

Indigenous DRUMBEAT Project Cultural Protocols

In Phase 1 of the Indigenous DRUMBEAT Project (Broome/Derby), the Cultural Reference Group 1 was established with Indigenous Australian representation only. The key role of this group is to:

1. Oversee the cultural adaptations guide in the Indigenous DRUMBEAT manual to include opportunities to culturally adapt the manual to suit local needs.
2. Determine cultural protocols in relation to the Indigenous DRUMBEAT project facilitation to protect the integrity and Aboriginal ownership of the project and promote capacity building and sustainability through the Kimberley Region long term.

In Phase 2 of the Project (Halls Creek), the Cultural Reference Group 2 was established to review the protocols for cultural suitability locally. The protocols from Phase 1 were accepted and some additional comments added. This document is the combination of all consultations across the Kimberley and lists all the Cultural protocols that have been determined by the Cultural Reference Group (which is now one merged group to provide any further cultural input).

The Cultural Reference Group determined the following cultural protocols for Indigenous DRUMBEAT, which must be adhered to by all IDB Trained Facilitators delivering the program:

1. **IDB Program Facilitators can determine the cultural protocols required within their own organisations and communities in relation to seeking appropriate permission(s) to deliver the program.** Facilitators can rely on their own knowledge and spiritual guidance and accept guidance relevant to elders and community members from that country where Indigenous DRUMBEAT is being delivered. Further, the group identified that:
 - The right to self-determine appropriate protocols for Indigenous DRUMBEAT program themselves serves all Aboriginal people.
 - This process is all about self-empowering facilitators.
 - This is best cultural practice and the best way to engage our mob; countrymen look for countrymen to engage with.
 - It is important to emphasize connection and links to country when delivering the program.
 - Holyoake needs to ensure the training and mentoring includes capacity building to encourage and support the facilitators' capacity to be empowered to make these decisions.
2. **The Primary Facilitator of Indigenous DRUMBEAT must be Indigenous Australian.**
 - The Co-Facilitator can be non-Indigenous but cannot lead cultural discussions and must support the Primary Facilitator.
 - Everyone trained regardless of ethnicity can become accredited in Indigenous DRUMBEAT if they abide by the protocols.

3. Research - Building cultural best practice program evidence is important.

- The Cultural Reference Group identified that conducting research is crucial to build the evidence that this is the best way for Aboriginal people to work with/support other Aboriginal people.
- By evaluating this way of engaging with Aboriginal people, with Aboriginal people leading the program facilitation, the Indigenous DRUMBEAT Program evaluation contributes to the best cultural practice body of work required.
- Holyoake is conducting the Indigenous DRUMBEAT Project evaluation across 2 pilot locations and pilot facilitators play an important role in supporting the evaluation by discussing the evaluation with participants and supporting them to fill out the evaluation forms if they choose to participate.
- The Evaluation Facilitator Guide and other evaluation resources are located in the Evaluation Section of the Portal.

4. Mixed Indigenous/Non-Indigenous Group Delivery.

The Cultural Reference Group determined that delivery to mixed group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people could be a positive cultural experience for non-Indigenous people - especially in school settings - as long as the following protocols apply:

- The lead facilitator must be Indigenous as per Protocol 1
- The group must comprise at least 50% Indigenous people
- Organisations delivering the program have a right to determine what is best for their client groups (mixed or not).

Holyoake thanks all the Cultural Reference Group members and acknowledge the vital contribution they have made to the cultural integrity and quality of the Indigenous DRUMBEAT Program.

Members that have participated work with the following organisations across the Kimberley Region:

- ✚ Men's Outreach Service Aboriginal Corporation
- ✚ Change Em Ways
- ✚ Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation Residential Rehabilitation
- ✚ Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service
- ✚ Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service
- ✚ Youth Justice/ Department of Corrective Services
- ✚ Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- ✚ Anglicare Derby
- ✚ Yura Yungi Medical Service
- ✚ Halls Creek District High School
- ✚ Warlawurru Catholic School