

# Songlines: An International Alliance



Janine Mohamed CEO

### Our Members







### Songlines

- In Australian Aboriginal belief: a route through the landscape which is believed to have been travelled during the Dreamtime and which features a series of landmarks thought to relate to events that happened during this time. Information which is handed down for navigation and meaning.
- A responsibility
- A path that is caved out
- A story and a legacy





#### Home







### History

The events of the past are very important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These events were not long ago. There are many people alive today who had or were:

- Children forcibly removed from their parents under government policy.
- People forced on to reserves or missions
- Not allowed in towns after 6:00 at night.
- Not allowed to speak our language or engage in ceremony
- Barred from schools and hospitals or segregated
- Enslaved to work on stations or in circus's or domestic help

- Returned from wars where they fought for all Australians only to find they did not have the same rights as white people – no entry into RSL's
- There are even a few very old people today who witnessed killings and poisonings as young children - this affected those people deeply.
- Have not enjoyed the same rights as others, simply because they were Indigenous.
- Aboriginal death at settlement 1788 to 1850 suggests a population decline of 80% - 96% GENOCIDE we are now 3 % of the population



# Social Determents Health Statistics

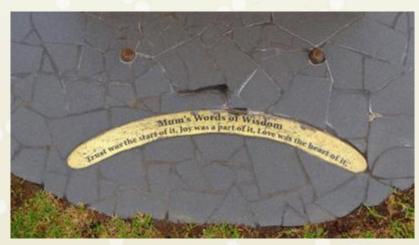
- Life expectancy: 69.1 years for men and 73.7 years for women –
- Mortality: 65% of deaths occurred before the age of 65, compared with only 19% for non-Indigenous Australians
- 75% of child suicides between 2007 and 2011 were Aboriginal children
- We are less likely to be listed and then receive a kidney transplant

- Burden of disease for chronic respiratory diseases is 2.5x higher
- Diabetes rates are over 3x higher
- Kidney disease rates are 3x at Stage 1 - 5x by Stage 4-5
- 26% of the prison population in Australia is Indigenous. Studies show that a very high proportion of prisoners suffer from mental heath conditions i.e. PTSD and cognitive disabilities



#### **Doris Graham**









Unity and Strength through Caring



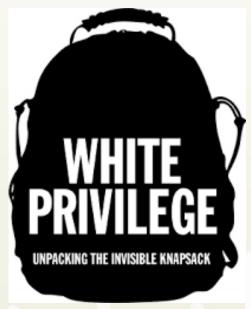




Making

Whiteness

**Visible** 



I cannot be blind to the invisible system of privilege I am a part of.











#### Where to embed CST/Cultural Respect





In the 1880s, Monaghan writes, Ramsay complained that laws recently passed in Queensland to stop the slaughter of Aboriginals were affecting his supply.



Pickled Aboriginal brains were also in demand, to try to demonstrate that they were inferior to those of whites.





#### **Evolution and racism**

'Biological arguments for racism may have been common before 1850, but they increased by orders of magnitude following the acceptance of evolutionary theory.'

**Stephen Jay Gould**, *Ontogeny and Phylogeny*, Belknap-Harvard Press, pp. 127–128, 1977.

#### HISTORICAL

### Blacks slain for science's white superiority theory

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#### Cultural Safety to make links with wider Maori aspirations for sovereignty





#### THE AUSTRALIAN



# Uluru statement puts constitutional recognition within reach

CHERYL SAUNDERS

The Australian 12:00AM July 28, 2017











The series of indigenous regional dialogues that culminated in the constitutional convention at Uluru was not just another inquiry designed to throw up options for recognition. The Statement from the Heart, approved by consensus at Uluru, cannot simply be weighed in the balance with the reports of the expert panel and the parliamentary select committee.





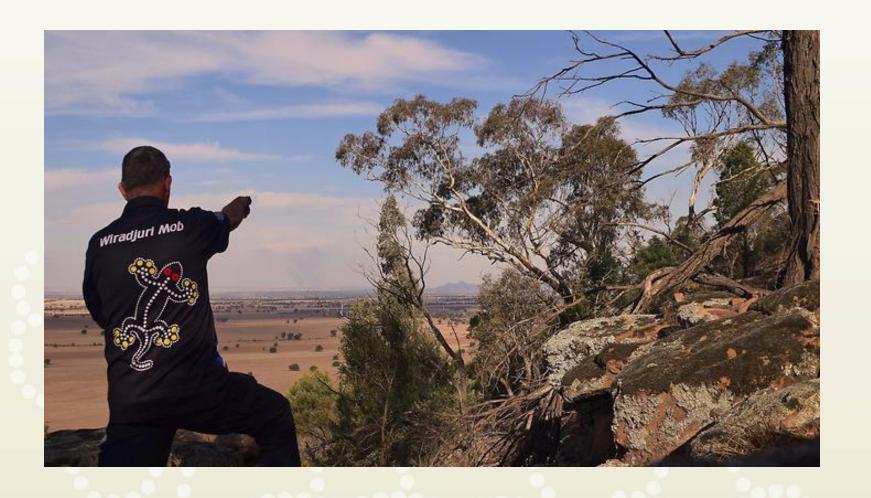
"We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love...and then we return home."

-Australian Aboriginal Proverb

























CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NURSES AND MIDWIVES







"The traditional way of life of indigenous peoples has contributed little to climate change, yet they are the most adversely affected by it."

#### **Gina Cosentino**

Social Development Specialist Consultant, Africa region, World Bank







"It's time to redefine the word 'progress' if we want to give a better future to our children."

MAYALÚ KOKOMETI WAURÁ TXUCARRAMÃE INDIGENOUS LEADER, MEBÊNGÖKRÊ NYRE MOVEMENT















#### Our global identity



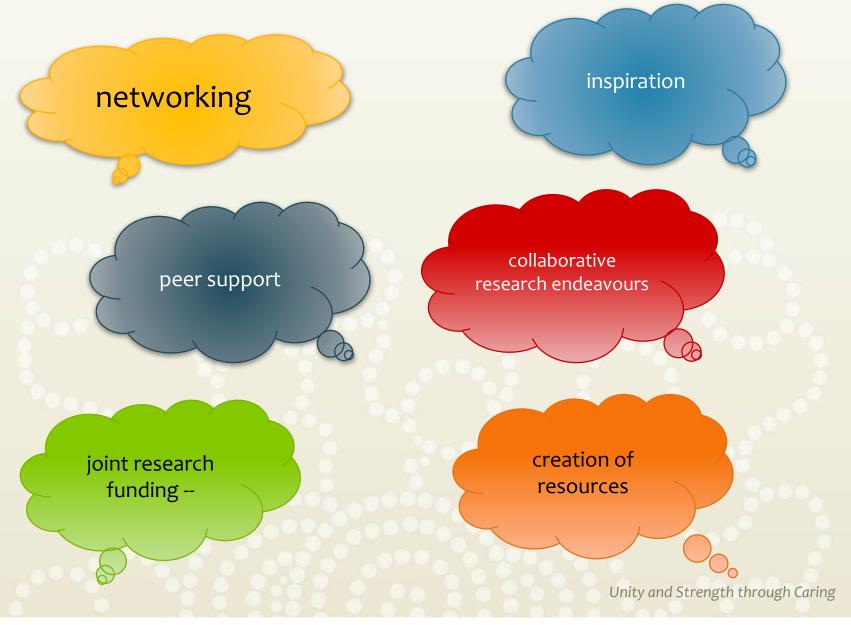


Unmasking our collective history and pride in our global identity

Can we do more?









- Recognition, value and respect for the critical work of Indigenous nurses and midwives, as well as helping us to forge a strong global identity.
- A platform of strength for challenging the structural racism and privileging our voices in national and international nursing and midwifery organisations.
- To empower our Members and colleagues to address the impact of colonisation and re-shape power dynamics, we have to tell our own stories to help us to move forward with our collective vision.
- share our resources, our innovations, to learn from our successes









# Florence Nightingale: "Note on the Aboriginal races of Australia"

"... more filthy,
loathsome, revolting
creature than a native
woman in her wild
state. ....native woman
is altogether
unlovable."

feminist icon?





## Really???





Unity and Strength through Caring











The Alliance will give us a platform for mobilising the advocacy and leadership that non-indigenous nurses and midwives could adopt in support of raising the profile and knowledges of Indigenous nurses and midwives.







#### Towards an alliance: A timeline

Establish a Working Group Seek opinions and/or endorsement to proceed from our organisations Gain endorsement from our organisations and sign onto the Alliance









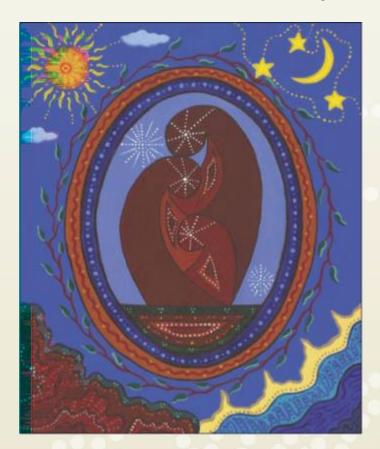




Develop a briefing paper with a rationale for an Alliance Document the Alliance purpose, commitments and practices Start 'living' the Alliance and set a date to review the value of it to our work



**Family:** Children are a gift, born from country into a family, ancestry and culture as enduring as the universe. Connected for eternity through love, life and spirit.





Source: A/Prof Helen Milroy, WAACHS Vol 1



Unity and Strength through Caring













Our creator... our God aligns us... we are adventurers that are resilient and we are making our own history and finding strength in our collective voice, in our unique united identity as indigenous nurses and midwives



## Thank you

