

Annual Report 2019

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WAALI would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and in particular the Traditional Owners of Noongar Country where our training and workshops are delivered.

We recognise the continuing connection to land, waters and culture, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

### Wandjoo Welcome

### **Welcome from our Co-Chairs**



Robyn Smith-Walley Co-Chair

This has been another year of exciting growth of the Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute (WAALI). The Board has continued to build solid policies and procedures ensuring high standards of governance for the organisation.

There has been a continued the focus on setting the foundations of strong financial stability and we recognise the support of Chevron Australia our major partner of our Yorga Djenna Bidi Aboriginal Women's Leadership Program. We welcome and acknowledge our new partners including; BHP, Keystart, ATCO and the Noongar Charitable Trust. We acknowledge the support of many pro-bono supporters who are incredibly generous in their support of WAALI.

We have continued to build the WAALI team guided by our inaugural CEO, Anjie Brook, with a number of our Yorga Djenna Bidi graduates now facilitating workshops and co-leading some of our programs. The reach of Yorga Djenna Bidi is growing, with an increasing number of applicants coming from across the State.



**Dr Rishelle Hume AM**Co-Chair

Our Kwopertok Yorga Alumni has grown to over 100 graduates and we have watched our Kwopertok Yorga Alumni Working Group strengthen and formalise the program.

Through the guidance of our CEO comprehensive monitoring and evaluation processes have been developed to capture and review the wonderful outcomes of our programs.

We acknowledge and thank our patrons: the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, the Honourable Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia, Ms Narelda Jacobs, Ms Kaye Butler and Ms Elizabeth Hayden.

We also acknowledge the commitment of our Elders who continue to support our leadership programs, guide us in all aspects of our organisation and are actively supporting our program participants.

**Robyn Smith-Walley** and **Dr Rishelle Hume AM** Co-Chairs

### **Welcome from our CEO**



Anjie Brook

Welcome Wandjoo

In this past year the WAALI has laid solid foundations of business processes, governance and operations to underpin strength and sustainability of the Institute into the future. We were excited to move to West Perth and have seen our program offering grow.

Two Yorga Djenna Bidi programs have been facilitated and we have seen the demand for the program expand across the State, with the number of applications rising with each cohort. The curriculum of Yorga Djenna Bidi has been formalised, strengthening the cultural context that is interwoven across all modules.

We were delighted to receive funding from the Noongar Charitable trust for two new programs; the Maam On-Country Cultural Regeneration program and the Elders Knowledge Exchange Retreats.

We are thrilled to partner with ATCO to pilot an Emerging Aboriginal Leaders Program.

I acknowledge and thank each of the facilitators and guest speakers of our Yorga Djenna Bidi Program particularly the growing number of Kwopertok Yorga Alumni. We are keen to watch the impact of our new Coaching Project too.

We are proud to have the ongoing support of Chevron Australia and acknowledge the Departments of Communities, Education, Justice and WA Police, who support their Aboriginal leaders to participate in our programs. We also thank Western Power and Woodside who have recognised the value of our Yorga Djenna Bidi Program for their employees.

I would like to thank the WAALI Board for their support and guidance throughout the year and acknowledge and thank the Elders who have guided and supported me.

**Anjie Brook** CEO



### **Our Patrons**



WAALI and Yorga Djenna Bidi Patron

Hon. Kerry Sanderson AC

Narelda Jacobs

**WAALI Patrons** 



The Honorable Kim Beazley AC Governor of WA



**Kaye Butler** 



Yorga Djenna Bidi Patrons

Elizabeth Hayden

### Our Board of Directors



Front row: Robyn Smith-Walley

Co-chair

Angela Ryder Treasurer

Rishelle Hume AM Co-chair

**Gary Smith** Back row:

Director Director

**Richard Walley OAM** 

Not pictured: **Alana Schwartz** Secretary

### The Western Australian Leadership Institute

### Our Vision

To be a place of leadership learning for Aboriginal people through cultural ways of working.

### **Our Values**

**Cultural Integrity** 

Respect

**Empowerment** 

# Cultural Integrity Respect Empowerment

### Our Objectives

- To improve self-esteem, self-acceptance, self-awareness, self-confidence and assertiveness
- To encourage autonomy through networking, education and training
- To build a community of strong, resilient, empowered and connected Aboriginal people
- To equip Aboriginal people with the confidence and skills to grasp opportunities
- To support Aboriginal people with embracing their cultural identity and belonging
- To equip Aboriginal people with interpersonal skills to improve resilience, wellbeing, independence, communication and healthy

### Our Logo

The Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute logo was designed by Mr John Walley.

The outside circle represents Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people walking together.

The yellow digging sticks represent Aboriginal women and the red boomerangs represent Aboriginal men.

The inner circle represents the cycle of life.



### WAALI Programs

### **Developing People & Enhancing Performance**

The Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute (WAALI) is an independent, for purpose organisation based in Perth, with the aim of inspiring and supporting Aboriginal people to take up leadership opportunities to strengthen their families and communities.

### Strategic Program Directions

WAALI has grown significantly in the last year with an Emerging Aboriginal Leaders Program pilot, sponsored by ATCO and a more formal program for our Elders called the Elders Knowledge Exchange.

Financial wellbeing sessions commenced aiming to empower and support Aboriginal people in the management of personal finances.

The Yorga Djenna Bidi Aboriginal Women's Leadership Program combines the best of successful group leadership programs and draws on best practice leadership models.

Cultural content and context has been interwoven throughout the course design and delivery.

Strong women mean a strong community. Empowering our We need to show these women the possibilities for their future, to give

......



Enhancing leadership performance in the areas of: culture and engagement, leader transition, personal development, reconciliation and performance and change management is where WAALI is making a difference in people development across the community.

The Kwopertok Yorga Alumni will have its 100th graduate coming through and WAALI will celebrate this milestone at Government House. This program is going from strength to strength with the alumni organising inspirational speakers, yarning circles and cultural networking events.

The Kwopertok Yorga Alumni co-chairs completed chairperson training, developing their governance skills.

WAALI is excited to be planning more on-Country retreats for the Maam on-Country Cultural Re-generation program in 2019 and beyond.

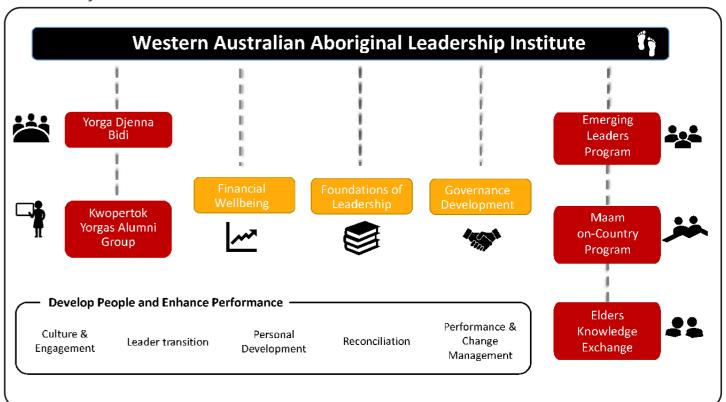


We need to foster and nurture a new generation of Aboriginal leaders and invest in their leadership development so that we can create a future for my people where we no longer talk about 'closing the gap' because there's no more gap to close."

Dr Rishelle Hume AM Co-Founder and Co-chair of WAALI

WAALI aims to be a place of leadership for Aboriginal people through cultural ways of working.

The diagram below presents the strategic leadership programs of WAALI in red and the learning focuses in yellow.



### WAALI Program Yorga Djenna Bidi

The Yorga Djenna Bidi Aboriginal Women's Leadership Program has been designed by Aboriginal women for Aboriginal women, based in Aboriginal culture and incorporated into a sophisticated leadership development framework.

Yorga Djenna Bidi is Noongar for "women moving forward together". It is an immersive and collaborative program that builds leadership skills to enable women to become more inspirational, confident and effective leaders.

Yorga Djenna Bidi responds to the need for a leadership program that sensitively considers Aboriginal culture, history and community. It acknowledges that Aboriginal people are walking between two worlds - the Western and Aboriginal – each having their own set of rules and expectations.

Yorga Djenna Bidi is delivered over five months and is the only initiative we are aware of that brings Aboriginal women together across different cultural backgrounds, ages, occupations, education and leadership experiences. This diversity allows participants to learn from each other as well as from key speakers and facilitators.

I was challenged to recognise not only the value of who I was and what type of leader I wanted to be, but more importantly what true leadership means."

Yorga Djenna Bidi participant



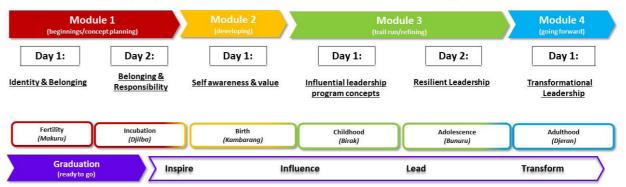
Yorga Djenna Bidi Graduate Rebecca Fitzgerald (pictured right) supported the program delivery in the role of Program Coordinator facilitating sessions and guiding the participants throughout the program.

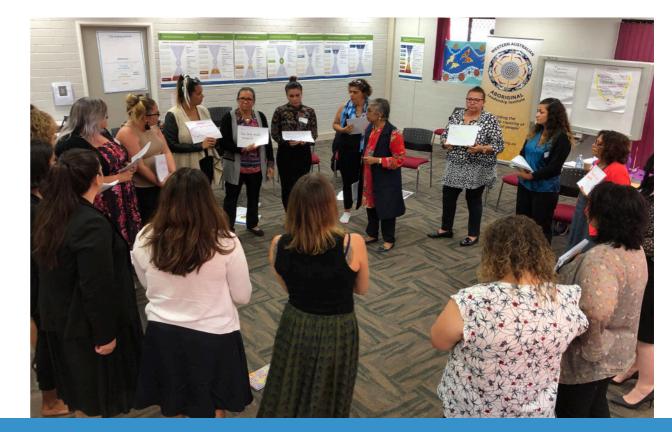
Kwopertok Yorga Alumni are being invited as guest speakers sharing their personal leadership stories with the participants and strengthening the connections between Kwopertok Yorga Alumni and Yorga Djenna Bidi participants.

The Yorga Djenna Bidi Aboriginal Leadership Program follows the Noongar seasons as shown below.



#### Yorga Djenna Bidi Aboriginal Women's Leadership Program 2019





### Yorga Djenna Bidi Two Cohorts Graduate



Yorga Djenna Bidi Graduation | Cohort 2 - 2018 | 8 November 2018 Generously hosted by KPMG, St George's Terrace, Perth

### 2018 Cohorts Program Statistics

94%

94.44% of graduates believe they are more confident in their abilities to become an effective leader in their respective communities.

94%

94.44% of graduates feel more confident contributing to discussions about leadership after the completion of the YDB program.

97%

97.22% of graduates believe that the YDB program has highly developed their leadership skills for themselves, and for their communities.

and experience, 100%

confidence has been identified as the most

action and continue to develop themselves to

During this reporting period there have been two cohorts of graduates participate in the program. 2018 Cohort 2 had 14 Aboriginal women graduate with new competencies and confidence. In the first semester of 2019 we had 22 Cohort 1 graduates of which 100% said they feel better equipped with tools and experiences to participate in a range of activities. Second semester of 2019 has 22 successful Cohort 2 applicants.

### 2019 Cohort 1 Program Statistics

82%

81.9% of graduates feel they have the courage and skills to be part of various boards and committees at a state and national level.

82%

81.8% of graduates have an improved understanding of the issues confronting the aboriginal community. 91% 91%

90.9% of graduates feel they have a better understanding of their talents and passions, and how they can work to make a difference in the community.

90.9% of graduates feel they have a stronger connection with their culture.

95.4% of graduates feel more connected with the other members of the cohort.

95% 96% 96%

95.5% of graduates feel they have new competencies and confidence in their capacity to contribute to, and advocate for the community.

95.5% of graduates feel more selfconfident after completing the Program.

100% of graduates fe



Yorga Djenna Bidi Graduation | Cohort 1 - 2019 | 6 June 2019 Generously hosted by Westpac, Brookfield Plaza, Perth

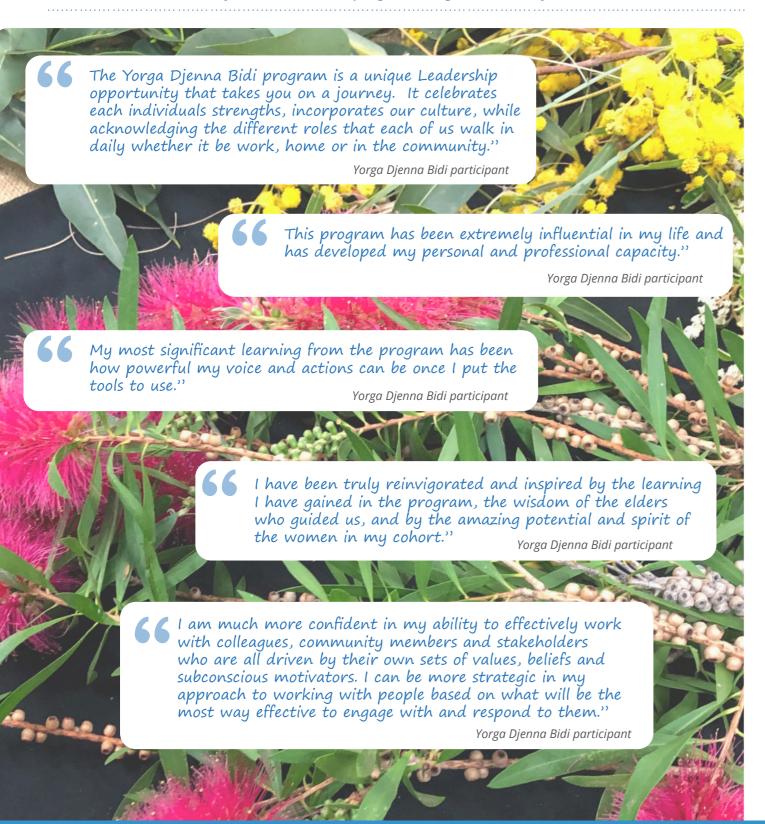
### Yorga Djenna Bidi

### Participant Data, Evaluation Feedback

WAALI is committed to ongoing evaluation and monitoring of the Yorga Djenna Bidi program and the outcomes achieved by the participants.

Participants complete online surveys after each module and at the conclusion of the program.

Feedback and data is analysed to review the program design and delivery.



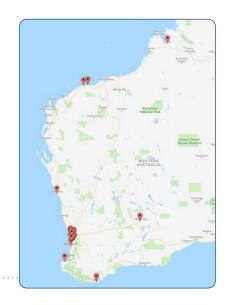
### Geographical Distribution of Applicants

Approximately three-quarters of Yorga Djenna Bidi applicants are from the Perth Metropolitan region.

The second highest proportion of applicants (7%) are from the Pilbara region, followed by equal numbers from both the Goldfields-Esperance and Great Southern region, and one applicant each from the South-West, Peel, Midwest and Kimberley regions.

This data indicates that the Yorga Djenna Bidi program is highly valued and sought after by Aboriginal women across the state.

This brings a diversity in culture, language and background which is valued in each cohort.



### **Overall Evaluation Questions**

- As a result of completing the Program do you feel stronger in your cultural connection?
- As a result of the Program do you have a better understanding of your talents and passions and how they can work to make a difference in the community?
- As a result of completing the Program do you feel connected with the other members of the cohort?
- As a result of completing the Program do you have an improved understanding of the issues confronting Aboriginal community?

- As a result of completing the program are you feeling more self confident?
- As a result of completing the Program do you feel you have new competencies and confidence in your capacity to contribute to, and advocate for the community?
- As a result of the Program do you feel you have the courage and skills to be part of various boards and committees at a state and national level?
- As a result of completing the Program do you feel better equipped with tools and experience to participate in a range of activities in personal, family, community and public sessions?

### Percentage of Positive Responses

1	Stronger cultural connection	90.9%
2	Better undersanding of talents & passions	90.9%
3	Connected to cohort members	95.4%
4	Understanding of issues in Aboriginal community	81.9%
5	More self-confidence	95.5%
6 N	ew competencies and capacity to contribute & advocate	95.5%
7	Have the courage and skills to part of a board	81.9%
8	Better equipped to participate in a range of activities	100%

### WAALI Program Kwopertok Yorga Alumni



### Leadership with on-going impact and influence

After Yorga Djenna Bidi participants graduate they are welcomed into the leadership community of Kwopertok Yorga Alumni which in Noongar is 'beautiful woman'.

The Kwopertok Yorga Alumni is very active with events, yarning cirles, networking and ongoing leadership development opportunities planned by the Kwopertok Yorga Alumni Working Group.

The Kwopertok Yorga Alumni Working Group is made up of graduates across all Yorga Djenna Bidi cohorts and is co-chaired by Mikayla King and Danielle Cameron. (pictured left).

Kwopertok Yorga Alumni have had many opportunities to connect, network, yarn and learn from inspiring guest speakers over the year. Below are just a few photos of Kwopertok Yorga events.









### Kwopertok Yorga Yarning Circles

### Yarning with Teela Reid

In May we were honoured to have a special guest speak to our Kwopertok Yorga Alumni the incredible Teela Reid.

Teela shared her story and her courage. She reminded us all to be strong with our personal power and for what you believe in. She told the Kwopertok Yorgas not to be intimidated by anyone.

Feedback from the event was that everyone walked away inspired and informed.

A huge thanks to Teela for being so generous with her time and sharing her story.

We would also like to thank Chevron Australia for hosting us sharing the time with us.



### Yarning with Dr Tererai Trent

The Kwopertok Yorga Alumni were honoured to share a yarning circle with Dr Tererai Trent who graciously shared her story.

The Kwopertok Yorga's were so inspired by her strength, spirit and her will to change the 'baton' that was handed her from her Elders, being undeterred by traditional women's roles and cultural norms. Tererai determinedly taught herself to read and write from her brother's school books.

Tererai gave special insights to reflect on relating to the great hunger within us, staying grounded and fierce rituals.

A huge thanks to Pan Pacific Hotel Perth for generously hosting the event and making everyone feel so special.



### Kwopertok Yorga Alumni Working Group

WAALI recognises the work of the inaugural Kwopertok Yorga Alumni Working Group and welcomes the new group for 2019.

#### Kwopertok Yorga Alumni Working Group as at June 2019

Co-Chair Danielle Cameron Co-Chair Mikayla King Narelle Thorne Yvonne Daddow

Sara Miller Dyer Jodie Wyatt Iordin Payne Nicole Velkoski (July 2019)

### WAALI Program

### **ATCO Emerging Aboriginal Leaders Program**

The ATCO Emerging Aboriginal Leaders Program has come to life this year and aims to improve educational and leadership outcomes by strengthening cultural identity, self development and connections to culture and community.

The objectives of the pilot program are to:

- Develop leadership capacity for Aboriginal and wider community benefit
- Facilitate formal leadership development for Aboriginal youth

#### Participants are:

- 18-25 years
- Studying or employed
- Family member of Kwopertok Yorga Alumni

We would like to thank ATCO for sponsoring this pilot program.





The ATCO Emerging Aboriginal Leaders Program aims to achieve the development of leadership capacity for young Aboriginal leaders, where the wider community benefit. The program will facilitate formal leadership development for Aboriginal youth through:

- Providing a specialist leadership development program to introduce Aboriginal youth to empowering concepts of leadership, particularly in a Western Australian Aboriginal context
- Helping prepare participants for further mainstream leadership development
- Facilitating the network of influential and empowered Aboriginal youth leaders





Kwopertok Yorga Alumni members, Mikayla King and Mandy Downing (pictured above), are coordinating the program and sharing their leadership journey and learnings.





### WAALI Program Maam On-Country Cultural Regeneration

This project involves an 'on-Country leadership pogram for Noongar men and youth, which is coordinated and facilitated by Noongar men.

The aim of the program is an on-Country learning experience lead by recognised Noongar Elders.

The purpose is to provide Noongar culture through the process of 'leadership by example'.



Every one of us are bringing something to the group. We are carrying on from the foundations set by our parents and grandparents." Noongar Elder





#### Maam is the Noongar word for men

The first Men's retreat was held on the weekend of 18-20 January 2019 with 31 participants coming together at Farbridge. The next retreat was held in March 2019, with more retreats planned for the future.

The vision is to see Noongar men continuing to meet and bring back Noongar leadership systems.

Another part of the program is challenging western academia versions of leadership and determine how to re-establish our Noongar leadership in a contemporary world.

With those present at this camp we can trace our kaaditjin (learning and knowledge) from today back to the 1860s.

This represents over 150 years worth of cultural knowledge.



## WAALI Program Elders Knowledge Exchange

Staff welcomed highly respected Senior/Elder women in the community to the WAALI Elders Knowledge Exchange.

This year women engaged in cultural, health and wellbeing activities and spent time connecting, mentoring and guiding and providing cultural safety to the Yorga Djenna Bidi Participants.

We would like to thank the Kwopertok Yorga Alumni for voluntearing their time to support and assist the Elders.

66 I learnt that Aboriginal people are so strong through culture and even though past policies prevented us from hanging in groups they still enjoy each other's company and know how to have a laugh." Yorga Djenna Bidi participant

I learnt that despite the trouble our elders went through they are so full of life and joy." Yorga Djenna Bidi participant

The knowledge I gained was that sitting and yarning has, and always will be the culturally appropriate way of sharing culture." Yorga Djenna Bidi participant Because of the gathering together of elder women - we shared thousand years and of knowledge."

Elder participant







### Leadership and Social Impact

At WAALI part of leadership is to contribute in a positive way to social issues. The effect of this is increased positive well-being in the community as well as better well-being for individuals and families.

### **Reconciliation Week**

### Reconciliation Breakfast

On Friday 31 May 2019, Yorga Djenna Bidi participants, Kwopertok Yorgas, staff and WAALI Board, friends and supporters were honoured to be at Reconciliaiton WA's 2019 Reconciliation Breakfast.

The breakfast was the biggest one ever and emotionally charged with an historic speech from the newly appointed Mister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt. Mr Wyatt's first speech in this historic position was received by 1350 guests.

WAALI delegates were excited to be a part of this event and support the reconciliation movement.

### Reconciliation Morning tea

WAALI was pleased to be invited to attend a special reconciliaotion morning tea at Jackson McDonald Lawyers.

We were thrilled to hear Kwopertok Yorga Alumni Nicole Casley and Taliah Payne share the impact of going through the Yorga Djenna Bidi program and the opportunities it has offered to them.



### Walk for Reconciliation

On the same day as the Reconciliation breakfast many Yorga Djenna Bidi participants, Kwopertok Yorgas and WAALI Board, staff, friends and supporters continued celebrating the culture of our country together at Reconciliation WA's Walk for Reconciliation!

The Walk followed a path through Perth city from the Perth Arena to Yagan Square. This event was also the biggest it has been with record numbers turning up to show their support for Reconciliation.



### NAIDOC Week Social Impact Summit

During NAIDOC week this year WAALI was thrilled to support the University of WA Social Impact Festival – Danjoo Koorliny Walking Together Towards 2029 and Beyond: Voice, Treaty, Truth Summit.

Congratulations to our Kwopertok Yorga Alumni who were speakers at the event and who attended and participated in the deep conversations including Mikayla King, Mandy Downing, Sharon Kenny, Sharon Davis, Louise O'Reilly.

WAALI was pleased to facilitate a workshop on leadership with Co-Chair Robyn Smith-Walley and Kwopertok Yorga Alumni Nicole Casley, Yvonne Daddow, Rebecca Fitzgerald and Narelle Thorne.

WAALI Board member Dr Richard Walley is to be congratulated on his vision and leadership of the summit and WAALI is thrilled that three of our Kwopertok Yorga Alumni accepted the opportunity to become leaders of the 2020 Summit.





07 - 14 JULY 2019 Let's work together for a shared future



### Leadership in the Community

WAALI participants from all of our programs have played a part in many events throughout the year.

To list just a few of the events WAALI students, alumni and members have supported, organised or presented at:

- AOG Diversity and Inclusion Breakfast
- CEDA Women in Leadership Lunch
- International Women's Day High Tea
- Reconciliation events
- NAIDOC events
- Australia's Ambassador to the UN Sally Mansfied Yarn
- Inspired Speaker Series Kirrikin CEO, Amanda Healy Yarn











Whether it is supporting or presenting we are proud that our Yorga Djenna Bidi, Kwopertok Yorga Alumni, Emerging Leaders, Maam, Patrons and Elders are leading the way and modelling inspiring leadership for today and tomorrow.













### **Exciting New Developments**

### Developing facilitators for the future

WAALI is committed to increasing the number of Aboriginal women in roles across the organisation including program coordination, facilitators and guest speakers.

WAALI continues to increase the number of Kwopertok Yorga Alumni who are welcomed as guest speakers to the new cohorts and is providing scholarships for Kwopertok Yorgas to complete PRINT™ facilitator training to facilitate this aspect of the program to future cohorts.

WAALI continues to offer opportunities across the organisation in the selection process of program participants and is committed to developing and training Program Coordinators for all our programs.



### Coaching Program Piloted

In 2019 WAALI further enhanced the Yorga Djenna Bidi program by partnering with the International Coaching Federation to pilot a Coaching Program for current participants of the Yorga Djenna Bidi Program.

We have seen great success as a result of the Coaching Program and are continuing it with the next cohort. As the Coaching Program grows it will be open to the broader Kwopertok Yorga Alumni community.



### Securing Partnerships

Securing partnership with ATCO for the **Emerging Aboriginal Leaders Program** With the success of the pilot program WAALI is hoping to extend the ATCO Emerging Aboriginal Leaders program and offer it to all family members of our Kwopertok Yorga Alumni.

Two of our Kwopertok Yorga Alumni members attended a session on being a highly effective chairperson with Perpetual Trustees.

We appreciate all our partnerships and are looking forward to growing ongoing relationships which can mutually benefit our programs and our partners.



Extending the reach of Yorga Djenna Bidi As the number of graduates continues to grow so to is the number of organisations and agencies who are supporting their staff to apply and participate in Yorga Djenna Bidi.

This is extending the reach of Yorga Djenna Bidi across WA building a stronger statewide network of connected Aboriginal women leaders.



WAALI hopes to secure funding to enable this highly valued program into 2020 and beyond enabling senior and Elder Aboriginal women to come together in a positive cultural space and to build strong relationships with the Yorga Djenna Bidi participants.

### Maam On-Country **Cultural Regeneration**

WAALI is excited to be planning more on country cultural re-generation retreats in 2019 and beyond.

### Financial Security

WAALI continues to seek financial support to enable us to offer our programs and to continue to build on the success of our current programs.





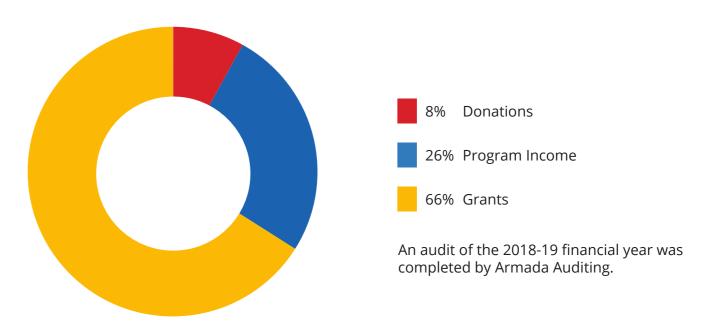






### **Financial Overview**

### WAALI Overall Income 2018-19



### **Financial Security**

WAALI continues to seek financial support to enable us to offer our programs and to continue to build on the success of our current programs.

### Board Meeting Attendance (July 2018-June 2019)

Board Member	Number of Meetings	Meetings Attended
Rishelle Hume	8	7
Robyn Smith-Walley	8	8
Angela Ryder	8	7
Gary Smith	8	7
Richard Walley	8	8
Alana Schwartz	8	8



### **Our Partners**

### Yorga Djenna Bidi Founding Program Partner



human energy\*

### Program Partners





### Our Supporters















Glenn Longmire & Associates









### Special Events Partners







































### Join our Journey

The Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute is a Western Australian not for profit organisation that relies on the generous support of donors, funding partners and philanthropy.

If you would like to support our organisation achieve our goals for 2020 and beyond please contact us today!

Find out more by contacting WAALI on 0438 239 009.

Research shows significant benefits for companies who participate in corporate volunteering.
Employees who volunteer are more likely to see their corporate culture as positive, be happy with their career progression, recommend their company and be satisfied with their employer.

(Deloitte 2011)

### Volunteer | Donate Partner | Sponsor | Mentor





ABN: 90623375360