



Active Communities & Youth Services



Image: Wednesday Night Basketball - Yirrkala

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES & YOUTH SERVICES

THIS MONTH WE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED OUR YOUTH STRATEGY 2026-2028 FOR EAST ARNHEM! THE STRATEGY PROVIDES A CLEAR AND PRACTICAL THREE-YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR COUNCIL AND CREATES RENEWED OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP.

OUR 2026 PRIORITY IS TO AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS OUR REGION. WE WILL SHARE MORE ABOUT THIS EXCITING WORK OVER THE COMING MONTHS.

YOU CAN LEARN MORE AND DOWNLOAD OUR YOUTH STRATEGY HERE:

[HTTPS://EASTARNHEM.NT.GOV.AU/EARC-YOUTH-STRATEGY](https://eastarnhem.nt.gov.au/earc-youth-strategy)

OUR ACYS TEAMS HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK ACROSS THE REGION DELIVERING A RANGE OF ENGAGING AND FUN ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT MARCH. FROM BUSH TRIPS, SPORTS, LIBRARIES, MUSIC, ART, COOKING, AND MORE. THERE'S BEEN A LOT HAPPENING.

OUR YOUTH SERVICES TEAM WERE ALSO ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN RESTORATIVE PRACTICE TRAINING IN DARWIN. LEARNING VALUABLE SKILLS TO ASSIST THE WORK BEING DONE WITH OUR MORE VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUTH WEEK AND AN EXCITING SCHOOL HOLIDAY PERIOD AHEAD!

THANK YOU

PETE

REGIONAL MANAGER - ACYS
peter.dunkley@eastarnhem.nt.gov.au



Image: Basketball in Milingimbi



Image: Music night in Gapuwiyak



Active Communities & Youth Services



Image: Ramingining Bush trip



Image: Basketball night in Gungahara



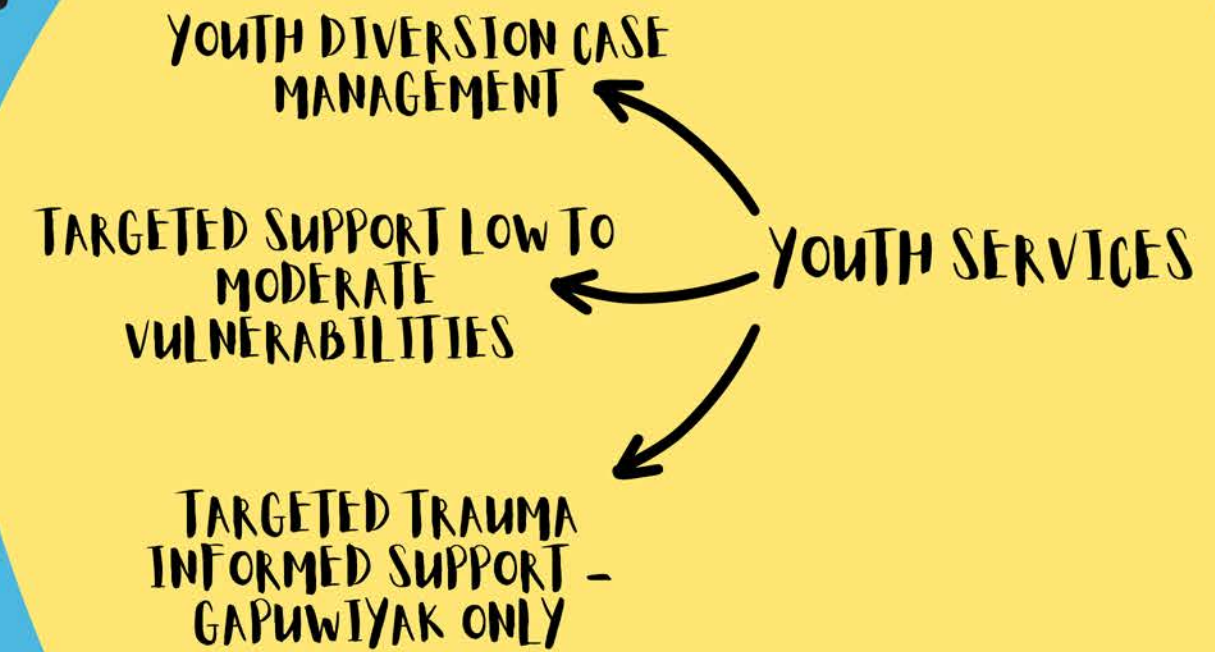
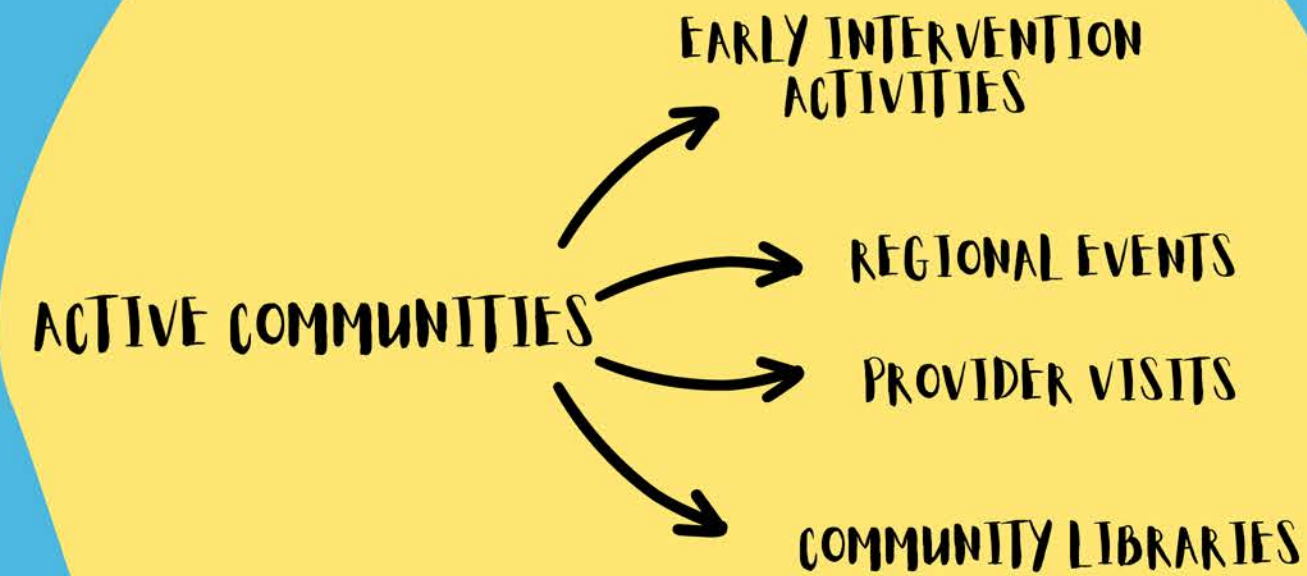
Image: Kickball in Yirrkala



Image: Fun Run in Galiwin'ku



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.



Ramingining bush trip

PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT - MARCH 2026

142

TOTAL ACTIVITIES
DELIVERED

5153

TOTAL PARTICIPANT
ENGAGEMENTS

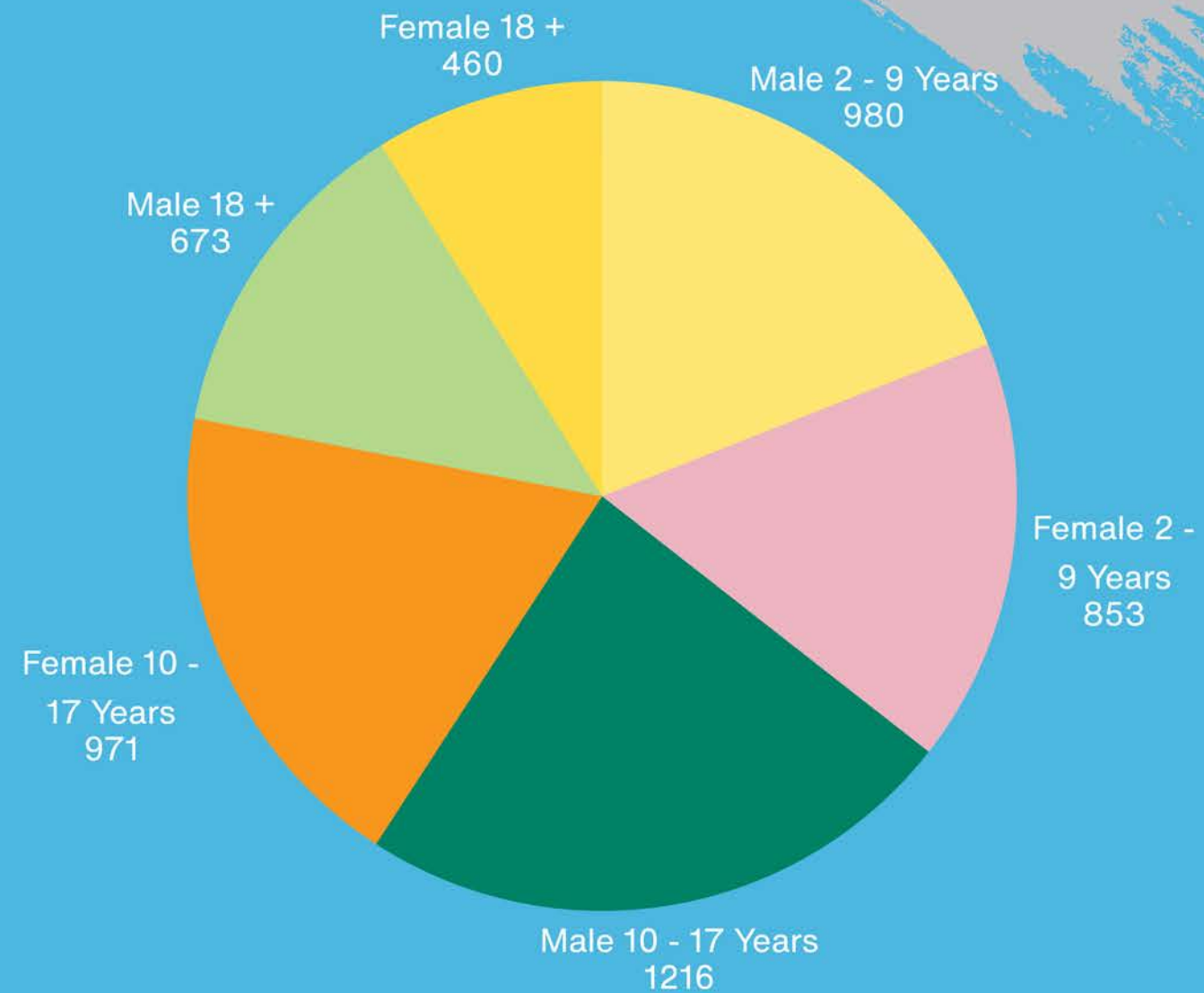


Image: Fun in the Yirkkala rec hall



ACYS LIBRARIES





STAFF SPOTLIGHT: PETER DUNKLEY

FIRST HEARD ABOUT OUR PROGRAM WHEN I WAS WORKING WITH LAYNHAPUY IN THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TEAM - THAT WAS BACK IN 2010. I LEFT ARNHAM LAND IN 2012 TO GO BACK AND LIVE IN KENYA. IN LATE 2013 I SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED FOR A ROLE AS A YOUTH MENTOR (NOW CALLED ACTIVE COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR) WITH EARC AND RETURNED TO YIRRKALA. I GREW A LOT IN THAT ROLE AND ENJOYED GETTING CREATIVE WITH WHAT I HAD. I MADE A POINT OF NOT ACCEPTING A LOWER STANDARD JUST BECAUSE WE ARE IN A REMOTE LOCATION AND ALWAYS TRIED TO LEAVE THINGS BETTER THAN I FOUND THEM. IF SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE PAINTED, OR IF SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE FIXED, I KEPT GOING UNTIL THE JOB WAS COMPLETE.

I ENJOYED BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS. CHILDREN WOULD COME TO PROGRAMS AND WANT TO ENGAGE. THEY WERE LITTLE THEN AND THOSE CHILDREN ARE NOW YOUNG ADULTS WHO I STILL KNOW. IT WAS SATISFYING TO PROVIDE A VALUED PROGRAM. ALL YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN, SAFE SPACES AND TO FUN, SAFE ACTIVITIES WITH GOOD ROLE MODELS - WHETHER THEY ARE FROM THE CITY OR FROM ARNHAM LAND.

IN OVER TEN YEARS WITH EARC I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH - IN PARTICULAR, BEING AWARE OF THE 'UNCONTROLLABLES' BUT FOCUSING MY ATTENTION ON THE 'CONTROLLABLES' AND USING THAT TO STAY POSITIVE. I'VE DEVELOPED SKILLS IN YOLNGU CULTURE AND LANGUAGE, STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS, COMPLEX BUDGETS AND FINANCES, RUNNING EVENTS, PUBLIC SPEAKING, ASSET AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT, THE FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, GRANT MANAGEMENT - WE HAVE SIX GRANTS THAT MUST BE ACQUITTED IN DIFFERENT WAYS! OUR PROGRAM DELIVERS LOTS OF ACTIVITIES - BUT THERE IS SO MUCH BUSINESS MANAGEMENT THAT GOES ON BEHIND THE SCENES TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. IN THE FUTURE, I'D LIKE TO BE MORE HANDS ON WITH OUR SOFTWARE, SO WE CAN PIVOT ON DATA COLLECTION WHEN WE NEED TO. I LEARNED A GREAT DEAL FROM OUR FORMER ASO VIVEK IN THIS AREA RECENTLY. EVERYONE IS DOING IMPORTANT WORK, AND YOU LEARN LITTLE BITS FROM EVERYONE.

THE LAST TWO WELLBEING CAMPS HAVE BEEN HIGHLIGHTS FOR ME. YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVE THAT CAMP WITH A REALLY GOOD ENERGY. THERE ARE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND AFFIRMATIONS GOING ON IN THAT ENVIRONMENT. THERE'S LOTS OF QUALITY, PRACTICAL INFORMATION THAT THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING PROVIDED THROUGH MIWATJ AND OUR TEAM. IT STRENGTHENS WHAT WE DO EACH DAY BACK IN COMMUNITIES. THE YOUNG PEOPLE GO BACK TO COMMUNITY AND SHARE THAT INFORMATION WITH THEIR PEERS.

WE HAVE SUCH AN AMAZING TEAM. EVERYONE BRINGS DIFFERENT SKILLS. WE ALWAYS TRY TO LIFT THE STANDARD OF OUR PROGRAMS. IT'S ABOUT HAVING ATTENTION TO DETAIL. WE STRIVE TO DO THINGS IN A STRUCTURED, PREDICTABLE WAY AND WITH PROGRAM TIMES THAT ARE HONOURED. OUR TEAM ARE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT THEIR WORK - YOU CAN SEE THAT EVERY DAY THROUGH THE PHOTOS THEY SHARE. I'M CONSTANTLY IMPRESSED BY MILIY AND OSIAH. WE HAVE THESE TWO YOLNGU LEADERS DOING ALL THE PARTS OF THE CHALLENGING COORDINATOR ROLE FOR THEIR COMMUNITY. THEY DO THIS ALONGSIDE THEIR FAMILY AND CULTURAL RESPONSIBILITIES. THEY PUT THE WIND IN MY SAILS.



EMPLOYMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING

DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, 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.



YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE

RECENTLY, MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH SERVICES TEAM TRAVELLED TO DARWIN TO PARTICIPATE IN A THREE-DAY RESTORATIVE PRACTICE TRAINING FACILITATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. THIS TRAINING PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN STRENGTHENING OUR YOUTH DIVERSION SERVICES, EQUIPPING STAFF WITH CLEAR, CONSTRUCTIVE, AND STRUCTURED DIALOGUE TECHNIQUES TO HELP REPAIR HARM, REBUILD TRUST, AND SUPPORT POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES.

BEYOND THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE TRAINING ALSO PROVIDED A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR TEAM CONNECTION. GIVEN THE REMOTE NATURE OF OUR WORK, WHERE DAY-TO-DAY CONTACT IS OFTEN ONLINE, COMING TOGETHER IN PERSON HELPED STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS, REFLECT ON PRACTICE, AND RECHARGE AWAY FROM THE DEMANDS OF COMMUNITY-BASED WORK.





ACTIVITY PROVIDER REPORT

10-14 MARCH 2026

BREAK'N BARRIERZ - YIRRKALA & GUNYANGARA

A LAST-MINUTE OPPORTUNITY OCCURRED TO ENGAGE MATTY AND THE BREAK'N BARRIERZ CREW FOR A PROGRAM IN YIRRKALA AND GUNYANGARA. THE PROGRAM OCCURRED WHILE OUR COORDINATOR WAS ON LEAVE - ENSURING STRONG PROGRAM DELIVERY DURING THIS TIME.

THE FOUR DAY PROGRAM INCLUDED DANCE WORKSHOPS, DANCE VIDEO AND A DISCO. THE PROGRAM WAS DELIVERED ACROSS THE TWO COMMUNITIES OF YIRRKALA AND GUNYANGARA. A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO DHUPUMA BARKER SCHOOL FOR ALLOWING USE OF THEIR NEW SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR THE PROGRAM TO RUN UNDERCOVER. MATTY AND HIS TEAM WERE ALSO ABLE TO DELIVER A SESSION FOR THE SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY AS A THANK YOU.

THE BREAK'N BARRIERZ CREW ALWAYS DRAW A CROWD - WITH STRONG PARTICIPATION SEEN IN BOTH COMMUNITIES. THANKS TO MATTY, MAGGIE AND LESLEY FOR THEIR ENGAGING PROGRAM!



LOOKING AHEAD...

UPCOMING EVENTS

6-10 APRIL

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

23 MAY

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



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*





Yirrkala - Tag Game

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. The videos are:

- 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.
- Napurra 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.