Birdiya Maya Community Ownership Group (the COG)



We only need to have one successful person that is supported, helped, through this program, and we've achieved something. That's why we're here. I didn't come here to achieve great things, I come here to help one person. And whether that person be a homeless person or a person with drug and alcohol or mental health issues, then we can achieve that. If we can heal five or six, glory to our community, to our people.

- Gregory Ugle
Co-Chair



I like to see our Aboriginal people be treated with respect. With Aboriginal people being homeless, it's very, very hard in this day and age, because everybody should have a home. I feel Aboriginal people when they get strong, they cut the funding. They don't help Aboriginal people as much as they possibly could.

- Vivienne Weir



We help the homeless in our charity work, and a lot of the homeless, they need independent living. They are dying on the streets, and there are a lot of illnesses and ailments associated with not having any homes, and we need to push and support them as much as possible for them to have their own housing.

- Shirley Harris



I work a lot with the homeless people, that's my passion. Going back in the 1960's, I was homeless myself. So, I know the feeling of being homeless. As I grew older, I sort of got out and changed my way of thinking and changed my life, and now I've been working in a lot of government agencies. That's my passion now, just to look after my mob, because I think that it's only gonna be us mob that's gonna help our mob, you know. To get them out of this thing that they're all in.

- Marie Pryor



I have two family members that are homeless. One lives in my front yard, in a car. And the other one lives on the streets. It's a bad situation, and I don't feel as though I could help them in any other way. I'm just hoping something can get done at the end of this.

- Beryl Weston



I acknowledge everyone that's on this program. I joined this program so I could really get to try and help the homeless people. To listen to their stories, to tell us what it means and how they feel. We know there's a lot of agencies that might be able to help, and the referred suggestions we can give.

- Roslyn Indich



It is important for me to be working to help our mob. Homelessness is an issue that is so important to people, and I want to be part of helping to make a positive change. I'm happy to be part of showing what is happening and what can help. This is so important for making a community strong.

- Raylene Indich



I'm just on a learning curve, to see what's happening around. It's very important that we get to see what's happening with homeless people.

- Lynette Cox



It's important for me to be part of the project to be a voice for the people that are in the community that are homeless, that just haven't got the strength, to communicate that into their hearts. I think that I play a one percent in all of this by encouraging them to be strong and take the support that's put in front of them so we can move on together.

- Len Yarran



I have family members that are really struggling in the homeless space, and I'd really like to make a difference for the future for them, and other Noongar people who are struggling. It's gotten really bad out there, and to be able to advocate for our people, I'm pretty honoured to be able to do that and I'm grateful to be a part of the community.

- Jon Blurton



We got to look after our people. We have to make sure that people are listening to them and understanding them, what their needs are. Not us dictate to them. So, it's important for us to gather that information from them, to see how we can help.

- Barbara McGillivray Adams Ashwin



It's important for me to be part of this project because I've got experience in Aboriginal housing and health. I'm on a committee, they've got a lot of Elders. It's important for me to hear their stories, and to be able to have some input into making some recommendations at the end of this project.

- Marian Kickett



Homelessness is a big, big issue at the moment. What I'm concerned about is the homelessness of women and children. Children are voiceless. They are so disempowered within the family structure, that they don't have a voice to say, "we don't want this". Every child has a right to have a home and feel safe in that home. Every child has a right to be provided with a bed, food, interaction with parents and siblings. Homelessness, removal of children, alcohol and drugs, violence, health issues, it's very, very complex. But there is hope, because people can change, and some people do change and that gives you a little bit of hope.

- Millie Penny



It behoves Aboriginal people, especially the ones who have certain abilities and qualifications, to use those to try and empower our people more. You've got to be out there giving what you've got, offering what you've got, to help others - to share. That's what I've always been about. I like to share. I like to give my little bit to try to encourage somebody, to inspire somebody, in the process of trying to empower people to really look at life and take it seriously.

- Fred Penny



Where I live, there were people camping around in all the doorways and everything around the buildings. I do a lot of work with the police, and I told them about this group of people, and how they camp. They got there, and here's this young mother of 13 kids sitting there having a heart attack right in front of them. She was lucky that the ambulance got there in time and she's back home now, but the rest of the family, they'll camp wherever they can. Which is crazy. That really opened my eyes, and I was happy to accept an invitation to be part of this committee.

- Bev Port Louis



- Dot Bagshaw
Community Ownership Group Coordinator
Wungening Staff



- Jackie Oakley
Co-Chair
Community Ownership Group Coordinator
Wungening Staff

Wungening Aboriginal Corporation

lotterywest

NDRI national drug research institute