

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

IN THIS EDITION

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- Koori Knockout 3-6 Oct 2025
- Marrawuy Journeys Pathways to Productivity Workshop
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 - iCBR Construction 22 Oct 2025
 - Procurement ACT Basics 29 Oct 2025

FUNDING

- GRANT - Residential Aged Care Services
- GRANT - Skills for Education and Employment (SEE)
- GRANT - Indigenous Visual Arts

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sustainable Business Networking Night, 19 Nov 2025
- First Wednesday Connect (FWC), 3 Dec 2025

RESOURCES

- Community First Development



Hi my name is Malcolm Towney, Proud Wiradjuri Man from Peak Hill, Central West NSW, home of the Red Dust Mob.

At Badji, we believe that supporting Indigenous businesses is more than just good practice – it's a powerful way to honour culture, promote equity, and strengthen our communities.

Indigenous-owned businesses bring unique perspectives, deep-rooted traditions, and innovative solutions to the marketplace.



"We are an ACT majority-owned and managed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander company.

We have a wealth of lived and learned experience to share with First Nations businesses"

**COOLAMON
ADVISORS**

Office Desk Space



We welcome all who would like to work from one of our spacious desks. Bring your laptop and enjoy high speed Wi-Fi, printer facilities, a great kitchen, tea and coffee.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We're here to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Businesses in the Canberra Region

- We help you with the qualifying documentation for Supply Nation registration or certification.
- We find the specific Business Mentoring and Coaching services you need.
- We search available business grants that you could be eligible for.
- We find opportunities for you to study in an Accelerated Business Program.
- We can assist you to up-skill your business and IT skills.
- Our Business Support Concierge is here to guide you along the journey to business success.
- We have resources to connect you with everything your business may need.
- We are available Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm.

The Program was gifted the name "BADJI" by Ngunnawal Elder Caroline Hughes, meaning "Arise" in the Ngunnawal language.

Commissioned artwork by Yarrudhamarra Creations.

The BADJI Business Support Program is an initiative by the ACT Government for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT to grow their business and for entrepreneurs to start one up.

Get in touch with us to book your desk space, find out how we can help your business, view or download all previous Newsletters or to subscribe :



coolamonadvisors.com.au/the-badji-business-support-program



malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au



02 5154 2300



2025 ACT NAIDOC Family Funday: The Next Generation STRENGTH, VISION AND LEGACY 25 October 2025

The ACT NAIDOC Family Funday returned to Boomanulla Oval in Narrabundah this year, marking over three decades of celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, community, and connection.

Since its inception in 1991, the Family Funday has grown into one of the ACT's most cherished NAIDOC Week traditions, bringing together families from across the region in a spirit of unity and pride.

This year's theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy," beautifully captured the essence of the day. It honoured the enduring strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the vision of emerging leaders, and the legacy carried forward through culture, storytelling, and community.

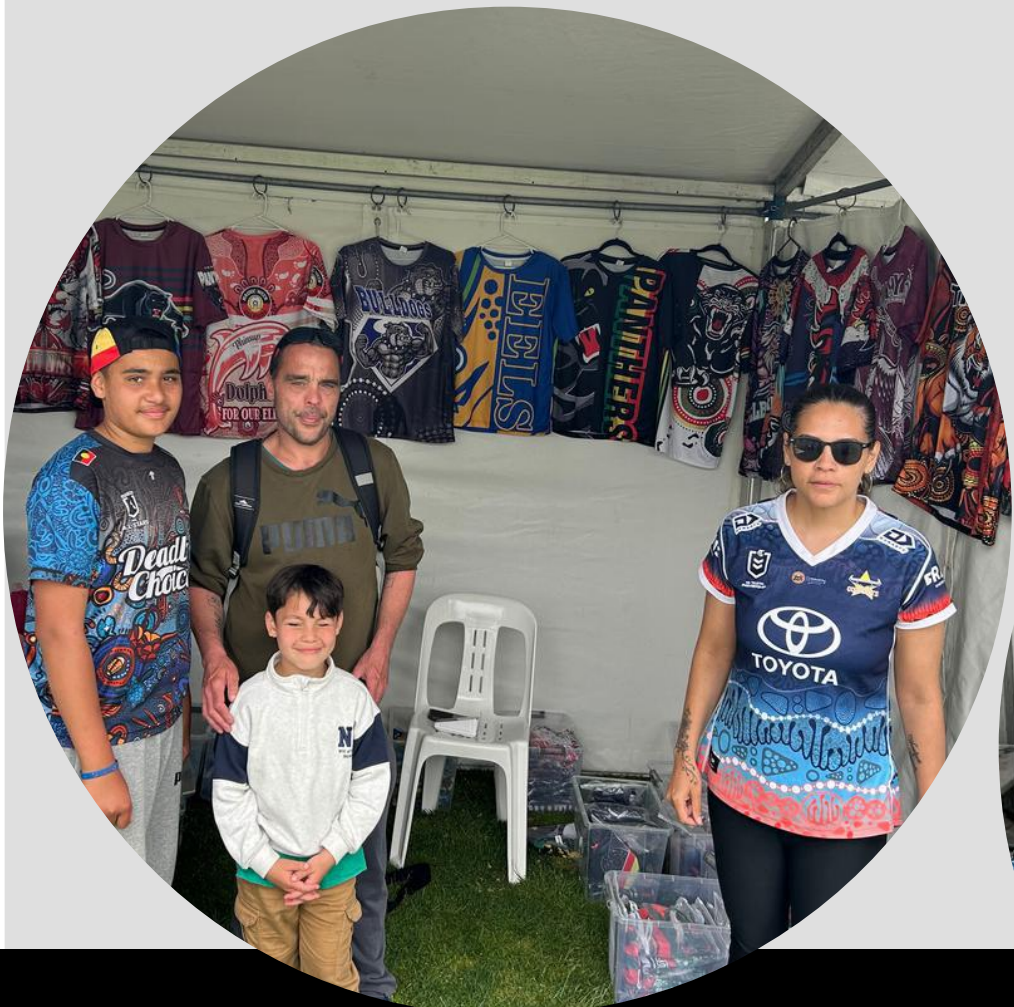
Boomanulla Oval, a place of deep cultural significance and community activity, provided the perfect setting for the festivities. The oval came alive with vibrant stalls, performances, and activities that showcased the creativity and resilience of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and artists.

Badji participants included:

- MJ's Designs
- Wurrumay Collective
- Our Sisterhood
- KaBu Art and Photography
- Blaklabel Dreaming
- Burrunjui Aboriginal Art Gallery

Their contributions added colour, culture, and connection to the day, creating a welcoming space for all who attended. Families, elders, children, and allies came together to celebrate the world's oldest living cultures and to look ahead to a future built on respect, understanding, and shared strength.

The ACT NAIDOC Family Funday continues to be a momentous occasion, not only celebrating the rich history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples but also empowering the next generation to carry forward the legacy with pride and purpose.



Top left: Julie Okely of Our Sisterhood.
Lower left: Taylor Huddleston of Burrunjui Aboriginal Art Gallery and Andrew Duncan with his family.
Top Centre: Malcolm Towney with Tasha Kaiser of Wurrumay Collective.

Top right: Kate Buerckner of KaBu Art and Photography.
Lower right: Tim Mutton and Kirstie Peters of Blaklabel Dreaming.
Lower centre: Michael Mitchell and Jenna Kelly of MJ's Designs.



Koori Knockout 2025

3-6 October 2025



Tens of thousands of people attended the Koori Knockout — the largest annual event for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

This iconic gathering brings together mob from across the country to celebrate culture, reconnect with community, and compete in Rugby League. Held over the October long weekend in Tamworth on Gomeri Country, the 2025 Knockout featured more than 170 teams across men's, women's, and junior divisions making it the biggest Knockout in the event's history.

The Newcastle Yowies dominated the finals, winning both the men's and women's grand finals. The men's team clinched a dramatic 25-24 victory over the Bourke Warriors with a last-minute field goal by Kyle Laybutt, while the women's team defeated Wiradjuri Aboriginal Rivers 14-0, led by standout performances from Shanelle Lyons and Caitlin Moran.

Beyond the footy, the Knockout is a vibrant celebration of culture, identity, and resilience. Traditional dance, language, and storytelling were woven throughout the weekend, alongside a thriving Aboriginal Business Precinct showcasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entrepreneurs. The event also served as a platform for intergenerational connection, with elders sharing stories and wisdom with younger generations.

Badji Coordinator Malcolm Towney spent four days catching up with players, families, and supporters, sharing in the energy and pride of the event.

Shoutout to the beautiful city of Tamworth that delivered another powerful celebration of sport, culture, and community continuing its proud tradition of uniting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and highlighting their skills on the rugby league field.



Photo top left:
Former NRL and Knockout favourite Ricky Walford of Saint George Dragons.

Photo above left:
Badji Co-ordinator Malcolm Towney with former Australian Touch Footy and NRLW representative and now TV Celebrity Bo Delacruz.



Photo above centre:
Former NRL Souths and Storm legend Beau Champion.

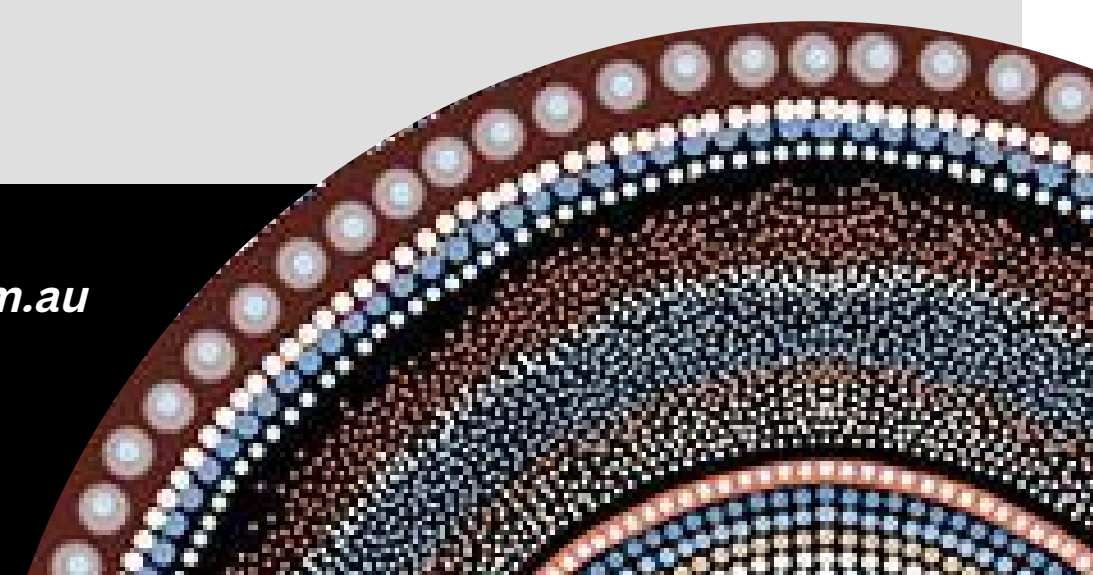


Photo top right:
Manager of Indigenous Community Programs NSWRL Kristian Heffernan and former ARL player Steve "Zip Zip man" Ella.

Photo above right:
TV Personality and Commentator Brad Cook with Malcolm.

Would you like us to join you at an event or to talk more about it? Get in touch with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator

 malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au
 **02 5154 2300**



Pathways to Productivity:

A Creative and Culturally Grounded Workshop Experience



During October, Coolamon staff had the opportunity to participate in the pilot Pathways to Productivity workshop, delivered by Sarah Richards of Marrawuy Journeys, a proud Aboriginal owned business. The workshop was designed to support business owners and teams in strengthening clarity, focus, and wellbeing through a unique blend of self-assessment, discussion, and reflective art.

Rooted in Aboriginal ways of learning through story, connection, and creativity the Pathways to Productivity Maturity Model (PPMM) was presented in a way that was both accessible and engaging. Participants from diverse backgrounds found the model easy to understand and highly relevant to their work and wellbeing.



One of the most appreciated aspects of the workshop was its interactive format, which encouraged participants to pause, reflect, and connect with the material in a meaningful way.

The artistic activity stood out as a highlight beautifully facilitated, inclusive, and non-threatening. It allowed staff to express insights creatively and contributed to a deeper, more personal engagement with the workshop themes.



The session struck a thoughtful balance between structure and openness, creating space for genuine reflection and shared learning.

The integration of storytelling and visual elements added richness to the experience, reinforcing key themes and insights in a way that felt both natural and empowering.

Led by Sarah Richards CPA, Executive MBA, and CWB Indigenous Business Woman of the Year 2023 the workshop showcased how cultural knowledge, creativity, and business insight can come together to support sustainable growth and wellbeing.

Sarah's facilitation was deeply considered and unhurried, allowing participants to feel heard and supported throughout.

*For further information
and assistance to connect with
Sarah of Marrawuy, please contact
Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator*

 malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au
 02 5154 2300

*Overall, Pathways to Productivity
was a creative, empowering,
and impactful experience.
It has laid a strong foundation
for future engagement and
growth, and its potential to
support leadership and
innovation is clear.*



COOLAMON
ADVISORS



BADJI

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER BUSINESS SUPPORT
PROGRAM



October 2025

Indigenous Business Month Workshop

Strength through Collaboration: IBA Information Session at Boomanulla Oval 15 October 2025

As part of the Badji October Indigenous Business Month workshops, an engaging and informative session was held on Wednesday 15 October 2025 at Boomanulla Oval, Narrabundah, tailored specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and community-controlled organisations.

Delivered by Neil Barry of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), the session offered participants a valuable opportunity to explore the range of support available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entrepreneurs.

The workshop covered:

- What IBA offers and how to access its services.
- Business and finance support available through IBA.
- Opportunities for growth and sustainability for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ventures.

Participants represented a wide range of industries, including construction, arts, consulting, and more highlighting the diversity and innovation within the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business community.

A highlight of the session was when Neil from IBA opened the floor to questions, creating a welcoming space for participants to demystify the IBA process and gain clarity on how to navigate available support pathways.

Participants were particularly drawn to the Start-Up Finance Package, which provides tailored financial assistance to help new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses get off the ground. More information about this package is available at iba.gov.au/business/finance/start-finance-package.

The workshop was beautifully catered by Ribanas Catering, whose delicious offerings added warmth and hospitality to the day, creating a relaxed and welcoming environment for learning and connection.

In line with this year's Indigenous Business Month theme Strength through Collaboration, the session was a shining example of how partnerships between organisations like IBA and local communities can empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprise and foster long-term success.



For further information please contact
Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator



malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au



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BADJI

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER BUSINESS SUPPORT
PROGRAM



October 2025

Indigenous Business Month Workshop

Building Strong Foundations: Construction Workshop with iCBR Infrastructure Canberra

22 October 2025

As part of the Badji October Indigenous Business Month series, a dynamic Construction Workshop was held on Wednesday 22 October 2025 at Boomanulla Oval, Narrabundah, bringing together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander construction businesses and government representatives.

Delivered in partnership with Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR), the workshop focused on strengthening connections between Indigenous businesses and the broader construction ecosystem. Key topics included:

- Insights into procurement processes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander construction businesses.
- Networking opportunities with government representatives and industry stakeholders.
- Strategies for engagement with the wider infrastructure and construction sector.

This was an open session, where participants were encouraged to express their challenges and frustrations in navigating government procurement and infrastructure engagement. The dialogue provided valuable insights into upcoming infrastructure changes and developments across the ACT. Many businesses were excited by the prospect of contributing to culturally safe, appropriate, and informed infrastructure, recognising the importance of embedding Indigenous perspectives into the built environment.

Participants came from a range of construction-related fields, reflecting the depth of talent and capability within the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business community.

In keeping with the 2025 Indigenous Business Month theme Strength through Collaboration, this workshop was a powerful example of how partnerships between government and community can open doors, build capacity, and create lasting opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises.

The event was once again beautifully catered by Ribanas Catering, whose hospitality helped foster a welcoming and collaborative atmosphere throughout the day.



For further information please contact
Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator



malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au



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BADJI

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER BUSINESS SUPPORT
PROGRAM



October 2025

Indigenous Business Month Workshop

Demystifying Procurement: ACT Government Basics Workshop

29 October 2025

The final session in the Badji October Indigenous Business Month workshop series took place on Wednesday 29 October 2025 at Boomanulla Oval, Narrabundah, and saw the highest attendance of the month. The workshop attracted a diverse range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, spanning arts, construction, security, labour hire, and more highlighting the strength and breadth of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business sector.

Delivered by Procurement ACT, the session was designed to clarify government procurement processes and provide practical, accessible guidance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses looking to engage with the ACT Government. Topics covered included:

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy.
- Key procurement policies impacting business.
- How to access opportunities and register with ACT Government.
- What to expect when responding to quotes and tenders.

This was a highly interactive session, where participants were actively encouraged to ask questions and explore pain points within the ACT Government procurement process. Businesses shared their experiences and challenges, while gaining clarity on how to better navigate government systems.

The ACT Government Procurement team was notably well-informed and committed, providing generous insights and assistance throughout the session. Their openness and responsiveness helped build trust and confidence among attendees.

In alignment with the 2025 Indigenous Business Month theme Strength through Collaboration, this workshop was a strong example of how transparent and inclusive engagement can empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to thrive within government supply chains.

The event was once again beautifully catered by Ribanas Catering, whose hospitality added warmth and connection to the day's discussions.



For further information please contact
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malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au



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GRANTS

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AGED CARE CLASSIFICATION (AN-ACC)

GRANT ID: G08011

The purpose of this grant opportunity is to provide targeted temporary support for a small number of residential aged care services with specific characteristics that do not align with existing Base Care Tariff (BCT) categories under the current AN-ACC funding model, specifically:

- services in MM1-3 locations with at least 50% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander residents and experience higher costs compared with other MM1-3 services).

CLOSING: 24 November 2025 2pm

grants.gov.au

INDIGENOUS VISUAL ARTS INDUSTRY SUPPORT PROGRAM

GRANT ID: G08021

Funding will be provided to organisations for activities that best contribute to delivery of the following Program outcomes:

1. a professional, viable and ethical Indigenous visual arts industry that features strong participation by, and provides economic opportunities for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
2. the continued production, exhibition, critique, purchase and collection of Indigenous visual art.

CLOSING: 5 December 2025 11:30pm

grants.gov.au

SKILLS FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT (SEE) FIRST NATIONS - DELIVERY GRANT OPPORTUNITY - ROUND 3

GRANT ID: G08002

SEE First Nations grants will fund projects that are designed to meet whole of community English LLND skills training needs of First Nations people.

Improving English LLND skills is a stepping stone to improving:

- individual, family and community wellbeing, and
- cultural and social outcomes.

CLOSING: 9 February 2026 3pm

grants.gov.au

The above information is a very brief snapshot of some points of these grants.
Please access the grant documents for full details.

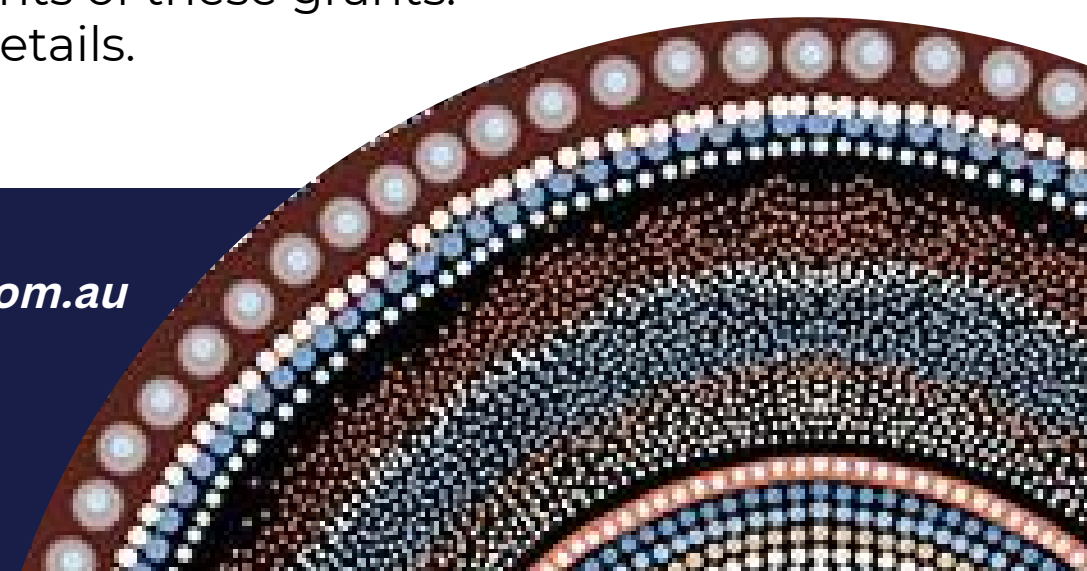
*Would you like assistance? Get in touch
with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator*



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EVENTS



EPSDD SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NETWORKING NIGHT

Wrap up 2025 at the Sustainable Business Networking Night – an evening of connection, reflection, and canapés.

Join Canberra’s business community to celebrate the achievements of the past year and build momentum for what’s ahead.

Presented in collaboration with the ACT Government's City and Environment Directorate, the Industry Capability Network, and the Canberra Innovation Network, this is a valuable opportunity to engage with local industry leaders, exchange ideas, and explore new partnerships.

Cost of free, registration is essential.

Date: Wed 19 Nov 2025 5–6:30pm

Location: Juliet Room, Verity Lane Market, Sydney Building, Canberra City

[events.humanitix](https://events.humanitix.com/)

CBRIN FIRST WEDNESDAY CONNECT (FWC)

First Wednesday Connect (FWC) is a regular monthly networking event that aims to broaden the innovation ecosystem in Canberra and encourage collaboration. Not sure what to expect? Check out CBRIN’s tips on attending and making the most of networking events.

It is free to attend, although registrations are essential.

Date: Wed 3 Dec 2025 5–6:30pm

Location: Level 5, 1 Moore Street, Canberra City

cbrin.com.au/fwc

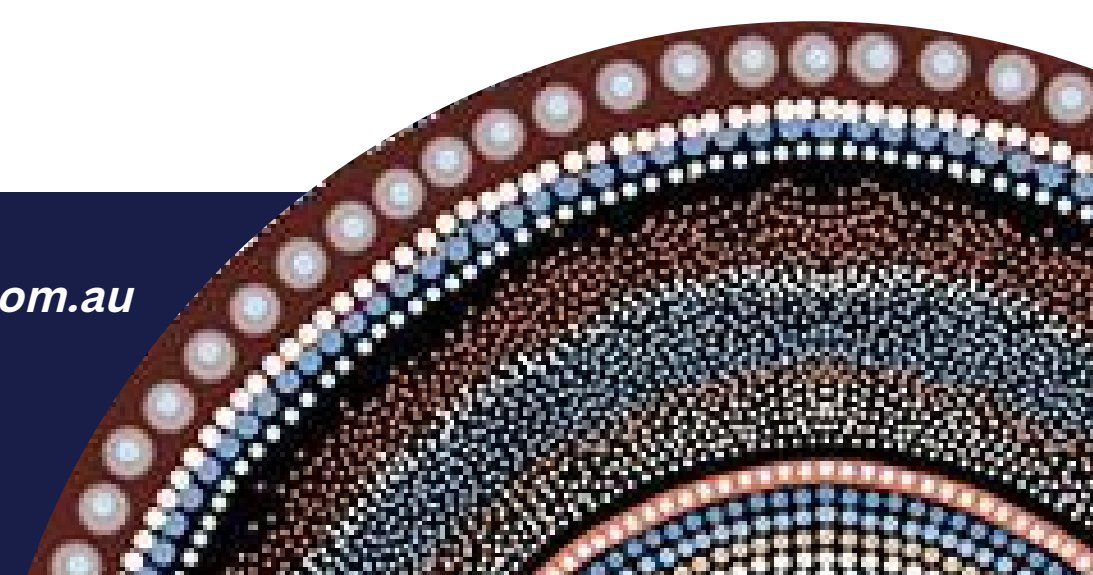
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02 5154 2300





Badji Collaboration Spotlight: Connecting Participants with



COMMUNITY FIRST
DEVELOPMENT

As part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led networks, Badji has recently referred several program participants to Community First Development - an organisation that is also proudly part of the Badji community.

Community First Development is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led not-for-profit that partners with communities across Australia to support locally driven development projects. Their work spans areas such as cultural revitalisation, education, health, and economic empowerment, all guided by principles of self-determination, co-design, and community leadership.

In addition to supporting community-led initiatives, Community First Development has been of great assistance to Badji participants with website design and strategic advice, helping them build a strong digital presence and communicate their stories effectively.

By connecting Badji participants with Community First Development, we're enabling:

- Access to tailored support for community-led initiatives
- Opportunities to collaborate with skilled volunteers and professionals
- Capacity building aligned with each community's unique goals

This referral pathway exemplifies the power of the Badji network where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations, and businesses come together to amplify impact through shared knowledge and relationships.

We look forward to seeing the outcomes of these collaborations and continuing to support our participants in building strong, sustainable futures.

**Learn more about
Community First Development's impact**

**[communityfirstdevelopment.org.au/our-
impact](https://communityfirstdevelopment.org.au/our-impact)**

*Would you like assistance to link with these
opportunities? Get in touch with Malcolm,
Badji Co-ordinator*

 malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au
 02 5154 2300

