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## Active Communities & Youth Services



Image: ACYS Staff Training in Nhulunbuy

# NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025



# ACTIVE COMMUNITIES & YOUTH SERVICES

FROM THE REGIONAL MANAGER -

IT WAS WONDERFUL TO HOST ALL OF OUR INCREDIBLE ACYS COORDINATORS FOR A WEEK OF TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING IN NHULUNBUY THIS MONTH. THE WEEK PROVIDED OUR TEAM WITH A MUCH NEEDED OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE AND REFLECT ON OUR SERVICE DELIVERY AS A WHOLE. SPECIFIC TRAINING IN 4X4 OPERATIONS, DUAL DIAGNOSIS AND COMORBIDITY, ALONG WITH A RANGE OF INTERNALLY FACILITATED SESSIONS, PROVED HIGHLY PRACTICAL AND VALUABLE FOR OUR TEAM.

THE WEEK REINFORCED THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING CONNECTED AND PROVIDING MEANINGFUL SUPPORT TO OUR REMOTE TEAMS. THEIR WORK IS INCREDIBLY VALUABLE, BUT IT ALSO COMES WITH UNIQUE CHALLENGES THAT ARE OFTEN EASY TO OVERLOOK. I LOOK FORWARD TO SPENDING MORE TIME TOGETHER AT UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS.

I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK OF OUR YOUTH SERVICES MANAGER CHRISTIAN AREVALO, AND OUR ACTIVE COMMUNITIES MANAGER DAN RULE IN LEADING THIS TRAINING WEEK. CHRIS AND DAN BRING A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE, WHICH THEY USED TO DELIVER SESSIONS TAILORED TO THE UNIQUE WORK WE DO WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.

AUGUST WAS ANOTHER BUSY MONTH. PLEASE ENJOY THE ACYS HIGHLIGHTS SHARED WITHIN THIS MONTHS NEWSLETTER.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK, QUESTIONS AND IDEAS. I CAN BE EMAILED AT:

[PETER.DUNKLEY@EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU](mailto:PETER.DUNKLEY@EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU)

THANK YOU



Image: Night time basketball in Gunyangara



Image: Art activities in Milingimbi



# ACTIVE COMMUNITIES & YOUTH SERVICES

## NEW NAME

THE YSR SERVICE IS NOW CALLED: ACTIVE COMMUNITIES AND YOUTH SERVICES (ACYS).

YOU WILL ALSO SEE IN EMAIL SIGNATURES THAT MOST OF OUR TEAM HAVE NEW JOB TITLES.

BY JULY 2025, WE WILL ROLL OUT NEW BRANDING REFLECTING THIS NAME CHANGE ON OUR MONTHLY PLANNERS AND OTHER PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL.



## Active Communities & Youth Services

## NEW STRUCTURE

THE ACYS PROGRAM IS NOW STRUCTURED AROUND TWO INTERCONNECTED AREAS OF FOCUS – ACTIVE COMMUNITIES AND YOUTH SERVICES.

THE ACYS PROGRAM IS MANAGED BY REGIONAL MANAGER ACYS PETER DUNKLEY.



Image: Cooking in Gapuwiyak



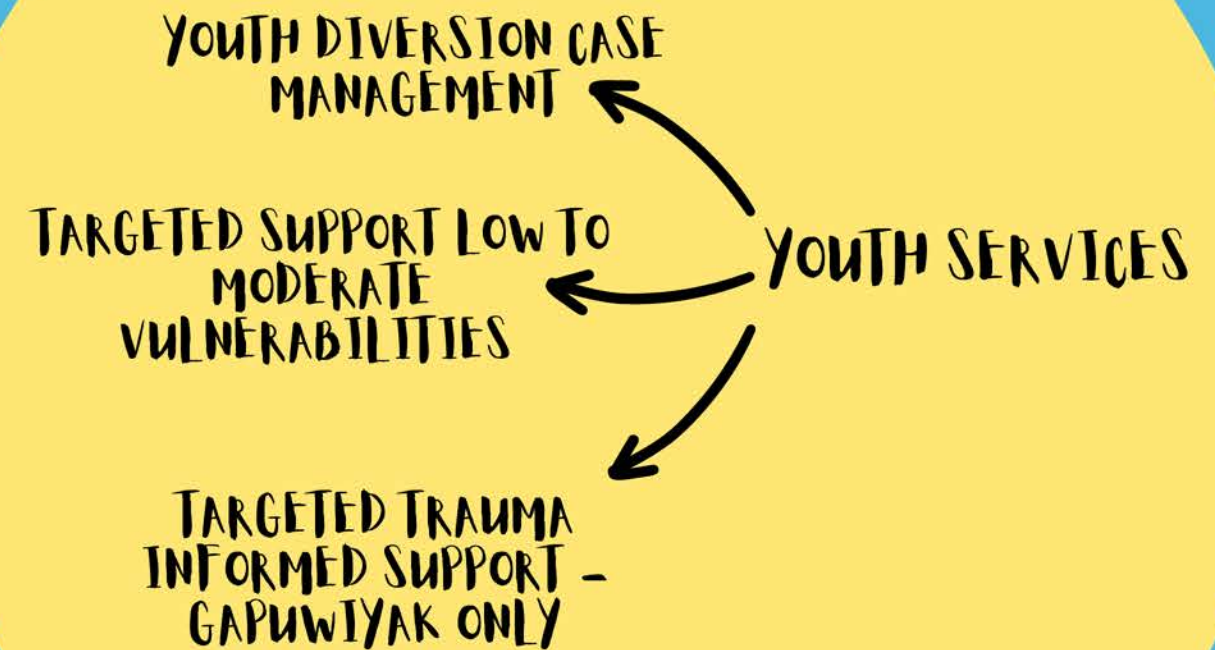
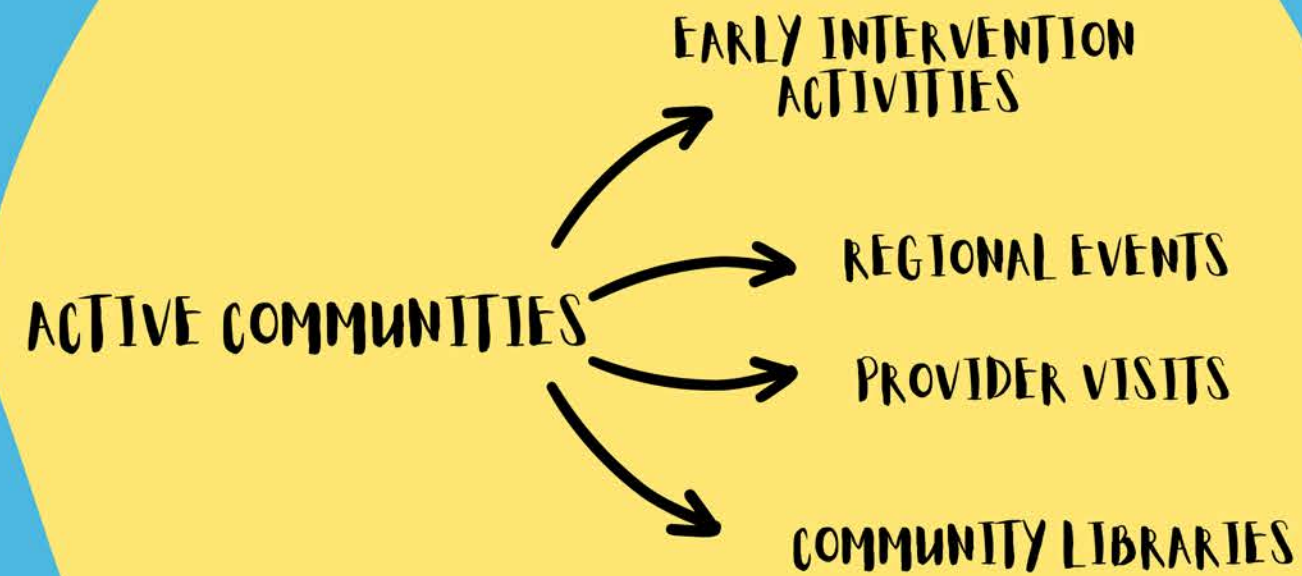
Image: Galiwin'ku disco



Image: Milingimbi multimedia



# ACTIVE COMMUNITIES & YOUTH SERVICES



**ACTIVE COMMUNITIES** FOCUSES ON PROACTIVE, CONSISTENT YEAR-ROUND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES FACILITATED AFTER SCHOOL HOURS AND DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. ADDITIONALLY, WE FACILITATE MULTIPLE ANNUAL REGIONAL EVENTS, ENGAGE DIVERSE EXTERNAL PROVIDERS WHO ARE DOMAIN EXPERTS IN A RANGE OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT DISCIPLINES, AND WE NOW RUN COMMUNITY LIBRARIES IN SEVERAL COMMUNITIES.

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES IS MANAGED BY ACTIVE COMMUNITIES MANAGER, DANIEL RULE.

**YOUTH SERVICES** FOCUSES ON MORE TARGETED SUPPORT FOR AT RISK YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING LOW TO MODERATE VULNERABILITIES. EARC ACCEPT REFERRALS, PROVIDE ASSESSMENT, AND TRIAGE YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 3 SEPARATELY FUNDED BUT COMPLIMENTARY PROGRAM AREAS.

YOUTH SERVICES IS MANAGED BY YOUTH SERVICES MANAGER, CHRISTIAN AREVALO.



# PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT - AUGUST 2025

105

TOTAL ACTIVITIES  
DELIVERED

2124

TOTAL PARTICIPANT  
ENGAGEMENTS

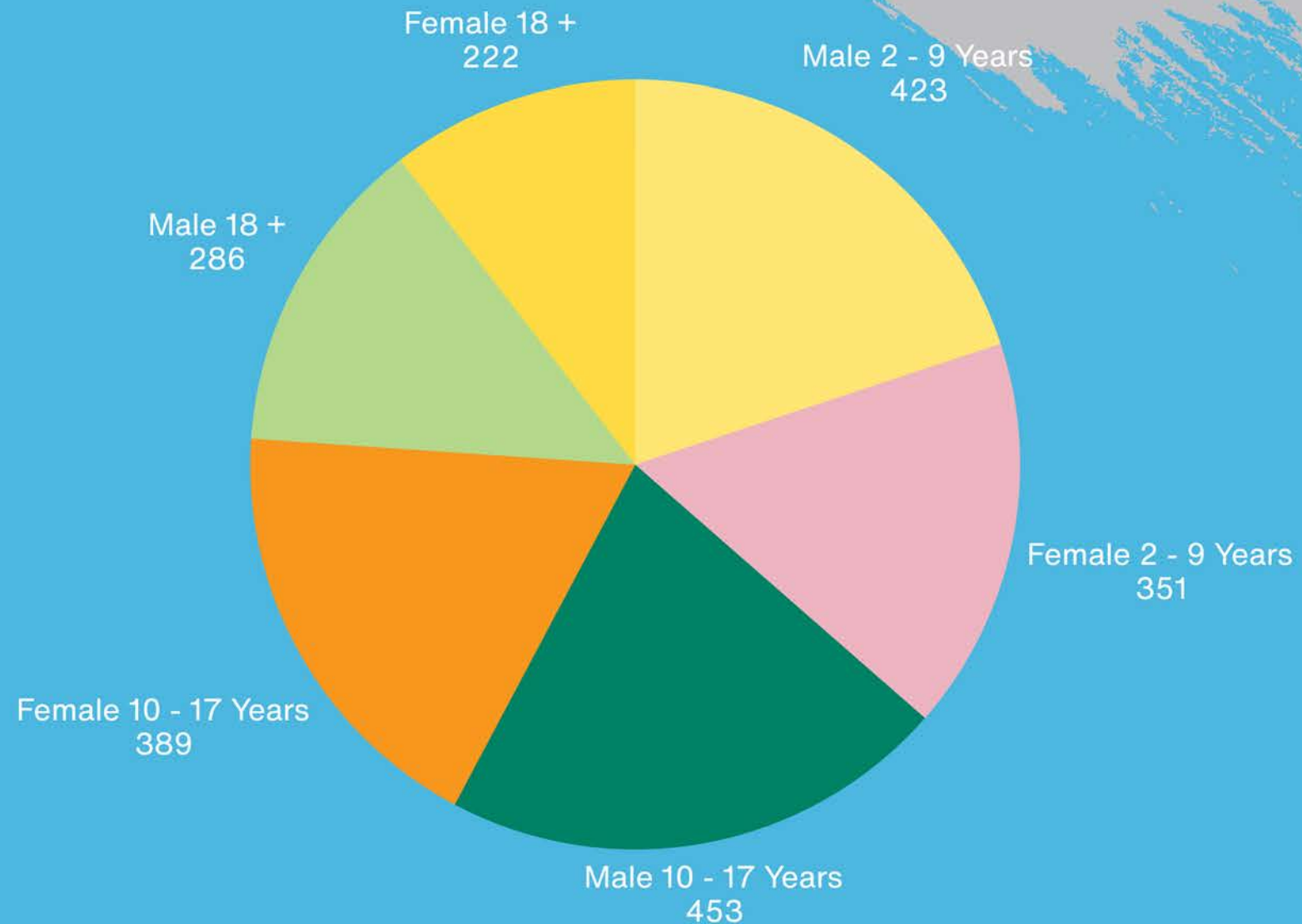


Image: Reading activities in Gapuwiyak



# AUGUST 2025





# EMPLOYMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING

DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, OUR DELIVERY NETWORK FEATURED 26 STAFF, INCLUDING **20 STAFF MEMBERS IDENTIFYING AS INDIGENOUS**. THIS INCLUDED:

3 X FULL-TIME ACTIVE COMMUNITIES COORDINATORS

2 X CASUAL/PART-TIME YOUTH MENTORS

14 X CASUAL/PART-TIME ACTIVE COMMUNITIES WORKERS

1 X LIBRARY & CULTURAL HERITAGE WORKERS

OUR INDIGENOUS IDENTIFIED TEAM MEMBERS ARE CRITICAL IN THE DELIVERY OF STRENGTHS-BASED AND CULTURALLY CENTRED ACTIVITIES.



Image: Ramingining cooking activity



Image: Gapuwiyak footy activity

A large white graphic of a turtle shell on a yellow background, positioned in the bottom right corner of the page.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT: VIVEK GUMMALLA

I FIRST HEARD ABOUT EARC THROUGH MY WIFE WHO WORKS WITH MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP, WHILE I WAS IN INDIA. I WASN'T SURE EXACTLY WHERE I WOULD FIT AT EARC AND APPLIED FOR A FEW DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATION ROLES. PREVIOUSLY I WORKED FOR DELOITTE FOR TEN YEARS AS A MANAGER AND INTEGRATIONS SPECIALIST. I HAVE ALSO COMPLETED A BACHELOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE ENGINEERING WHERE I DEVELOPED MY SKILLS AND LOVE FOR CODING. IT'S FAIR TO SAY ANY WORK THAT CONNECTS ME WITH A LAPTOP ALLOWS ME TO CONTRIBUTE MY SKILLSET!

MY ROLE AS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT OFFICER FOR THE ACYS PROGRAM KEEPS ME CONNECTED TO SYSTEMS KEEPING ME ENGAGED AND ENJOYING MY WORK. I ALSO LIKE TRYING DIFFERENT SPORTS AND HAVE FOUND THAT I CAN PROVIDE ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE TO HELP THE YOUNG PEOPLE GET THE MOST BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM.

WORKING WITH EARC I'VE DEVELOPED MY WORK LIFE BALANCE. I'M FINDING WITH THIS BALANCE I CAN BETTER FOCUS ON TASKS AT WORK. I'VE ALSO DEVELOPED REPORTING SKILLS, LOGISTICS HANDLING, EVENT MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF EXCEL ORDER SHEETS FOR USE BY COORDINATORS. WORKING IN A SMALL TEAM I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO BE HANDS ON - UNDERSTANDING ALL THE STEPS INVOLVED TO RUN A CAMP OR REGIONAL EVENT SUCCESSFULLY. IN THE FUTURE I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE COMMUNITY VISITS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND OUR PARTICIPANTS THROUGH DELIVERY OF OUR REGIONAL EVENTS.

PEOPLE IN OUR TEAM COME FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND PLACES. EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING THEY CAN SHARE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE. THERE ARE NEW THINGS HAPPENING EVERY WEEK. THERE IS ALWAYS SOME DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY WITH HOW OUR PLANNED PROGRAMS WILL PLAY OUT, BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS SMILES ALL ROUND.

OUR ROLE IN COMMUNITY IS ABOUT LEADING AND MOTIVATING YOUNG PEOPLE. WE UPSKILL YOUNG PEOPLE. KIDS LOVE SPORT SO WE USE SPORT AND DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES AS TOOLS TO ASSIST WITH DEVELOPMENT OF DISCIPLINE, PUNCTUALITY, RESPONSIBILITY, FOCUS AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR GOALS. WE HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO GROW INTO THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES. THAT'S THE POSITIVE IMPACT WE HAVE ON YOUNG PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY.





# YOUTH SERVICES AUGUST UPDATE

IN AUGUST, ACYS TEAM HAD THE VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO COME TOGETHER IN PERSON FOR A WEEK OF TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING. AS WE TYPICALLY WORK REMOTELY, THIS TIME ALLOWED US NOT ONLY TO ENHANCE OUR SKILLS BUT ALSO TO STRENGTHEN OUR INTERPERSONAL CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATION.

A KEY HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK WAS PARTICIPATING IN A COURSE ON DUAL DIAGNOSIS AND COMORBIDITY. THIS TRAINING COVERED ESSENTIAL PRACTICE PRINCIPLES, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING, MANAGING RISK SITUATIONS, DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES, BRIEF INTERVENTIONS, AND SELF-CARE STRATEGIES.

THE SESSIONS WERE HIGHLY INTERACTIVE AND PRACTICAL. THE TEAM ENGAGED IN EXAMINING MULTIPLE CASE STUDIES AND PARTICIPATED IN ROLE-PLAYING EXERCISES TO SIMULATE REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS. THESE ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON HOW TO EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE WITH PARTICIPANTS IN OUR PROGRAMS AND PROVIDE MEANINGFUL SUPPORT THROUGH COMPASSIONATE AND PURPOSEFUL CONVERSATIONS.

THE TRAINING WEEK PROVED TO BE BOTH PROFESSIONALLY ENRICHING AND PERSONALLY REWARDING. IT REINFORCED OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO BEST PRACTICES AND PROVIDED US WITH PRACTICAL TOOLS TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF OUR SUPPORT SERVICES. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT ALLOWED US TO CONNECT AS A TEAM, FOSTERING A STRONGER SENSE OF UNITY AND COLLABORATION THAT WILL POSITIVELY IMPACT OUR ONGOING WORK.



Image: ACYS Training Activity



# ACTIVE COMMUNITIES AUGUST UPDATE

IN AUGUST, OUR SERVICE WAS ABLE TO ENGAGE IN A COUPLE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO UPSKILL.

FIRST, ALL COORDINATORS CAME TO NHULUNBUY TO ATTEND A TRAINING WEEK. THIS PROVED TO BE A GREAT TEAM BUILDING OPPORTUNITY, WITH PRACTICAL TRAINING OUTCOMES.

SECOND, MANY OF OUR TEAM TRAVELLED TO GALIWIN'KU TO UNDERTAKE BASKETBALL COACH EDUCATION UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF BASKETBALL NT'S SKILLED COACH EDUCATOR, LIZ ERRIKSEN. THIS WAS A FANTASTIC TRAINING WITH A BROAD REACHING IMPACT EVEN BEYOND THE COURT WITH HOW OUR TEAM ARE NOW DELIVERING A VARIETY OF COMMUNITY SPORTS PROGRAMS.

WE WERE ALSO THRILLED TO HOST SOFTBALL NT STAFF IN YIRRKALA, WITH THE YIRRKALA COMMUNITY SHOWING A GREAT DEAL OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THE SPORT.

COMING UP NEXT MONTH WE ARE EAGER TO DELIVER TWO REGIONAL EVENTS. THE FIRST IS AFLX UNDER-15 GIRLS TO BE HELD IN YIRRKALA ON SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE OPEN AGE EASTERN CUP REGIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS ON 25<sup>TH</sup> AND 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER IN GALIWIN'KU.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING MORE WITH YOU NEXT MONTH!

DAN RULE, ACTIVE COMMUNITIES MANAGER



Image: A beautiful dry season evening for outdoor movie night in Ramingining



# ACTIVITY PROVIDER REPORT

25-29 AUGUST 2025

## BASKETBALL NT - GALIWIN'KU

ON 25TH AUGUST OUR ACTIVE COMMUNITIES AND YOUTH SERVICES STAFF TRAVELLED FROM MILINGIMBI AND RAMINGINING TO ATTEND BASKETBALL TRAINING IN GALIWIN'KU, FACILITATED BY BASKETBALL NT'S, LIZ ERIKSEN. THIS WEEK OF BASKETBALL TRAINING FOLLOWED ON FROM THE WEEK-LONG TRAINING LIZ FACILITATED FOR OUR TEAM IN MILINGIMBI IN MAY.

EAST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF MOVED FROM ASSISTING WITH THE PROGRAM DELIVERY TO LEADING PROGRAM DELIVERY IN OUR SECOND WEEK OF TRAINING. EACH MORNING THE STAFF PARTNERED UP, DECIDED WHICH DRILL THEY WOULD DELIVER AND REVIEWED THE DRILL SET UP AND TEACHING POINTS.

THE STAFF THEN ROLE PLAYED DELIVERY TO THEIR PEERS AND WERE GIVEN FEEDBACK TO HELP THEM IMPROVE THEIR DELIVERY. LIZ FROM BNT ALSO ASSISTED THE STAFF TO MOVE FROM JUST RUNNING A DRILL TO ACTUALLY COACHING BY ASSISTING THE STAFF TO LEARN TO GET THE DRILL UP AND RUNNING, WATCH THE PLAYERS PERFORMANCE AND THEN GIVE THEM FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS.

AUSSIE HOOPS AND 3V3 COMMUNITY HUSTLE "COME-TRY" SESSIONS WERE HELD AT BOTH THE COMMUNITYRECREATION HALL AFTER SCHOOL AND AT SHEPHERDSON COLLEGE DURING SCHOOL HOURS. THE COLLEGE ADVISED THAT PROVIDING THE BASKETBALL PROGRAMMING (WHICH THEY ADVERTISED WOULD BE HAPPENING TO THE FAMILIES) BOUGHT SOME OF THEIR BEST ATTENDANCE IN RECENT TIME. THEY ALSO LOVED THE FACT THAT BNT WAS NOT LKEADING DELIVERY BUT RATHER HAD TAUGHT LOCALS TO DO SO ALLOWING THE PROGRAMMING TO BE DELIVERED IN LANGUAGE WHICH LED TO FANTASTIC ENGAGEMENT FROM THEIR STUDENTS.

ADDITIONALLY, GALIWIN'KU ADULTS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY 3X3 COMMUNITY HUSTLE. THE DIFFERENT FORMAT WAS WELL RECEIVED AND ENJOYED BY ALL IN ATTENDANCE ON THE NIGHT.

THANKS TO SHEPHERDSON COLLEGE FOR SUPPORTING THIS PROGRAM AND TO LIZ FOR HER EXPERT FACILITATION OF THE TRAINING AND PROGRAMS.





# BASKETBALL NT WORKSHOPS - GALIWIN'KU





# ACTIVITY PROVIDER REPORT

25-27 AUGUST 2025

SOFTBALL NT - YIRRKALA

SOFTBALL NT'S RECENT 3-DAY PROGRAM IN YIRRKALA WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, WITH CONSISTENT PARTICIPATION FROM APPROXIMATELY 25 CHILDREN AND 8 ADULTS EACH DAY. THE SESSIONS WERE DELIVERED BY ANNEKA AND CLAIRE, RUNNING FROM 2:30PM TO 6:00PM AND FEATURING A MODIFIED VERSION OF SOFTBALL DESIGNED TO TEACH BOTH TECHNICAL SKILLS AND BROADER LIFE LESSONS.

WHILE ATTENDANCE TENDED TO INCREASE LATER IN THE AFTERNOON - THIS ALLOWED VALUABLE TIME EARLY IN THE SESSION TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CHILDREN ON DEVELOPING INDIVIDUAL SOFTBALL SKILLS. AS MORE PARTICIPANTS ARRIVED, THE SESSION TRANSITIONED INTO FULL GAME PLAY, GIVING EVERYONE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY WHAT THEY HAD LEARNED IN A TEAM SETTING.

BY THE END OF THE PROGRAM, SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS OBSERVED NOT ONLY IN THE CHILDREN'S SOFTBALL ABILITIES BUT ALSO IN KEY LIFE SKILLS SUCH AS TEAMWORK, COMMUNICATION, AND DISCIPLINE. THESE OUTCOMES ALIGNED WITH OUR PRIMARY GOAL: TO USE SPORT AS A TOOL TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION.

## LOOKING AHEAD

THERE WAS STRONG COMMUNITY INTEREST IN EXPANDING THE PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY FROM ADULTS. BASED ON THIS FEEDBACK, OPPORTUNITIES TO DELIVER SIMILAR PROGRAMS FOR BOTH YOUTH AND ADULTS WILL BE EXPLORED.

THANKS TO ANNEKA, CLAIRE AND SOFTBALL NT FOR DELIVERING THIS ENGAGING PROGRAM!





# SOFTBALL NT WORKSHOPS - YIRRKALA





# STAFF TRAINING WEEK

11-15 AUGUST 2025  
GOVE PENINSULA

OUR TEAM OF COORDINATORS FROM ACROSS THE REGION CAME TOGETHER IN NHULUNBUY FOR TRAINING IN MID-AUGUST.

THE TEAM COMPLETED: 4WD TRAINING; DUAL DIAGNOSIS & COMORBIDITY TRAINING; AND A VARIETY OF OTHER TRAINING SESSIONS TO ASSIST WITH THE DELIVERY, ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING FOR THE ACTIVE COMMUNITIES AND YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM.

IT WAS GREAT TO SPEND THE WEEK TOGETHER SHARING OUR IDEAS AND SKILLS. OUR TEAM HAVE SINCE RETURNED TO COMMUNITY ENERGISED AND HAVE HIT THE GROUND RUNNING IMPLEMENTING WHAT THEY LEARNED.





# STAFF TRAINING WEEK GOVE PENINSULA





# LOOKING AHEAD...

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 6 SEPTEMBER

- AFLX UNDER 15 GIRLS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - YIRRKALA

### 24-26 SEPTEMBER

- EASTERN CUP BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS - GALIWIN'KU

### 20 SEPTEMBER - 5 OCTOBER

- SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS - ALL COMMUNITIES

### 29 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER

- MILINGIMBI ART WORKSHOPS - MILINGIMBI
- SOUNDED MUSIC VIDEO WORKSHOPS - GALIWIN'KU
- BUILD UP SKATEBOARDING WORKSHOPS - RAMINGINING
- BULA BULA ART WORKSHOPS - RAMINGINING
- NEXT 9 SPORTS ACADEMY WORKSHOPS - YIRRKALA & GUNYANGARA

### 25 OCTOBER

- AFLX UNDER 15 BOYS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - GAPUWIYAK



**4TH ANNUAL  
AFLX  
UNDER-15 GIRLS  
REGIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**6 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
Yirrkala Oval

GALIWIN'KU | GAPUWIYAK | GUNYANGARA  
MILINGIMBI | NHULUNBUY | RAMINGINING | YIRRKALA

Under 15 Years: Contact your  
Active Communities Coordinator for sign ups!

    
Active Communities & Youth Services



**4TH ANNUAL  
EASTERN CUP  
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**25 & 26 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
EARC Galiwin'ku Recreation Hall

GAPUWIYAK | GALIWIN'KU | GROOTE  
GOVE | MILINGIMBI | RAMINGINING

16+ Years: Contact your Active Communities Coordinator for sign ups!

   
Active Communities & Youth Services 



**5TH ANNUAL  
AFLX  
UNDER-15 BOYS  
REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**25 OCTOBER 2025**  
Gapuwiyak Oval

GALIWIN'KU | GAPUWIYAK | GOVE  
MILINGIMBI | RAMINGINING

Under 15 Years: Contact your  
Active Communities Coordinator for sign ups!

    
Active Communities & Youth Services



# JOIN OUR TEAM!

ROLES WITH THE ACYS TEAM ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN:

GUNYANGARA, MILINGIMBI & RAMINGINING.

GET IN TOUCH TO DISCUSS THESE ROLES:

[DANIEL.RULE@EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU](mailto:DANIEL.RULE@EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU)

[EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU/EMPLOYMENT/  
POSITIONS-VACANT](http://EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU/EMPLOYMENT/POSITIONS-VACANT)



Image: Gapuwiyak cooking activity



Image: Ramingining outdoor movies with burgers