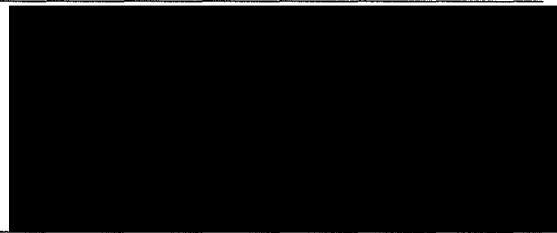


**IN THE MATTER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION
INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE**

ATTACHMENT AR-1 TO STATEMENT OF ANDREW REAPER

Date of document: 17 July 2015
Filed on behalf of: the Applicant
Prepared by:
Victorian Government Solicitor's Office
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Melbourne VIC 3000



This is the attachment marked '**AR-1**' produced and shown to **ANDREW REAPER** at the time of signing his Statement on 17 July 2015.

Before me: ...



**An Australian Legal Practitioner within
the meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Victoria)**

Attachment AR-1



About Dardi Munwurro

Dardi Munwurro was established by two experienced facilitators Alan Thorpe and John Byrne who identified a need to provide leadership training programs and personalised coaching specifically tailored to Indigenous men.

The programs are designed to assist Indigenous men to identify their emotions and personal strengths and in doing so discover their own leadership potential and develop a vision for their lives. The aim is to equip Indigenous men to become leaders, role models and mentors within their communities.

This aims of the work of Dardi Munwurro are to:

- *build protective factors:*
- *empower indigenous men:*
- *recognise leadership potential:*
- *promote help-seeking behaviour:*
- *build stronger communities:*
- *build safer communities:*

Since being established in 2000, Dardi Munwurro has provided training across all regions of Victoria.

The context of Indigenous family violence

The program recognises that family violence within Indigenous families has a different context than family violence elsewhere in the community, and therefore requires a different response.

The Key Statement of the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Task Force Final report indicated that:

"... from an Indigenous perspective the causes of family violence are located in the history and impacts of white settlement and the structural violence of race relations since then.

These factors include:

- dispossession of land and traditional cultures
- breakdown of community kinship systems and Aboriginal lore
- racism and vilification
- economic exclusion and entrenched poverty
- alcohol and drug abuse
- the effects of institutionalism and child removal policies
- inherited grief and trauma

- the loss of traditional Aboriginal male roles, female roles and status

The program will talk with men about these issues, and engage them where appropriate in talking about the impact of these factors on their cultures, families and personal circumstances.

The program will seek to provide positive directions for re-establishing productive and supportive roles for men, and improving family life.

Cultural practices for responding to Indigenous Family Violence

Cultural practice and responsibilities

There is no place for family violence in Indigenous communities.

This program responds to the breakdown in cultural practices that held Indigenous men accountable for their behaviours, and provided support to meet those accountabilities.

The program directly strengthens men's accountability to themselves and other men. It encourages men to recognise their accountabilities to their partners, family and community. It encourages them to put in place accountability structures that will continue after they conclude the program.

The program promotes mutual support and affirmation as necessary to accompany accountability, to assist men to continue to develop their leadership roles.

Other cultural practices

The design of the program draws on cultural understandings of:

- the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Task Force
- Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Victoria and Elizabeth Hoffman House
- the individuals who have contributed to design of the program.

The program will establish a framework for culturally appropriate practice, to guide the extension of local Indigenous family violence programs. This framework will include considerations of cultural competence and cultural safety.

This framework will be informed by continuing input from participating agencies, the progress of the program, and the final evaluation.

During the implementation of the program, the Local Reference Group will provide oversight of the cultural integrity of the program.

Key values and principles

The program addresses the principles established by the Indigenous Family Violence 10 year plan 'Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families'

Family violence is not part of Indigenous culture.

The project promotes traditional Indigenous values and positive behaviours, rejecting any role for violence in families. At the same time, family violence is a significant issue in many Indigenous communities. The program provides a culturally appropriate response to perpetrators of family violence by providing practical support, counselling and group work to promote positive behaviour. The support of Elders and Respected Persons is central to engagement and participation.

Indigenous culture.

The project invites significant Indigenous people from the local community to have input into the program. The program recognises a vital need for "responses to family violence in Indigenous communities that incorporate Indigenous history, values and parenting experience."

Partnership, transparency and accountability.

The project emphasises accountability and respectful relationships within families.

Empowering Indigenous communities, Local solutions to local problems.

The project seeks to empower men to take a leadership role in addressing the issues of family violence in their own communities, promoting positive behaviours by men.

Holistic healing approach to family.

The project has a broad understanding of Indigenous spirituality. It seeks to vitalise the connection with culture as a healing process, as well as establish practical support structures

Early intervention, prevention and education.

The project focuses on education and preventative intervention. Research shows men in general are less likely to access help and will commonly access support only when a situation has reached the point of crisis. In some instances, this delay in accessing support can have negative and devastating consequences. Equally, men are more likely to engage in risk taking behaviour such as alcohol and drug misuse, dangerous driving and other dangerous acts, common amongst the group of men we are targeting.

The project closely aligns with Action 3.1.2 Continue to support Indigenous community leaders, the Indigenous community and Regional Action Groups to develop locally based prevention strategies that challenge normalisation of family violence and reinforce its inconsistency with Indigenous culture, target children and young people and promote healthy relationships.