



## An Introduction to Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa

Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ) is the trading name of Kalyuku Ninti – Puntuku Ngurra Limited, a not-for-profit public company whose members are Martu (see below). The company is based in Newman, where it has an office, but its activities take place mainly in the Western Desert communities of Jigalong, Parnngurr, Punmu and Kunawarritji (refer attached map).

This introduction covers the following topics:

- Background to Martu
- A summary of KJ's corporate mission
- An outline of KJ's philosophy
- A brief description of KJ's program areas.

## Background to Martu

Martu are the traditional owners of a vast area of central Western Australia and their native title rights have been recognised across a number of determinations.

KJ works with Martu on what is referred to as the Martu Native Title Determination (the Martu Determination) which spans parts of the Great Sandy, Little Sandy and Gibson Deserts to the east of Newman. The Martu Determination stretches from the Percival Lakes in the north to south of Lake Disappointment, and from Jigalong in the west to past the Canning Stock Route in the east. The Martu Determination and Karlamilyi National Park which it surrounds spans nearly 15 million hectares or twice the size of Tasmania.

Martu are among the last of Australia's Indigenous people to make contact with the European world, with many coming in from a completely traditional desert life as late as the 1960s. Many living Martu have stories of first contact with European civilisation and of coming into stations and missions from the desert.

Martu are now concentrated in Newman, Port Hedland, Wiluna, Nullagine and the desert communities of Jigalong, Parnngurr, Punmu and Kunawarritji. People who identify as Martu are also located in a number of Kimberley communities, particularly Bidyadanga and communities south of Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek. They remain a strong and distinctive indigenous community, with a proud identity and history. Their story through the 20th century provides a fascinating insight into the process of contact with white Australia.

The desert communities are all "dry" communities in which Martu have determined that the possession or consumption of alcohol will not be tolerated.



## Corporate Mission

*KJ is working with Martu to build strong, sustainable communities.*

KJ is focused on three complementary objectives:

- to preserve and celebrate Martu culture;
- to build a viable economy in the Martu communities;
- to build pathways for young Martu to a healthy future.

These goals flow from a strongly-held philosophy which values the centrality of culture in people's lives. Culture is seen as the wellspring of identity, of confidence and of strength. This is as true for communities as it is for individuals.

## KJ Philosophy

### **Objectives**

Martu culture does not stand still. It is still strongly built on *Jukurrpa*. But the ways that people live are different now to *pujiman* ("Bushman") days prior to contact with white Australia. Martu live in the dynamic environment of remote communities, and deal with the mainstream world but this doesn't mean that they have lost their culture.

Culture affects what people value, how they make decisions, how people work together, how they live. Martu culture is not mainstream culture – it has its own strengths and its own methods.

The more that Martu build an economic base that is consistent with the society they want, the more strongly they will be able to make decisions about their future. The more they depend on Government, the less strength they will have.

So, KJ aims to build a viable, independent economy for Martu communities. But it must be one that is Martu-focussed and works well with Martu culture and society. Only with this combination will the communities be sustainable.

### **How we work**

KJ's objectives are achieved by working in a manner that is Martu-focussed and recognises and reinforces Martu values. The core principles by which KJ operates can be summarised as:

- **Partnership** – Martu and non-Martu working together as equals, with complementary skills and knowledge.
- **Building** – Creating the future that Martu people want, that strengthens Martu society and engages confidently and effectively with mainstream society.
- **Participation** – By building a culture of participation in Martu communities, individual Martu will be supported and strengthened.



- **Realism** – Taking account of the real pressures and politics and realistic timeframes within which change can occur.
- **Reflection** – Combining action with reflection, to learn as we go.
- **Honesty** – Talking and dealing straight with each other, with Government and with others.
- **Respect** – Martu and non-Martu can work strongly together if they respect each other and act with respect towards each other.

## Program Streams

Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa operates a number of programs comprising three primary streams, as follows:

### Healthy Ninti Stream

KJ's Healthy Ninti (Knowledge) Stream comprises the Puntura-ya Ninti (Martu culture and language) Program and Martu Leadership Program;

- Puntura-ya Ninti; The culture and language program is central to KJ's work. It informs virtually all other programs, and also has responsibility for preserving data, information and products generated by those other areas as well as contracted cultural awareness training sessions for external organisations. It incorporates the Kalyuku Ninti (return to country) Program. The Kalyuku Ninti Program enables elders to take young adults back out into their country, so that the elders can once more see the country and pass on their cultural knowledge to the young people.
- Martu Leadership Program; Martu Leadership Program targets young Martu eager to learn more about mainstream structures, processes and governance and to improve their ability to communicate their ideas and aspirations to the broader community and mainstream society more generally. The leadership program is open to both Martu men and women and has seen a steady increase in engagement from both genders very year since inception of the program.
- Communications; This program includes communications such as newsletters, films, reports and website targeting Martu, partners, funders and other external stakeholders.

### Healthy Ngurra Stream

KJ's Healthy Nugrra (Country) Stream comprises KJ's Ranger and Healthy Country programs.

- Ranger Program; The Ranger Program provides employment and training of Martu as Indigenous rangers to look after country while delivering social, cultural, economic and environmental outcomes for Martu, the Australian Government and other partners. The Ranger Program provides the foundation for Martu involvement and ownership of healthy country planning focussed on managing key natural and cultural heritage values for Martu.
- Healthy Country Program; This program works with KJ's Ranger Program and external conservation agencies to provide strategic and practical direction on threatened species management and monitoring, implementation of fire management and other threat abatement activities, record and transfer of ecological knowledge and water monitoring.



## **Corporate Services Program**

The Corporate Services Program is responsible for a range of functions across all program areas, including finances, funding, office management, infrastructure and procurement.

While KJ acknowledges that it is an organisation “for all Martu”, wherever they may be located, KJ’s activities are presently confined to the Martu Native Title Determination Area and the four desert communities listed above.

## Appendix A: Map of Martu native title determination

