



Warrigunya Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation ICN 9455

Registered Charity with Deductible Gift Recipient Status 1

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Executive Summary

Warrigunya provides a culturally safe, structured residential space designed to support Aboriginal men transitioning into stable living, rehabilitating their lives, and re-establishing deep connections to culture, family, and community. As a real life example of community-led healing and diversion from the justice system, Warrigunya operates at the intersection of cultural safety, individual empowerment, and long-term stability.

Key Achievements and Current Impact

- Providing essential accommodation, structure, and stability for Aboriginal men in transition.
- Own all the assets and infrastructure on our 20 acre site, holding a fully paid up lease for the next 45 years.
- In our first year of operation, we have provided safe accommodation and support to 9 men following prison/ interaction with the justice system.
- We are Integrating Elders' knowledge, cultural workshops (five held), and community-led mentoring directly into daily operations and personal growth plans.
- We have strong regional partnerships with Yoowinna Wurnalung Aboriginal Healing Service, VACCA and Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation (RDAC).
- During our first year of operation we have saved the system \$434,376 in prison costs alone.
- There are many other savings and benefits from Warrigunya's operation, such as reduction in crime levels and the associated time and costs to the Police and Courts.
- We secured the contract (first in Victoria) to deliver the REAL (Reconnection Employment And Learning) Program in Fulham Prison for the next 4 years

- Secured grant funding to get the gym set up, veggie gardens established, fencing underway and Solar System installed to eliminate electricity bills
- Soon to be able to house a further 3 men due to success with ACIPs last round.

What we NEED

Warrigunya represents First Nations self-determination in action, delivering Aboriginal-designed solutions that address disadvantage, divert men from the justice system, and foster long-term social inclusion.

To ensure the sustainability of this vital Gippsland asset, we seek alignment with Treaty frameworks to:

1. **Ongoing Operational Funding:** We require long-term operational and program funding to continue delivering life-changing support for our men. While we sourced philanthropic funding for our set up and first year of operation, we will require a level of funding from government if we are to continue. Ideally \$400,000 per year, but as little as \$100,000 would be significant for Warrigunya.
2. **Capital Funding:** Direct funding to finish the Pelican which includes 4 residential units, gallery, and multi-purpose spaces. The cost to complete the building is around \$1.5M. While healing is being achieved at Warrigunya currently, we feel being incomplete is a symbol of brokenness; completing this site brings increased strength and healing for the men.

Auntie Tracey Giddings
Chairperson

Merryn Stevenson
Executive Officer