



DREAMS And VISIONS

Sharings from yarning with
young Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander
peoples at Brisbane Youth
Detention Centre and West
Moreton Youth Detention
Centre

21/10/2021 – 18/08/2022

www.imhip-youth.org

We pay our respect to the Jaggera people, the traditional owners of the Country where this research has been conducted. We pay respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young peoples who have participated in this research and to their families, Communities, Elders and Ancestors.

DREAMS and VISIONS

The IMHIP-Youth research project was developed in response to the high rates of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young peoples who experience detention. The project is delivered through the University of Queensland.

One of the aims of the project is to listen to young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who experience detention in Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and West Moreton Youth Detention Centre.

This has been done through the young people yarning individually with an Aboriginal researcher. The yarnings included talking about the young peoples lives and experiences and the delivery of a Social and Emotional Wellbeing measure that was developed by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples called The GEM (Growth and Empowerment Measure).

The young peoples were able to talk privately, away from others in the detention centre, and seemed to appreciate having the opportunity to yarn about their lives, experiences and feelings.

The headings in the following booklet represent the questions that the young peoples were asked. The young peoples responses are presented below.

One of the girls in BYDC suggested calling the booklet 'Dreams and Visions' and the other young peoples who were consulted also liked this name.

This has been part of the first phase of the IMHIP-Youth Project. The second phase will include the development of a service model for the young peoples based on the information that has been shared by them.

Thankyou to all the young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who have shared their experiences, feelings, opinions and voices so far.

Thankyou to all the staff at BYDC and WMYDC who helped and supported the yarning with the young peoples.

The artwork for the booklet was created by the researcher who yarned with the young peoples, Rebecca Hird Fletcher (GuriNgai).

For more information about the project please visit our website
www.imhip-youth.org

All About You

There have been
97 yarnings with
young peoples.

There were **73**
yarnings in BYDC.

There were **24**
yarnings in WMYDC.

16 girls

81 boys

Aged from 12 to 18.

My mob is - Budguboi, Bunjalung, Darumbal, Dunghutti, Gangulu, Gooreng Gooreng, Gubbi Gubbi, Gugu-badhun, Gunggari, Gunditjmarra, Kalkadoon, Kamilaroi, Kooma, Kullilli, Lardil, Mandandanji, Mungindi, Mununjali, Noongar, Noonuccal, Pitjar Pitjar, Pitta Pitta, Quandamooka, Torres Strait Islander, Wakka Wakka, Wiradjuri, Yiman, Yorta Yorta.

I grew up in - Alice Springs, Acacia Ridge, Bogabilla, Brisbane City, Bundaberg, Cairns, Casino, Charleville, Cherbourg, Chinchilla, Cunnamulla, Dalby, Deception Bay, Dubbo, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Hervey Bay, Inala, Ipswich, Kempsey, Kingaroy, Logan, Moree, Mornington Island, Shepparton, Redlands, Rockhampton, Roma, Toowoomba, Townsville, Woree, Yarrabah, Zillmere.

Now I live in - Inala, Ipswich (Westside), Toowoomba (Westside), Zillmere, Deception Bay (Northside), Logan (Southside), Gold Coast (GC), Cherbourg (CBG), Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Rockhampton (Mid North Queensland), Townsville, Cairns (Far North Queensland), North West NSW, Woorabinda.

7 young
people
have a
child

39 young
people have a
partner

36 young people have done a
training certificate

80 young people have
reached Yr 7 at school

What has it been like in detention?

You have to be strong in here, not let anyone know how you feel.

I like kicking back with my boys

I like the routine

Family contact helps you get by

I like playing sports

It's like a rehab

Sometimes I cry in my room

I sleep a lot

You have to be able to fight

I get more support in here than out there

I like the programs

I like playing cards

I like playing ping pong

Sometimes I get moody if I have a bad phone call

Sometimes I get angry with myself for coming in here again

I like the pool in BY

I like talking to the Cultural Unit

I miss my family

I just want to do my time and get out

I like working out at the gym and getting bigger

I worry about my family

I like school in here

I like it in here. I don't do good out there.

I keep to myself and do my own thing

I like Sunday breakfast

What was going on for you before you came in here?

Nothing much,
I was pretty bored

I was living on the
streets

Some really bad
things happened to
me

I was smoking
Yarndi all day
everyday

I was doing crime
with my mates

I was on the run

Child safety kicked
me out

I was using a lot of Ice

I was with Child
Safety

I was stealing cars

Just kicking back with
my boys

I was using a lot of
subby and Xannex,
and chroming

What about alcohol and drugs?

Yarndi keeps me
calm

Ice and Yarndi help me
deal with my ADHD

I only drink alcohol
on special occasions

I get psychosis
when I use a lot of
Ice

Ice helps to get my
mind off everything

Drugs help me deal
with my trauma

What help or support would you like when you leave?

I want to live with my family

I want help to learn to do everyday things

I want help to get a trade

I want a good place to live

I want to talk about my problems with someone I trust

I want to keep learning to read and write and do maths

I want to do more programs

I want support to do a TAFE course

I want to go to a school that I like

I want to play footy

I want to do boxing

I want to stop using Ice

I want help to get a job

I want to live with my Mum

I want my own income

I want to stop coming back in here

I want help to get on Centrelink

I don't want to get bored

Dreams and Goals

I want to be a millionaire

I want to be a professional boxer

I want to play in the NRL

I want to play in the NBL

I want a job so I can look after my son

I want to have a house and a car and a family with the man of my dreams

I want to live in Cherbourg

I want to live in Yarrabah

I want to have a job

I want to buy Mum a house

I want to own a clothes shop

I want to do rodeo

I want things I didn't have when I was growing up

I want to be a famous rapper

I want to be a plumber

I want to live on the Gold Coast and drive a Maserati

I want to own a Rolls Royce

I want to be a diesel mechanic

I want to live in London for a while

I want to build houses

I want to make my Nan proud

I want to have a nice house and car and a good job

I want to be a hairdresser

I want to travel the world

I want to be a family with my missus and my kid

I want to make a difference in my community

I want to make my Pop proud

I'm not sure, I haven't thought about it

Who's my mob and where do I live?



The circles in this picture/story represent the communities where the young peoples live.

The footprints take them from BYDC or WMYDC back to their homes and communities. **Salt Water Country is light blue**, **Fresh Water Country is green** and **Red Dirt Country is yellow**.

The symbols surrounding the circle represent the young peoples ancestors watching over them.

Thankyou to all of the young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who shared their knowledge, time and expertise to co-design and create this story.

BYDC – Brisbane Youth Detention Centre

WMYDC – West Moreton Youth Detention Centre

YP – young people

South West – Toowoomba, Ipswich, Cunnamulla, Dalby

Inala – Inala

Southside – Logan, Acacia Ridge

GC – Gold Coast

Bayside –Redlands Bay

Northside – Zillmere, Deception Bay, Caboolture


Hervey Bay – Hervey Bay

Mid North QLD – Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton

Far North QLD – Townsville, Cairns

Woorie - Woorabinda

CBG – Cherbourg



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