



Active Communities & Youth Services



Image: Wednesday night Basketball
under lights in Yirrkala

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES & YOUTH SERVICES

WITH THE HOLIDAYS NOW BEHIND US, ACYS IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AS YOUNG PEOPLE RETURN TO THE CLASS ROOM. WITH THAT, WE HAVE SOME GREAT HIGHLIGHTS AND STAFFING UPDATES TO SHARE FOR FEBRUARY 2026.

VIVEK, OUR AMAZING ACYS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT OFFICER OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS, HAS RECEIVED ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY WITHIN EARC AND IS MOVING ON. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND ACKNOWLEDGE VIVEK FOR HIS INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ACYS SERVICE.

TWO NEW STAFF JOINED OUR ACYS TEAM IN FEBRUARY. I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW GALIWIN'KU RECREATION HALL COORDINATOR, VERITY O'LOUGHLIN-WARR, AND OUR NEW MILINGIMBI BASED YOUTH SUPPORT COORDINATOR, JAMES KENT.

YOUTH WEEK 2026 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, AND ACYS HAS LOTS OF GREAT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED ACROSS THE REGION. THESE INCLUDE WEAVING WORKSHOPS WITH BULA'BULA IN RAMINGINING, BARK PAINTING WORKSHOPS WITH MILINGIMBI ART CENTRE, AND CORRUGATED IRON ARTS COMING TO GAPUWIYAK, YIRRKALA AND GUNYANGARA. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING MORE AS YOUTH WEEK DRAWS CLOSER.

I'M ALSO PLEASED TO SHARE THAT ACYS HAVE TWO EXCITING GALA DAYS COMING UP FOR UNDER-17S. A BOYS AFLX GALA DAY IN GUNYANGARA ON MARCH 28TH, HOSTING GAPUWIYAK AND YIRRKALA TEAMS. A MIXED ULTIMATE FRISBEE GALA DAY IN MILINGIMBI ON APRIL 19TH, THAT WILL HOST GALIWIN'KU AND RAMINGINIG TEAMS. PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR PROMO MATERIAL OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

THANK YOU

PETE

REGIONAL MANAGER - ACYS
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Image: Basketball Nights Gunyangara

Image: Yirrkala Drop-in centre





Active Communities & Youth Services



Image: Tag game in Yirkala



Image: Friday night at the movies in Galiwin'ku



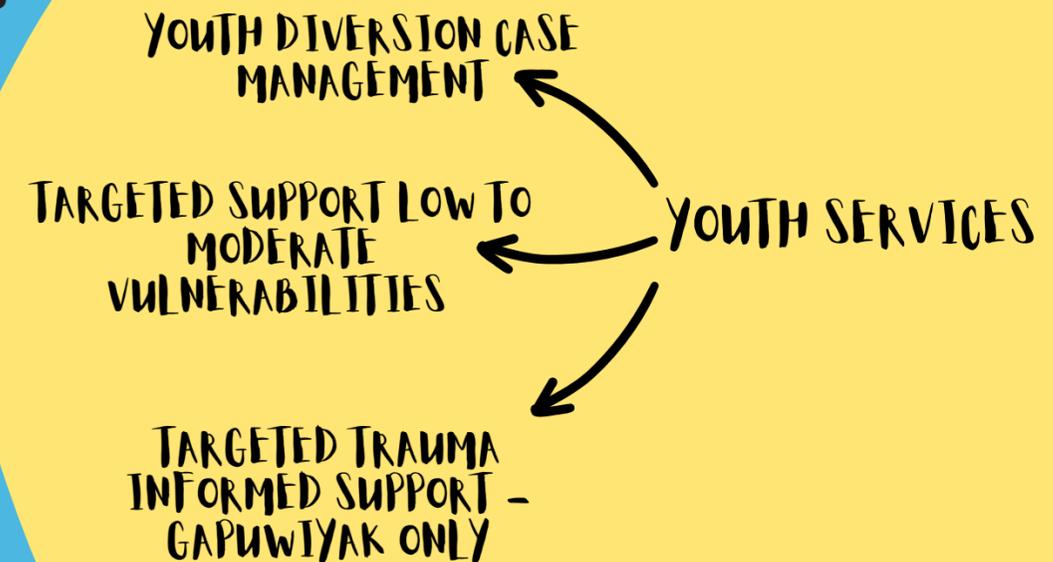
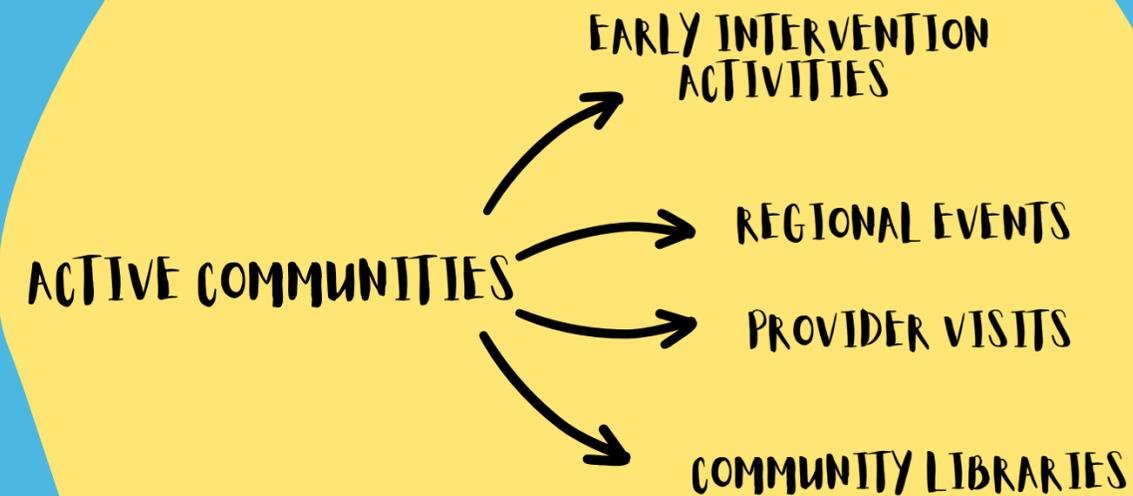
Image: Cooking activities in Gapuwiyak



Image: Painting activity Ramingining



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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 - FEBRUARY 2026

113

TOTAL ACTIVITIES
DELIVERED

4031

TOTAL PARTICIPANT
ENGAGEMENTS

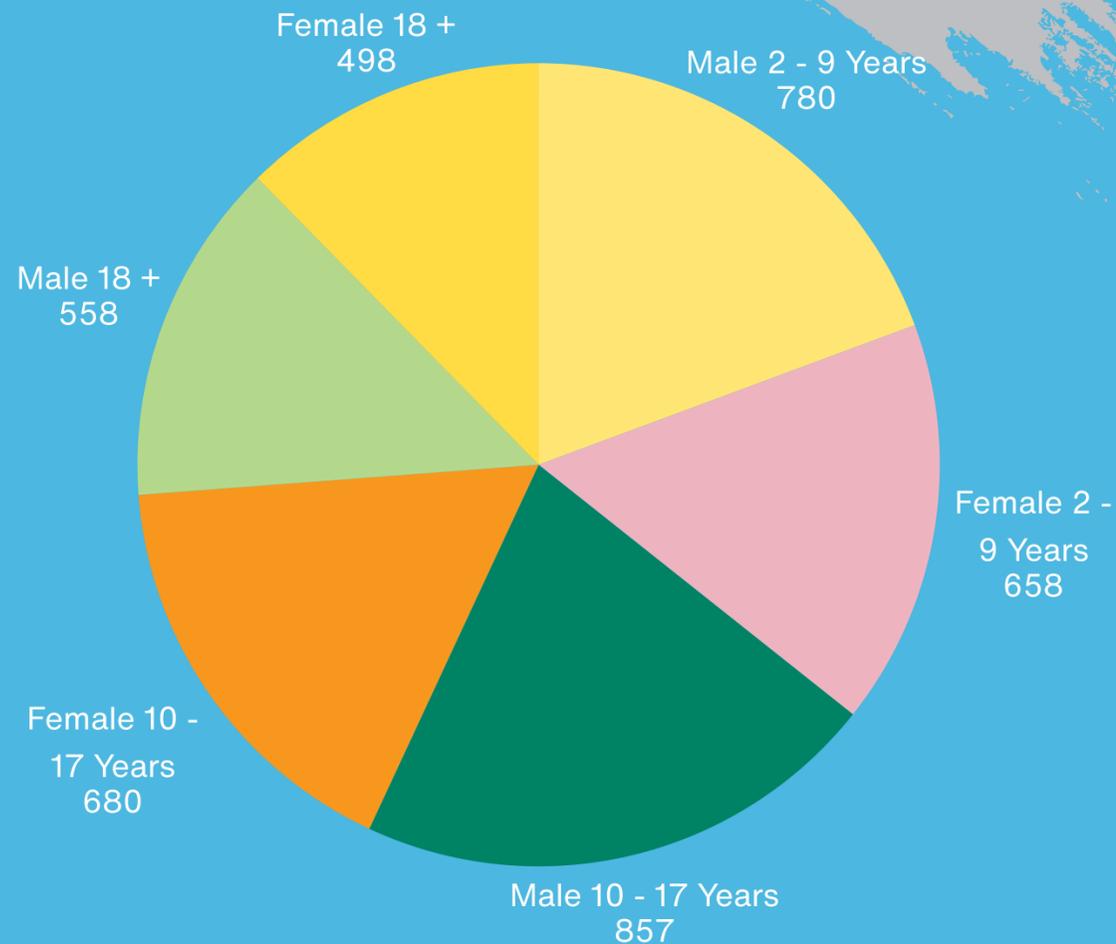


Image: Board Games in Yirkkala drop-in centre.

ACYS LIBRARY UPDATE

WE NOW HAVE GREAT LIBRARY SPACES IN GALIWIN'KU, RAMINGINING AND GAPUWIYAK. WE WILL REOPEN OUR LIBRARY IN MILINGIMBI THIS YEAR TOO. ALL OF OUR LIBRARIES ALSO ACT AS DROP-IN CENTRES ON SPECIFIC DAYS AFTER SCHOOL HOURS.

OUR LIBRARIES ARE SAFE COMFORTABLE COMMUNITY SPACES. ACYS LIBRARIES OFFER BOOKS, MAGAZINES, MULTIMEDIA AND A RANGE OF OTHER RESOURCES THAT FOSTER LEARNING, RESEARCH, COLLABORATION AND INTELLECTUAL EXPLORATION. ALL EARC LIBRARIES INCLUDE FREE PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS.

WE WANT ALL COMMUNITY LIBRARIES TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING, RESPITE, POSITIVE SOCIAL CONNECTION AND WELLBEING.



ACYS LIBRARY UPDATE

IN FEBRUARY, OUR GALIWIN'KU LIBRARY SERVICE WELCOMED NEW GALIWIN'KU RECREATION HALL COORDINATOR, VERITY O'LOUGHLIN-WARR. VERITY WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE WORKING WITHIN OUR ACYS TEAM TO KEEP THE GALIWIN'KU LIBRARY HUMMING 5 DAYS A WEEK.

OTHER LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS ACROSS THE REGION INCLUDED FAMILY MOVIE ACTIVITIES, MORNING TEAS, STORY TIME FOR FAMILIES, ART & CRAFT, MUMS AND BUBS, HOSTING FAFT, RELAXATION ACTIVITIES FOR MIYALK, SUPPORTED READING WITH STAFF AND MUCH MORE!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY LIBRARIES SOON.





STAFF SPOTLIGHT: ROSIE MUNUNGGURR

I STARTED COMING TO SPORT AND REC PROGRAMS IN YIRRKALA WHEN I WAS 6 OR 7. I REMEMBER GETTING TO KNOW EVERYONE WHO CAME FROM FAR AWAY COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES. IT WAS A GOOD TIME – WE HAD A BUS AND A BASKET OF GEAR. WE WOULD GO TO A WATERHOLE OR THE SWIMMING POOL, COOKING AT SHADY BEACH, OR INTO NHULUNBUY FOR NETBALL.

I'M A GROWN UP NOW. I HAVE A 6-YEAR-OLD BOY OF MY OWN AND I'M RUNNING THE PROGRAMS. I LIKE TO DEVELOP MY LEADERSHIP SKILLS THROUGH THIS JOB AND HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP ACTIVITIES RUNNING WHILE ROB, OUR COORDINATOR, IS AWAY. I LIKE CONNECTING WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE. ENCOURAGING THEM AND GETTING TO KNOW THEM. I DO THAT THROUGH RUNNING BASKETBALL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AS WELL.

I'VE DEVELOPED MY COACHING SKILLS THROUGH THIS JOB. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO LEAD SPORT PROGRAMS SO I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO COACH. INSTEAD OF ASKING 'WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO?' WE NEED TO MAKE A PLAN FOR OURSELVES. THAT'S HOW I APPROACH THIS WORK. WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER. I'M GRATEFUL THAT MY PARTNER GIVES ME HELP AND SUPPORTS ME TO COME TO WORK. I WANT TO LEARN MORE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PARTS OF THE JOB TOO - DOING REPORTS AND SPENDING TIME ON THE COMPUTER. MY GOAL IS TO GET MY LICENCE TOO.

KIDS THAT COME TO OUR PROGRAMS OFTEN HAVE EXTRA CHALLENGES. WE HELP THEM TO FEEL FREE AND SAFE AT THE DROP-IN CENTRE. SOMETIMES THEY ARE SHY. I TELL THEM THEY DON'T NEED TO BE SHY – THEY CAN ASK US IF THEY NEED ANYTHING. SOMETIMES THEY ARE HUNGRY AND WE CAN FEED THEM SOMETHING AT THE DROP IN. SOMETIMES WE CAN TAKE THEM HOME AFTER THE PROGRAM TOO TO HELP THEM FEEL SAFE.

IT'S A GOOD COMMUNITY. WE SOMETIMES HAVE KIDS THAT DON'T GO TO SCHOOL COME TO US. SOMETIMES THEY DO BAD THINGS. THEY COME TO OUR PROGRAMS TO PLAY SPORT. SPORT HELPS THEM TO KNOW ABOUT EXCITING THINGS COMING UP – LIKE BIG SPORTS CARNIVALS THEY CAN LOOK FORWARD TO. IT HELPS THEM TO GET AWAY FROM THE BAD THINGS AND RECONNECT WITH A GOOD PATHWAY AND WITH OTHER KIDS WHO ARE GOING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY. THEN THAT HELPS THEM GET BACK TO SCHOOL AND BE MORE ENGAGED IN OUR PROGRAMS TOO. WE ARE THERE PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO RE-ENGAGE. SOME KIDS GO OFF THE TRACK BUT LATER CAN GET BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK. IT CAN CHANGE THE STORY THAT THEY TELL THEMSELVES TO BE – "I'M A GOOD KID". BUT HE MUST DECIDE IT FOR HIMSELF.

WE KEEP RUNNING ACTIVITIES EACH DAY, ENCOURAGING KIDS AWAY FROM BAD THINGS AND TO GET BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK.



EMPLOYMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, OUR DELIVERY NETWORK FEATURED 28 STAFF, INCLUDING **23 STAFF MEMBERS IDENTIFYING AS INDIGENOUS**. THIS INCLUDED:

3 X FULL-TIME ACTIVE COMMUNITIES COORDINATORS

1 X CASUAL/PART-TIME YOUTH MENTORS

16 X CASUAL/PART-TIME ACTIVE COMMUNITIES WORKERS

3 X LIBRARY & CULTURAL HERITAGE WORKERS

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



LOOKING AHEAD...

UPCOMING EVENTS

28 MARCH

- GALA DAY - UNDER-17 BOYS AFL - GUNYANGARA (PARTICIPATING TEAMS INCLUDE GAPUWIYAK, YIRRKALA AND GUNYANGARA)

18 APRIL

- GALA DAY - UNDER-17 MIXED ULTIMATE FRISBEE - MILINGIMBI (PARTICIPATING TEAM INCLUDE RAMINGINING, MILINGIMBI AND GALIWIN'KU)

6-10 APRIL

- CORRUGATED IRON YOUTH ARTS - YIRRKALA/GUNYANGARA
- CORRUGATED IRON YOUTH ARTS - GAPUWIYAK
- MILINGIMBI ART - MILINGIMBI
- BULA BULA ART - RAMINGINING



JOIN OUR TEAM!

ROLES WITH THE ACYS TEAM ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN:

GALIWIN'KU, GAPUWIYAK, GUNYANGARA, MILINGIMBI & RAMINGINING

GET IN TOUCH TO DISCUSS THESE ROLES:

DANIEL.RULE@EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU

EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU/EMPLOYMENT/POSITIONS-VACANT



We want to hear from you!

EARC Activity Provider Community
Visits Survey 2026



Active Communities
& Youth Services

SCAN THE QR CODE

FOLLOW US ON YOUTUBE!



**Active Communities
& Youth Services**

**ACTIVE COMMUNITIES &
YOUTH SERVICES PLAYLIST**

A screenshot of a YouTube playlist. The playlist title is "ACTIVE COMMUNITIES & YOUTH SERVICES PLAYLIST". It contains six video thumbnails with their respective titles, view counts, and upload dates:

- Yirrkala - One Big Family**: SoundED • 3.5k views • 13 days ago. Duration: 3:43.
- Rál-manapanmirr Dja'ma**: SoundED • 14k views • 3 months ago. Duration: 3:46.
- Build Up Skateboarding Workshops Ramingining September 2025**: East Arnhem Regional Council • 311 views • 3 months ago. Duration: 4:11.
- Napurr Dja Dhuwal - Milingimbi**: SoundED • 17k views • 5 months ago. Duration: 3:48.
- BREAK'N BARRIERZ GALIWIN'KU DHAPIRRK LIFESTYLE**: Break'n Barrierz • 48k views • 7 months ago. Duration: 3:47.
- Galiwin'ku is our home**: SoundED • 49k views • 9 months ago. Duration: 4:10.