# FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIP **OPPORTUNITIES**

WITH THE WESTERMAN JILYA INSTITUTE FOR INDIGENOUS MENTAL HEALTH



## **Dr Tracy Westerman**

The 'system' has been built by non-Indigenous people, to meet the needs of non-Indigenous people, and is delivered to Indigenous people by, frequently, non-Indigenous people.

It is therefore unsurprising that this is failing and the implications of doing nothing new or different are clear.



The Jilya vision is for better outcomes for Australia's most vulnerable Aboriginal children, their families and communities.

## Major sponsors:



















thejilyainstitute.com.au

## **SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL - #buildanarmy**

## OPTION I: The Dr Tracy Westerman Indigenous Psychology Scholarship Program

Ensuring the next generation of Indigenous psychologists are trained in culturally informed clinical best practice (#BuildAnArmy)

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Australia must address its high rate of Indigenous child suicide – the highest rate it the world.

This nation cannot continue to attempt to address Indigenous mental health issues with programs that are not culturally informed, or evidence based. We know the current approach is not working. A move to deliver an evidence based culturally informed approach is critical.

Jilya is meeting this challenge head on by financially supporting and mentoring a new generation of Indigenous psychologists.

Our approach is to partner with universities to train Indigenous people to be psychologists, specialising in culturally informed Indigenous mental health and suicide intervention. This is the best opportunity we have to address the escalating rates of Indigenous child suicides in Australia. The 'army' we are building will work in the areas where help is desperately needed.

The Dr Westerman Indigenous Psychology Scholarship Program commenced via founding director, Dr Tracy Westerman's donation of \$50,000 and has since attracted significant donations to enable its continuation and expansion into other states and territories. hage: Aaron Burder Uneplaat In 2019 we announced FIVE Indigenous students as Inaugural

In 2019 we announced FIVE Indigenous students as Inaugural scholarship recipients. With the support of the scholarship these students have been able to continue their university studies.

Your donation will help Jilya to #buildanarmy.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The scholarship eligibility criteria is flexible to ensure it is accessible to a wide range of participants across psychology disciplines and study pathways including mature age, tertiary entrance pathways and recognition of prior learning.

Indigenous children die by suicide at 6 times the rate of non-Indigenous children. Our highest risk communities are consistently our most remote. Help us to #BuildAnArmy of Indigenous Psychologists to address the needs of these communities, where successive Governments have failed.

ONE OFF DONATION	An annual scholarship is \$10,000 per year (plus 17% admin costs)
ONGOING COMMITMENT (SPONSOR A STUDENT)	Ideally, sponsorship would be between 4-6 years to support a student to degree completion and preferably Masters.
	Jilya is seeking student placement opportunities during University holidays or as part of University placement requirements.
EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE	Jilya is seeking regional and remote organisations to commit to employment guarantees for graduates, consistent with our aims to increase the number of psychologists in remote and regional areas.



## SPONSORSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

# OPTION 2: Annual Event: World Suicide Prevention Day – Concert for Life

The concert brings people together on this issue. Black, white, all Australians together, for these are Australia's children

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This annual event is a glorious night of music making to raise money for suicide prevention.

In 2019, Concert for Life partnered with Dr Westerman for a performance at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. All profits from the event went towards the Dr Tracy Westerman Indigenous Psychology Scholarship Program.

The orchestra was conducted by internationally acclaimed Chief Conductor at the Sydney Conservatorium, Mr Roger Benedict:

"...when I saw the shocking statistics on Indigenous suicide, I realised the concert had to return. We can't let this appalling situation continue, and I believe that the program we are supporting will have real benefits for Indigenous communities on country". **Roger Benedict** 

The concert attracted significant media coverage. In 2020, COVID-19 restrictions led to a pause on this event however plans are underway to deliver then event in 2021 in Perth. This will include live streaming into remote areas of Australia.

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The event brings hope and optimism for communities and an opportunity to unite across a shared vision. The message is that these lives matter, and that they matter to all Australians equally.



ORPORATE SPONSORSHIP	Packages available from \$5,000 - \$30,000
DONATIONS	Any donation amount which can assist with the event costs
ICKETS	Part proceeds from ticket sales are donated to Jilya
N-KIND SUPPORT/ /OLUNTEERING	Jilya is seeking assistance with event planning and management

## SPONSORSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## oPTION 3: Support Jilya to make an impact

Imagine having a child caught in the grip of mental illness and there are no services to help. Imagine when you do find a service, they struggle with the very basics of cultural understanding that any opportunity for healing is effectively lost.

## **Dr Tracy Westerman**

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The Jilya approach is unique. It seeks to fill a substantial gap in the existence of evidence based early intervention and prevention programs across Indigenous suicide, mental health, justice, and child protection. Jilya will address these unacceptable gaps through the development and national expansion of the Indigenous Psychology Scholarship Program and by capitalising on the significant evidence-based work of Dr Tracy Westerman. The efficacy of a whole of community approach to early intervention and prevention was validated for the first time in Dr Westerman's paper, Whole of Aboriginal Community Suicide Presentation Programs, published in Australian Psychologist in July 2020.

The current and dire situation facing Aboriginal Australians in suicide prevention has, for the first time, been included in the 2020 Closing the Gap. Outcome 14 seeks to see a "significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero". It is in this area that the Jilya Institute has the unique expertise to both reduce suicide risk factors and measure programs impacts. A reality that sadly is not occurring at a national level.

The aim is to mobilise these programs into high risk areas to ensure there is greater capacity to respond to complex mental health and suicide behaviours commensurate with need. However, to build this capacity and reach our highest risk, remote communities across Australia, Jilya needs the support of our fellow Australians committed to making a difference.

The Jilya model provides our best opportunity of a future free of what has now become generational child suicides at the worlds highest rates in our own backyard.

If your organisation can fund or support the Westerman Jilya Institute for Indigenous Mental Health, please contact us.

Visit our website for further information on research and funding opportunities at <u>www.thejilyainstitute.com.au</u>

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# MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE KIM BEAZLEY, AC GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR

## THE DR TRACY WESTERMAN INDIGENOUS PSYCHOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

I could not be prouder to be Patron of the Dr Tracy Westerman Indigenous Psychology Scholarship Program. Tracy is a remarkable woman with an important vision – to reduce the alarming suicide rates in our rural and remote Indigenous communities, where children as young as 10 years of age are ending their own lives. Since the program's official launch at Government House in 2019, we have already seen the impact that these scholarships have had on the inaugural five recipients, each studying a Bachelor of Psychology at Curtin University. Through the program's support, the students have been able to focus on their studies and benefit from unique experiences including overseas exchanges. It is clear that their confidence has grown and their goals have been sharpened and, importantly, each is committed to using their knowledge of Aboriginal health in high risk communities in the future.

Kin G. Benfry