



“Our personal stories and experiences offered in the spirit of goodwill, continue the necessary task of educating those who seek to assist our community strive for improved wellbeing.”

### **About the Walgett Winangay Program**

The Walgett Winangay is a two day program that brings people newly arrived to work in Walgett together with local Aboriginal people. Insights will be gained into how culture, family dynamics, history and past and current relationships (with government and others) have shaped and continue to impact the Walgett community. Relationship-building with local Aboriginal organisations is supported.

It is presented by the Walgett Aboriginal community and its representative organisations to those working for government and other service providers.

### **Small group discussions**

Small group discussion is the basis of much adult learning. Aboriginal people have always known this and the Walgett Winangay takes this approach. In the Walgett Winangay a range of local Aboriginal people, organisations and leaders present stories of their experiences, concerns and hopes. These are offered for discussion and reflection by all program participants. The program is delivered in a mix of indoor and outdoor settings.

### **Facilitated yarns and family group dynamics**

Facilitated yarns are complemented by exercises that demonstrate the family relationships that influence so much that happens in our community. This provides a greater understanding of cultural difference and attitudes that shape how effectively Walgett services are delivered. Cultural walks, meals and entertainment provide added stimulation and continued informal social learning.

Personal stories and experiences are offered in the spirit of goodwill, continue the necessary task of educating those who seek to assist our community strive for improved wellbeing.

### **Increased understanding of service providers roles**

Aboriginal participants in the Walgett Winangay also benefit by increasing their understanding of the roles, responsibilities and backgrounds of service providers.

### **Tailored programs for service providers**

The Walgett Winangay program can also be delivered remotely and with other communities for a regional perspective if requested.

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# Dharri waa Elders Group

**THE WALGETT WINANGAY\***

**TWO-DAY WELCOME TO OUR  
COMMUNITY PROGRAM**



*\*Understand Walgett*

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In the Walgett Winangay a range of local Aboriginal people, organisations and leaders present stories of their experiences, concerns and hopes.



“... strong relationships/partnerships between government, community and service providers increase the capacity to achieve identified outcomes and work towards building these relationships.”

- Schedule C: Service delivery principles for programs and services for Indigenous Australians of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery.

## **“Gulbiyaay ngindaay ganu” - Welcome to you all**

We hope that you will enjoy our Walgett Winangay program and come away feeling that you have made new friends while gaining an insight into how our culture, family dynamics, history, past and present relationships with government and other service providers has shaped and continue to impact the Walgett community.

The Dharriwa Elders Group believes this local cultural awareness program will support fruitful relationships and provide a greater understanding that will benefit all our futures.

### ***Our story***

Our group was born 20 November 2000 after working together on projects since 1998. We took our name from one of our sacred sites—Narran Lakes—Dharriwaa (common meeting place) and our full members are Aboriginal people over 60 who live in Walgett.

Our logo is the of the totem animals of our group. The wayamba (short-necked turtle) for the Yuwaalaraay people, the dhinawan (emu) for the Ngayiimbaa people and the bawurra (red kangaroo) for the Gamilaraay people. A gidjiirr tree (Acacia cambagei) is in the background.

The Dharriwaa Elders Group has a 15 year history in Walgett of benchmarking governance, including financial accountability and inclusivity. DEG combines the traditional values of its members with the willingness to work together with government and other stakeholders to achieve real outcomes for the Walgett community.

- *Dharriwaa Elders Group*

### *What our participants say ...*



“ I felt comfortable in the setting. I liked the storytelling to get a point across.”



“I learnt so much more about Walgett’s Aboriginal history and about Aboriginal culture and community in Walgett - thank you so much for this experience”.



“I particularly appreciated the generosity of the Elders in sharing their time, stories and knowledge with us. I also really valued the younger people’s presence and sharing”.



“The community members that attended were very willing to talk and work with government towards better understanding of their needs and culture”.