

Watjarr mediation and peacemaking training, Ngukurr, June 2021

Authors: Ian Gumbula, Justine Davis, and Nick Espie



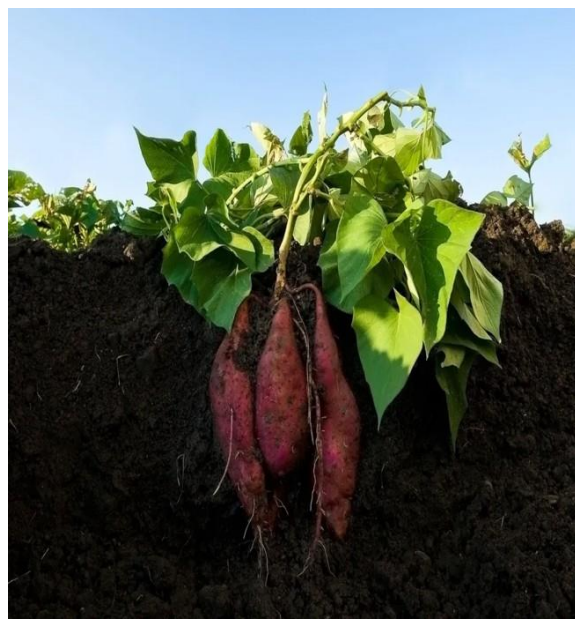
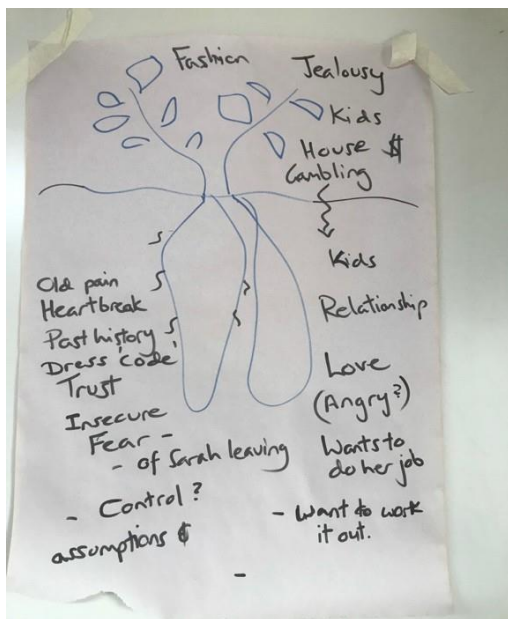
In June 2021 the Watjarr group, under the guidance of Ian Gumbula, attended an introductory mediation and peacemaking training, run by Justine Davis, Mediation trainer, Nick Espie, Coordinator Community Justice Engagement and Reform, NAAJA, and John Jablonka, community legal educator.

The training was developed over 18 months following visits by Justine and NAAJA to Ngukurr, and planning work by Justine and Ian. NAAJA has also been working with the Ngukurr community to support the development of a Yugul Mangi Justice Committee.

The training was attended by traditional owners, peacemakers, emerging leaders and people providing services including the IFS team and the Women's Safe house.

The training covered conflict, peacemaking, and violence and working with the law. As part of the workshop we explored the role of the peacemaker/ mediator

(the 'Gundul') and practiced the tools and steps of the national mediation model. We also talked about the next steps for the Watjarr group.



Knowledge - Both ways
 Trust + Respect Believe Confident
 Open minded Good listener
 Honest Focus Walk the talk
 Fair Committed Acceptance
 Caring Patience Inspiring
 No Judgemental



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This training represented another step towards community based justice in Ngukurr. We will keep working on ways to embed the work of mediators/peacemakers (Gundul) in the community, and in the different stages of the Justice system, under the local cultural governance authority

We will also keep sharing skills and tools in peacemaking. NAAJA will continue to work with the Watjarr group as part of their support for Law and Justice groups. The Watjarr group will be invited to work with the NAAJA 'Safe Respected and Free from Violence Peacemaking Project' to connect with community based peacemakers from across the NT and share experiences and knowledge. There will also be the opportunity for more advanced mediation and peacemaking training with the option to become nationally accredited mediators.



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