



On Country, Yarning and Other Cultural Programs

On Country, Yarning, and Other Cultural Programs form part of the ACT Government's continuing 'Building Communities Not Prisons' (BCNP) initiative. These pilot programs aim to deliver cost effective reductions in crime, victimisation and repeat offending while reducing incarceration of First Nations women and men to match non-Indigenous incarceration rates by 2030 at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) offers the pilot programs outlined in this paper with a commitment to creating positive pathways that break the cycle of recidivism and fully harness the social and economic potential of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been or are currently incarcerated, or are at risk of contact with the justice system. These programs will meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and community members by adopting a co-design approach and listening to the communities proposals

to co-create solutions. Understanding the lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders is crucial when designing services and programs – a co-design process aims to address this.

The primary objective of these pilot programs is to reduce re-offending within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. They will be designed as an innovative intervention for first time offenders and people who are involved in, or at risk of being involved in the justice system again. They are intended to provide for a healing journey that assists participants to live a law-abiding life. Programs will be targeted at adults and may serve as part of a custodial or community-based sentence for adult offenders.

The purpose of this paper is to introduce the pilot programs, and to seek interest for the co-design network and participation on the community consultation groups.

What will the Pilot Programs Deliver?



On Country Camps

This program aims to enhance participants' connection to culture and empower them to address the criminogenic risk factors that are the root causes of crime. It is anticipated the program will involve taking participants out once a week on country for ten weeks, working with respected local Elders and community leaders, and learning about Aboriginal land management, local sacred sites, bush skills, art, music and storytelling alongside other reflective and educational components. Details of the pilot will be subject to the co-design process.

Employment and Business Development Opportunities

An individualised career development model will be co-designed with, and targeted to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are at a practical point of readiness for employment, training and/or business development. Details of this pilot will be designed with community and key community partners. Participants will be able to apply for this pilot via a grants system once established.

Yarning Circles for Justice

This program aims to re-establish links to community, and enhance positive relationships with friends, family and peers. It aims to reduce recidivism and contribute to improved life outcomes by restoring relationships and building capacity to manage life living in the community. The Yarning Circle for Justice pilot will go directly to a tender process and will be open to an ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation to design and deliver how they will be run with JACS.

How will the On Country Camps and Employment and Business Development Opportunities be co-designed with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community?

Project Phases	Phase Deliverables
Phase 1	Establish a Core Design Team consisting of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, key community partners/organisations, and ACT Government representatives to co-design a community engagement approach that can address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders.
Phase 2	Undertake community engagement with local community and key community partners.
Phase 3	Core Design Team workshop/s to co-design each pilot program informed by the community engagement process.
Phase 4	Request for ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation tenders to facilitate each pilot program.
Phase 5	Initiate participant referral and engagement.
Phase 6	Complete program review and evaluation.

What is a Co-design process?

A co-design process involves all interested and affected parties coming together to assist to design solutions for a common issue. This ensures everyone has an equal opportunity to provide input into decision making.

How Can I Get Involved?

If you would like more information on the On Country, Yarning, and Other Cultural Programs, or you would like to be involved in the co-design process above, please contact JACS – Legislation, Policy and Programs using the details below:

Project Lead	ACT Government JACS – Legislation, Policy and Programs: (02) 6207 5367 – 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday AEST / AEDT Please note we are currently operating a call back system IJP@act.gov.au
Online Enquiries	justice.act.gov.au
Post	GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601
Fax	(02) 6207 0499
TTY Phone Users	Call 133 677, then ask for 13 22 81

Workshops

- 1. Community Engagement Workshop**
Tuesday 23rd February 2021
10:00am commencement - 12:00pm finish
Venue – Yarramundi Cultural Centre
- 2. Key Community Partners and Organisations Workshop**
Tuesday 9th March 2021
9:30am commencement - 1:30pm finish
Venue – Yarramundi Cultural Centre
- 3. Core Design Team Workshop (open to Core Design Team Members only)**
Tuesday 16th March 2021
9:30am commencement - 1:30pm finish
Venue – Yarramundi Cultural Centre

These will be catered workshops and please arrive 15 minutes prior to commencement.

A Covid-19 Safety Plan will be in place for each workshop and entry will not be permitted to anyone who has visited a current hotspot as advised by ACT Health. Attendees are also advised about their obligation to stay home if unwell and in particular if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. Attendees will also be required to sign a register using their name and contact details.