



YOUTH PROGRAM NEWS

Laynhapuy Homelands Certificate II Community Services Youth Worker Training Journey



NIAA youth program contract says we must have all youth workers enrolled in, or completed, cert II level training.

For the 8 youth workers who were new and did not have cert II (4 youth workers already had done theirs) we firstly needed to do LLN testing for the students to ascertain the level of assistance that would need to be provided.

ALPA conducted these tests for us in 2022 across the homelands.



We decided to go for a Community Services qualification, rather than Sport and Recreation (as has been done in the past), to provide training that was broader, met the needs of homelands communities and provides pathways into other jobs.

Laynha and ALPA teams flying to homelands

ALPA conducting tests with the students



CREATING LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

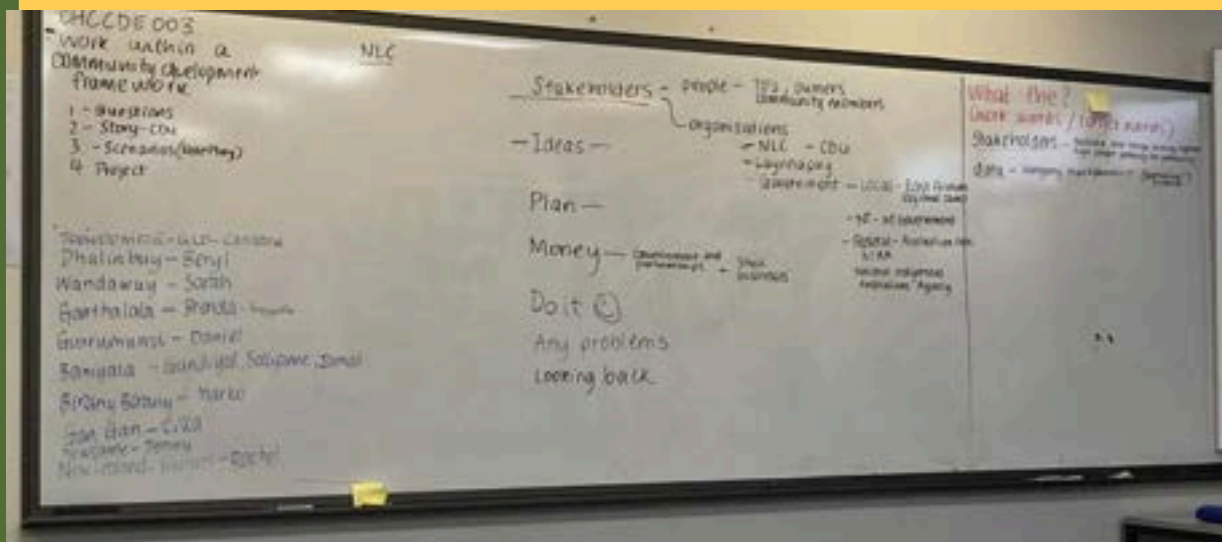
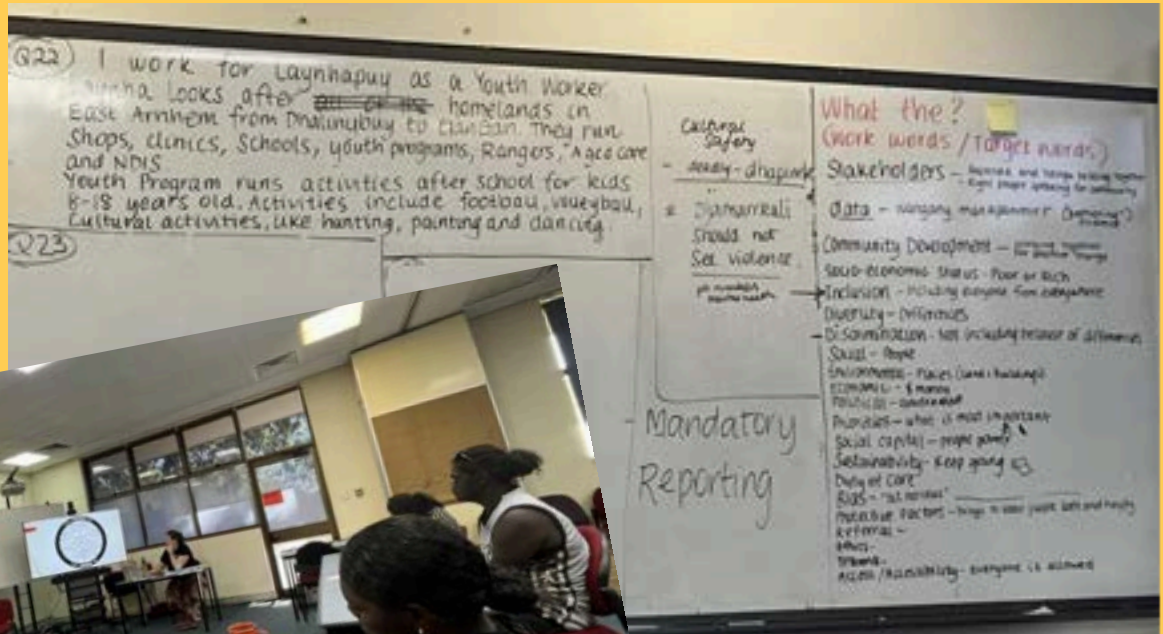
CDU were selected to provide the qualification initially, and they identified a Nhulunbuy based trainer, Christina Allgood.

CDU agreed to use NIAA Away From Base funding to pay for the transport, food and accommodation for the training to take place in blocks at their Katherine Rural Campus.

Our first block of training was in May 2023. We used three charter planes with Air Frontier. They did pick-ups from 7 different homelands – then straight to Katherine. We stayed at the campus from Sunday-Saturday then flew home again. We had a tutor in the class with us, Jenny, who helped us with literacy and numeracy.



LEARNING IN ACTION



TEAM BUILDING AND MENTORING

These trips were always great opportunities for team building and seeing some different places.

During this block of training we had Adam Drake visit us for mentoring.



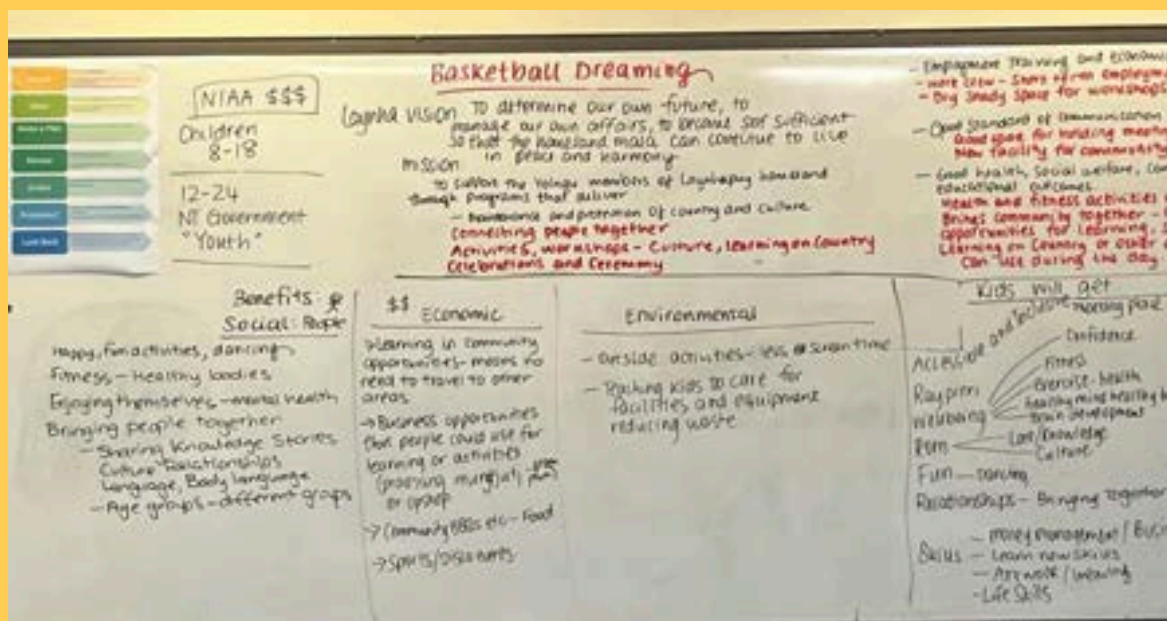


We stayed in two different dorms – one for the boys and one for us girls.



McDonald's drop off to Ninydjia

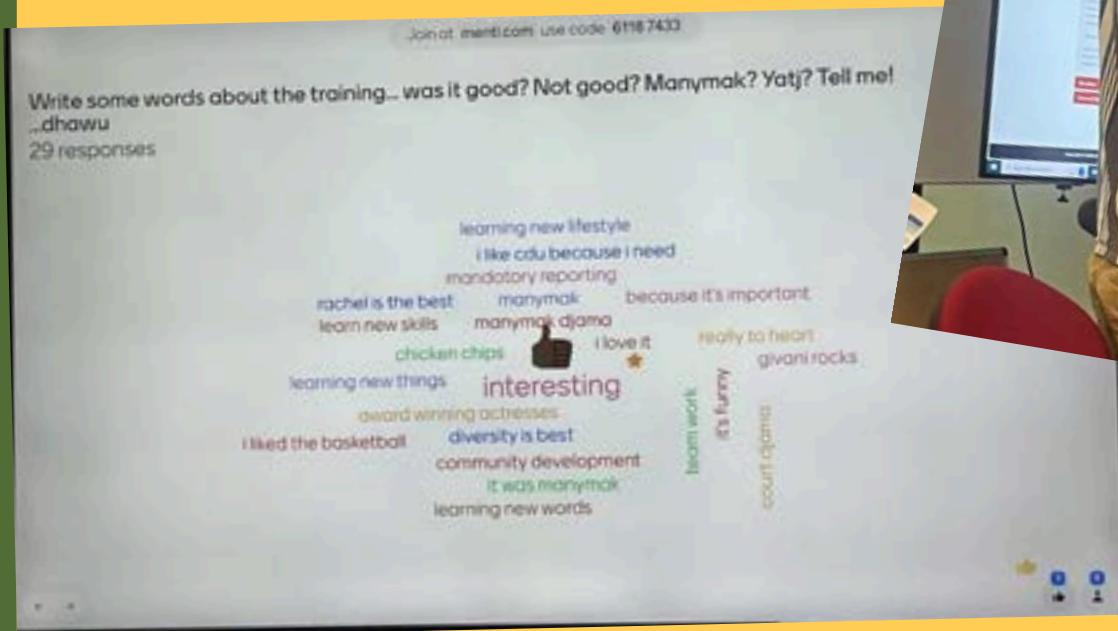
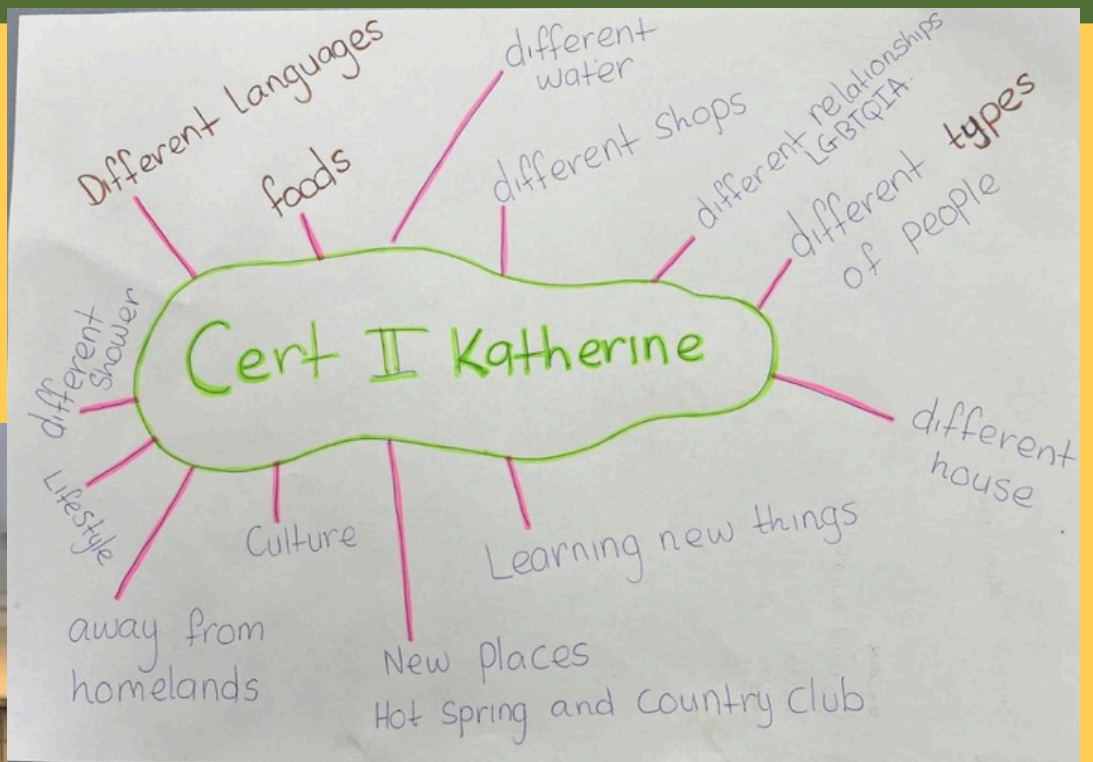
The next block was in September 2023. Again, we charted three planes to pick up the students from their homelands and we stayed on campus in Katherine for the week. This was the week we used the Gurrumuru basketball court as our community development project “Basketball Dreaming” and worked on this together.



Laynhapuy has now executed the contract for this and The works are scheduled to begin in the dry season in 2026



Jamaine joined us for the week and we also celebrated Wuypila's birthday.



MORE LEARNING AND TEAM BUILDING



LEARNING ON HOMELANDS

They started their Cert II with ALPA, and new youth worker Gomu joined in with them for Cert II as well. This was a different model, we mixed study on the homelands with studying at the ALPA Hub in Nhulunbuy.

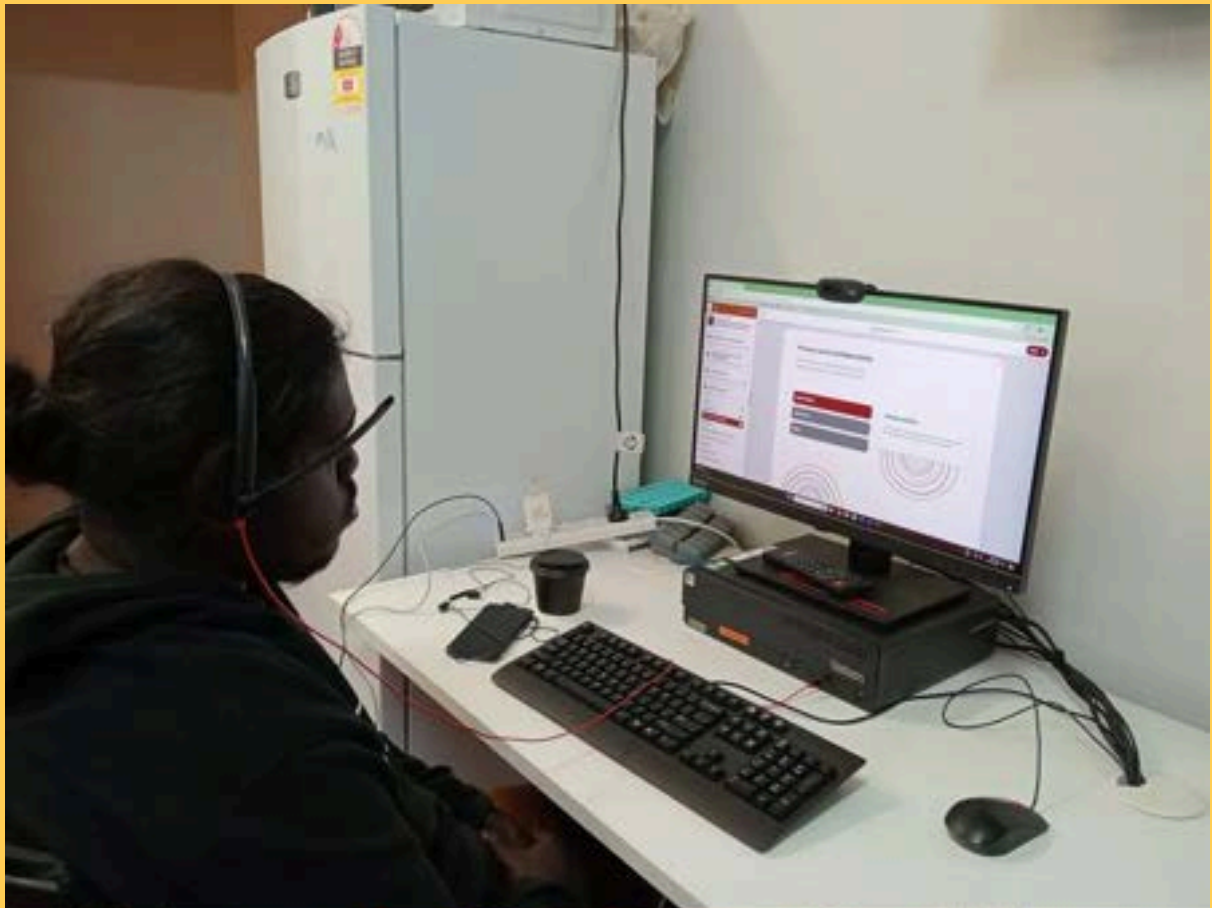
We started this at the beginning of 2024, and finished at the end of 2024. It was a different model of study with using computers more than group-based classroom learning with CDU.



New school based trainees Bangulŋa and Wilirriya joined the youth program during their last year of school at Makarraṯa in 2023.

Brett Doust (ALPA) was their trainer, and he traveled to Garrthalala and Ninydjia to conduct training with the students.





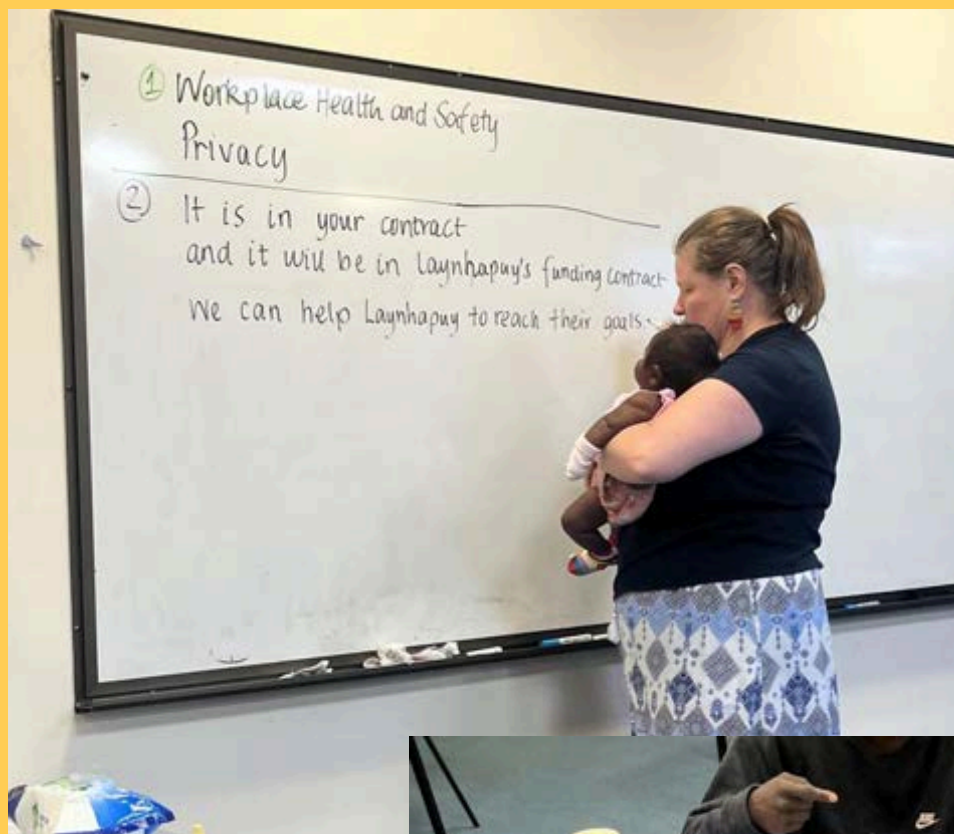




LEARNING ACROSS THE REGION

Our third trip to Katherine wasn't able to happen until 2024. By then we unfortunately lost a few students, but we also gained Shayla, Yanbatji, Matjirra and baby Martina. Martina's Märi came with us to support Sallyann with being a mum and studying.









LEARNING IN NHULUNBUY

With the Mathaman CDU campus opening in Nhulunbuy, we finished off our last two blocks there, one at the end of February 2025, and the very last block at the end of March 2025. Most of the students stayed at the Gove Peninsula Motel and could walk to class everyday and we got catering from the bakery.







CELEBRATING SUCCESS

As promised, I organised a trip to Cairns for the graduates as a reward for the Youth Workers' hard work and commitment. We did a two-day remote first aid course first of all, with the other youth workers that already have their cert II as well as Daniel, who has been working really hard at Gängan with the school.





*All checked in at
Nhulunbuy
Airport*



*We got to travel in the
big plane this time*



At Cairns Esplanade and Beach







FIRST AID TRAINING







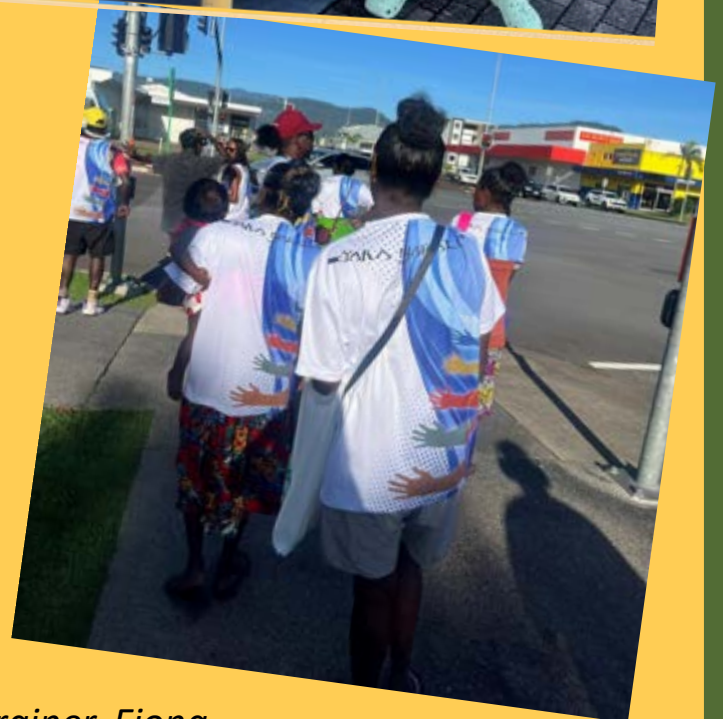








Hi Everyone. I hope you had a wonderful time at Green Island and safe travels home. It was amazing to meet you all and we hope to see you back in Cairns again, or even better, we are blessed to see your incredible homelands. Thanks for being such a fun bunch, teaching me some new words, and bringing the cutest baby. You will be fantastic youth workers 🍷💛🖤
With kind regards, Fi and First Aid Academy.



I got this lovely text message from our trainer, Fiona



Once we finished the course, the next day, we went on a boat trip to Green Island on the Great Barrier Reef.

It took us an hour to get there on the big cat.

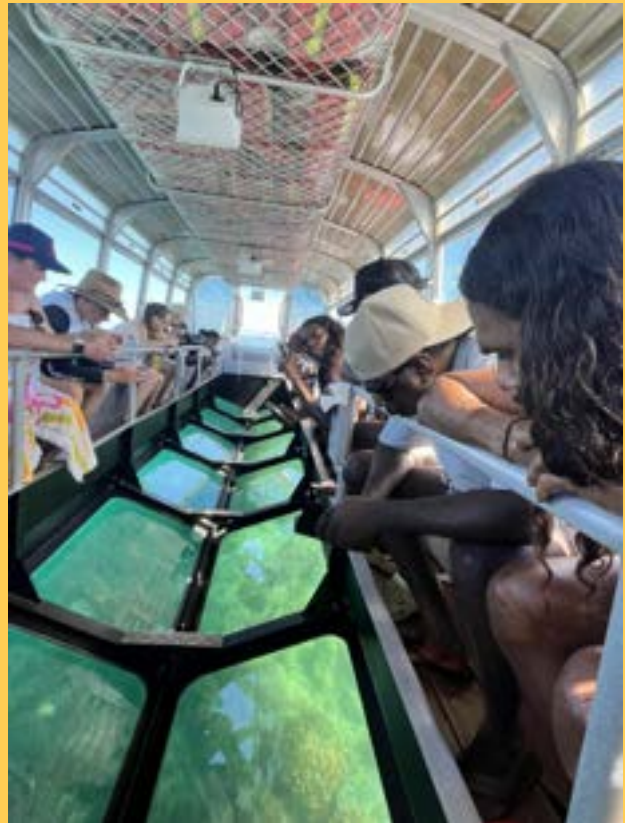














Please when you see the graduates in the homelands congratulate them on finishing their studies!

Graduation for CDU graduates will be 6th November.



Thank you to all the youth workers for their commitment. We didn't realise just how much work it would be when we started! I have been so lucky to spend all this time with them and it has really improved our team dynamics, and relationships between youth workers from different communities.

Thank you to Christina Allgood from Charles Darwin University and Brett Doust from ALPA. Having the same trainer for students for the entirety of the course made a huge difference to attendance. You both have been incredible in understanding the needs of the students and making sure we reach the end.

Thank you of course to NIAA for providing the funding for Laynhapuy's Youth Program, and the Away From Base allowances.

Also thank you to Laynhapuy Health for the support and flexibility for the youth program to be able to undertake this training.

Thank you Air Frontier for all the flights (and flight changes!)

Bring on the Garrthalala Bush Uni campus – I believe this will be the gold standard for homelands people to access education.

I am always willing to sit down with managers of yolŋu staff to discuss training models. We've learnt a lot along the way about how best to make it work for remote homelands students.

Rachel Godley - Youth and Families' Services Manager