

Yuwaya Ngarra-li:

Data Linkage Protocol

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Why link data relating to young people in Walgett?

Understanding and improving outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people in Walgett is a key priority of the Elders who are particularly concerned about poor educational outcomes and the overrepresentation of young people in the justice system.

Discussions between the DEG and Yuwaya Ngarra-li’s Research and Evaluation team have highlighted the complex interactions between justice, education, health and wellbeing, housing, and family and community factors.

Linking agency and survey data for young people in Walgett and their immediate family members can help to better understand and respond to issues faced by young people in Walgett and reflects Yuwaya Ngarra-li’s holistic approach to planning, implementation and evaluation.

Yuwaya Ngarra-li’s data linkage project will help to improve outcomes for young people in the following ways:

- **Community control** – Providing evidence to assist the DEG to drive change for improved outcomes for young people in Walgett
- **Advocacy** – Demonstrating the relationships between education, health, and criminal justice contacts
- **Evaluation** – Informing the planning and tracking the impact of youth diversion work
- **Understanding** - Identifying drivers of change in outcomes for young people

Embedding Yuwaya Ngarra-li principles in the linked data research

The core principles of Yuwaya Ngarra-li underpin the way we undertake research and evaluation generally and will be integrated throughout the data linkage work as explained under each of the five principles below.¹

1. Community-led

Research and evaluation generally	Data linkage project
DEG leadership in developing research protocols and data governance arrangements before commencing research.	Developing data linkage protocol with DEG Secretary Virginia Robinson to guide the research agenda.
Ensuring alignment with Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Data Governance principles adopted by the DEG, to ensure data is used for the purpose of generating information and knowledge to address community led priorities.	Consultation with and reporting back to the DEG at all phases of the research to ensure the research is informed by and contributes to community priorities, and protocols are being followed.
Building capacity, with Aboriginal people leading, engaged and employed wherever	Peta MacGillivray, Yuwaya Ngarra-li’s Youth Justice Advisor and Executive Committee

¹ Virginia Robinson (April 2020) “Yuwaya Ngarra-li partnership: Core Principles Research Brief”, Dharriwaa Elders Group, Walgett; Ruth McCausland (August 2019) “Yuwaya Ngarra-li partnership: Research Protocol”, Dharriwaa Elders Group and UNSW



Conducting research that promotes understanding and respect for the rights of Aboriginal people.	Working in partnership with the DEG to undertake research that will provide evidence to help respond to the systemic issues facing Aboriginal young people in Walgett so that they can more fully enjoy their human rights.
Using research findings to make evidence-based recommendations to help Aboriginal people to more fully enjoy their rights.	
To work in partnership with the DEG to address gaps in health, living standards and imprisonment rates.	



Yuwaya Ngarra-li data linkage framework

While the final datasets and variables are still to be determined in consultation with the relevant data custodians and subject to ethical approvals, based on discussions over the last year we are planning to link youth justice, education and health data for Aboriginal children and young people in Walgett, together with underlying factors including family circumstances. This will:

- Reflect our holistic approach to planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Provide evidence of the relationships between education, health and criminal justice contacts and other factors (like family, housing, peers, etc.).
- Track the impact of Yuwaya Ngarra-li's work with children and young people.

This is an update to the December 2021 framework (to include family members and additional data sources) and subject to further change as we progress through the steps of developing the research agenda with the DEG and Yuwaya Ngarra-li's UNe310. (W6.7 (t)TJ-0.002 Tc 0.007 Tw (3)10.c 0 Tw



Data sources

At this stage we are considering linking data for young people in Walgett and their immediate family members from the following sources. This list may change or expand as the project evolves, in which case we will submit the required modifications to ethics committees and the CHeReL.

Data custodian	Data	Application
Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalised charges and court appearances Diversions under the YOA Custody episodes (adult and juvenile) 	ROD data Corrective Services
NSW Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency department data collection Admitted patient data collection Mental Health Ambulatory Data Notifiable conditions (including COVID 19 cases) Non admitted patient data (includes AMS, GP, AOD services) Registry of births deaths and marriages (births and deaths) Cause of death 	Via the CHeReL application

