STATEMENT OF INTENT AND
SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION
Social Reinvestment WA and the Shire of Halls Creek:
Olabud Doogethu Project

This document outlines the spirit in which Social Reinvestment WA and Olabud Doogethu intend to collaborate to establish a successful justice reinvestment site together.

Social Reinvestment WA (SRWA) is a state-wide coalition committed to reducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Incarceration across WA, through Social Reinvestment approaches. SRWA collaborates with communities to drive strong, healthy families, safe communities, and smart justice approaches. The key tenet driving these outcomes is our firm belief that ground up, place based solutions deliver the best service and social outcomes for local communities.

Social Reinvestment WA recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the state celebrate diverse law and cultural obligations and responsibilities. As required Social Reinvestment WA will enable the community’s capability to develop and deliver culturally secure, ground up and place based solutions to best serve their community; their needs and aspirations for a brighter future. We support Self Determination in action.

Olabud Doogethu (OD) is spearheaded by the Department of Youth and Community Development, at the Shire of Halls Creek in WA’s East Kimberley region, covering an area of 143,030 square kilometres that long custodianship remains alive today and is revealed in the culture of the Jaru, Kija, Kukatja, Walmajarri, Gooniyandi and other Indigenous people who live in Halls Creek Shire. The majority of Shire Councillors identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and the shire employs a significant Aboriginal workforce. OD is an initiative that seeks to focus on actions that simultaneously build local community cohesion, capacity, leadership and infrastructure; Tackle Indigenous disadvantage; And create local juvenile justice support opportunities that focus on diversion, rehabilitation and community based early intervention. OD seeks to develop and implement, in partnership, innovative working models and programs that are responsive to the local situation and respond to best practice state and national guidelines.

This project brings together remote communities across the region including Balgo, Billiluna, Mulan, Ringer Soak, Warmun and Yilyi; as well as the town of Halls Creek and the surrounding four community cultural groups Yardgee, Nicholson Block, Mardiwah Loop and Red Hill, each representing unique respected Elders and cultural practices. One size does not fit all in this municipality, as such, approaches to civic and social development need to be inclusive of and responsive to this diversity not only in Halls Creek but across the entire Shire regional area.

OD project is working to highlight and implement capability to work along-side, or resource/broker Aboriginal lead services across multiple communities seeking out their direction and input in the key issues that impact their communities collectively and separately; as exampled by the OD co-design processes.
Partnership Context
There is a sense of urgency due to the issues that are prevalent for youth within the Halls Creek Shire - including high rates of youth offending, youth suicide, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and instances of complex trauma. Halls Creek has one of the largest youth populations per capita in Australia; 51% of the East Kimberley’s young people (10-19 years) reside here, and 43.2% of Hall’s Creek Shire’s population are under the age of 25 (ABS, 2016). These complex intractable issues illuminate a need to approach youth development in a collective, community-driven methodology - compelling the Shire of Halls Creek to conduct an ambitious and innovative method of collaborating community interests, needs, and ambition through an extensive all-encompassing consultation process which will be outlined in the body of this work.

Olabud Doogethu is as a response to persistent Indigenous social, cultural and economic disadvantage and over-representation of young Indigenous citizens in the criminal justice system in this region. OD and SRWA have agreed to enter a partnership to support the ongoing establishment, implementation, evaluation, and promotion of the Olabud Doogethu project within Halls Creek Shire.

Our Shared Commitment
Both parties enter into this Justice Reinvestment Site project with the shared vision of building communities rather than prisons, and reducing Aboriginal incarceration rates in the Halls Creek area, whilst fostering a positive sense of live-ability, aspiration and sustainability within communities.

With the goal of smart justice through justice reinvestment, the JRS will use asset-based community development to implement a placed based solution, and measure and evaluate the effectiveness of this initiative through a Collective Impact approach. This solution must come from Aboriginal led co-design given adequate time for consultation so it can build towards a genuinely community owned initiative building healthy families and safe communities, using smart justice approaches.

Shared Principles

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Self Determination
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the strength, capacity, and understanding to determine their own futures and solutions. We support self-determination by implementing solutions designed, guided, and delivered by and with local Aboriginal people; and increasing the evidence base to demonstrate effectiveness of Aboriginal owned solutions including cultures role in promoting positive social outcomes. “Nothing about our communities without us.”

2. Genuine community led co design for sustainable, place based solutions
For solutions to systemic social issues to be effective and sustainable, they should be targeted and tailored to the unique challenges recognised within individual communities. Communities are experts in their own realities, and solutions developed in true co-design would be owned by an empowered community, ready to steward implementation into the future.

3. Reducing Aboriginal Incarceration and Improving Social Outcomes for our people.
Elevating our communities out of poverty and disadvantage, and prioritising early intervention, prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration is integral to our work. This vision instrumental to achieving equal human rights, reconciliation, and a better shared future in WA.
4. Commitment to Justice Reinvestment Responses
A form of preventative action which responds to the underlying causes and determinants of crime which are overwhelmingly social. Critically, JR diverts the flow of funding and resources from tertiary justice responses such as prison, to upstream solutions such as cultural, social, and emotional wellbeing programs, producing significant social and economic benefits.

5. Informing new understandings of the justice system to challenge ineffectual narratives.
Using evidence, and real stories to educate the WA population about the justice system and effective and connected responses to crime; And informing future policies and practices throughout the state.

6. Recognising the assets, and opportunities in every community
Every community has strengths, resources, and assets which should be the foundation upon which community plans are built. We will help build capable communities with vitality rather than prisons.

7. Expanding the evidence based and demonstrating the effectiveness of smart justice alternatives
Building the evidence base through outcomes measurement; ongoing analysis; independent publications; and Indigenous led research to inform solutions and systemic reforms that will improve community outcomes for healthier families and safer communities using a Smart Justice approach.

8. Innovation & Collaboration
‘The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results’ Einsteins definition of madness. To change the stories in our communities, and overcome intergenerational disadvantage, we need creative solutions and courage to try different approaches. The interconnected nature of crime and disadvantage calls for holistic approaches, and subsequently collaboration and genuine partnership is critical to developing any successful solutions.
We the undersigned, hereby commit to this Statement of Intent and Spirit of Collaboration on behalf of Social Reinvestment WA and the Shire of Halls Creek, for the purposes of working together on the Olabud Doogethu Project.

Peter Wein
Ranger Sear
26/1/2019

Anthony Jack
Yiyili
27/8/2019

Larry Smith
Yarngeer
26/8/2019

Kenny Long
Nicholson B1
27/8/2019

Sean Cox
Yiyili
27/8/2019

Vang
Nicholson BLock
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Michael Cox
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27/8/2019

Daryl Murphy
Red Hill
27/8/2019
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COUNCILLOR

R. Stone

26/8/2019

SEJINASTURT

Red Hill Community

27/08/2019

Goy Mawen

Bilikula Community

30/8/2019

MARGARET STURT

Margaret Sturt - Billilunga

30/8/2019

Nattana Strela

Boogo Community

30/8/2019

Nabilour

Mulan Community

31/8/2019

Johang John

Mulan Community

31/8/19

Miranda Gore

Mardunahcup

02/10/2019
We the undersigned, hereby commit to this Statement of Intent and Spirit of Collaboration on behalf of Social Reinvestment WA and the Shire of Halls Creek, for the purposes of working together on the Olabud Doogethu Project.

Glenda Kickett        Daniel Morrison
SRWA Co-Chairperson  SRWA Co-Chairperson
14 / 10 /2019          14/10/19

SRWA MEMBERS: