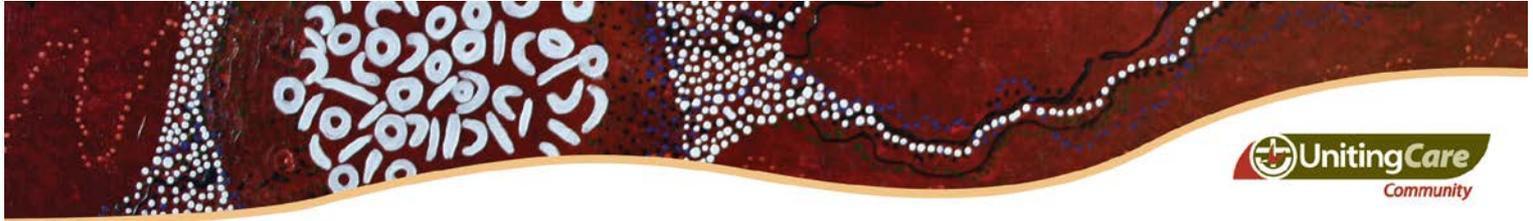


# Stories of Practice



## Aboriginal Elders Gathering Bundaberg



Indigenous Family Care Service  
UnitingCare Community Bundaberg

## Background Context

My name is Rosie Green and I work in the Indigenous Family Care Service at Uniting Care Community, Bundaberg. I am a proud Aboriginal Woman from the Kamilaroi Tribe in Boggabilla NSW. Growing up on my country I was fortunate to have a strong connection to my culture. The values I have today have been handed down to me by my parents and Elders. It is their passion for social justice, equity, and love of family that inform my work today and I want to make a difference in the lives of our people, in particular those suffering from the effects trauma and pain.

## Purpose of the conversation

As Indigenous people we know that handing down our knowledge of culture and sharing our stories is important. It is when we share our stories that they come to life in our minds, hearts, spirits and then in our families and communities. We believe that our people all leave footprints on this earth and it is our desire to leave strong and positive footprints for our children and their children so they can walk their life journey on the strong foundation set by our Elders. The vision was to bring our Aboriginal way of working to UCC and the wider Bundaberg community

## Process

The intention of our Circle Practice was to bring together our local Indigenous Elders, to invite them to share their stories of strength and to place their actual footprints onto a Yarning Circle Mat. We also wanted to honor our Elders and give back to them as they had given to us, so after placing their precious footprints on the Yarning Circle Mat each Elder was provided with a foot spa and massage.

## Testimonials

*Aunty Muriel Brown – “I love that it was for every person and not just one mob or family group, its about coming together breaking down the barriers between the Aboriginal families and the wider community. The Elders’ gatherings were important because they were about sharing and bridging the gap and reconnecting with everyone.”*



*Uncle Charlie Broome – “It was good, everyone turned up, I see the yarning mat working with our people because it's our traditional way of working being and living. I felt wonderful on the day it was such an enjoyable day. These Elders days events need to be continued for the Elders. I felt very at eased and relaxed after coming from the day. I could feel my ancestor was with us there on this day.”*

## Outcomes

The Mat is being painted by a local Indigenous artist, Nicole Wone – a Gooreng Gooreng Women. It will be used in our Indigenous Family Care Service from our traditional way of healing, through connecting, sharing and handing down our Elder's stories of strength and courage to the families and young people we are working with

*Nicole Wone – “I found the process of creating the yarning circle mat a very moving experience, spiritually and culturally. The printing of the Elders feet allowed me to tap into the old ways of our people. I felt deeply connected to the Elders words of wisdom, as I held their feet, imprinting their struggles and strength on the mat. It brought our community together, and gave us hope and strength”.*



## Next Steps

Launch of the Yarning Circle family healing mat, will be officially launched during the week of Reconciliation Week, this is purposely to celebrate togetherness and coming together as a whole community to work and live together as one people.

## Acknowledgement

We want to acknowledge the Elders of Bundaberg in sharing their stories and that these stories are sacred and greatly respected, We feel a honor and privilege that they share their cultural wisdoms that has been handed down to them by their ancestors whose footprints are embedded in our lands, waters and sky.