meaningful change rather than activity alone.