

Strong Connections, Strong Communities

– A local perspective



Communities
& Justice

Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Northern Sydney District

Putting people first
Service • Integrity • Trust • Accountability



Nelly's Healing
Aboriginal Corporation



Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country



“One Voice, One Community, Working Together”

Artwork by Lewis Hennessey

About Us



Eimear O'Farrell

– Director Commissioning & Planning, SSESNS District, DCJ

Helen Eason

– Founder and CEO, Nelly's Healing Centre

Shane Phillips

– CEO, Tribal Warrior

Lily Miles

*– Program Manager H.O.M.E. (Healing Our Mob through Empowerment),
Tribal Warrior*

SSESNS District



SSESNS District

- Key Characteristics

- Large District encompassing 3 catchment areas: Sydney, South Eastern Sydney, and Northern Sydney.
- Overall population in each catchment area

As per the 2021 National Census (<i>First Release</i>)			
Catchment Area	Population	Aboriginal Population	
		No.	% of overall
Sydney	946,949	8,837	0.93%
South Eastern Sydney	818,221	9,080	1.11%
Northern Sydney	898,285	4,119	0.46%

- Aboriginal services

Challenges – why change was needed

- **Recognition** that there were very few Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in the district that receive funding by DCJ to provide services to Aboriginal children, families and communities.
- Further recognition of the historic mistrust in working with DCJ (and its predecessors).
- **Understanding** the need to build and maintain real relationships with ACCOs and Aboriginal communities.
- **Acknowledgement** that DCJ processes, systems, protocols and policies can be difficult to understand and navigate.

Making Change

- Starts with **genuine commitment and leadership** from DCJ Executive and senior management to work locally to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal children, families and communities in the Sydney, South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney District.
- **Internal change** that drives our commitment, and ensures it is felt and maintained by all staff, in everything we do.
- **Valuing** our Aboriginal staff.
- Working locally to build **relationships and partnerships** with Aboriginal services.
- Increasing our **understanding** of the needs of Aboriginal families and communities.
- Looking for **opportunities** to contract services from ACCOs, including local services developed to meet local need.
- **Being open** to conversations about how we can do better.



DCJ Commitment – now and into the future

- Overarching DCJ commitments under **Close the Gap**, including those under Priority Reform 2 to build the ACCO sector.
- Commitment to continue building **mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal organisations** and communities throughout the District.
- Making **accessing funding through procurement easier**, including:
 - Looking for simpler, more direct ways to run tenders for human services that embrace the skills and experiences of community organisations.
 - Encouraging flexible responses, like video, verbal or presentations for providers instead of exclusively written remarks.
- The **NSW Government** also made a commitment to secure jobs and funding certainty for the community services sector.
- Investing available funding in the District ACCO sector, as determined by Aboriginal Community.

Relationships and Partnerships

Our commitment to fostering relationships and building partnerships has been enhanced by:

- Bringing 4 new Aboriginal Organisations into providing Family Preservation, and Targeted Earlier Intervention services through contracted funding arrangements.
- Providing individual support to these organisations to bridge the gap between DCJ (Government) jargon and community speak.
- Bringing these organisations together to build a network that can support each other.
- Looking for alternate ways we can start to work with other Aboriginal service providers.



Nelly's Healing Aboriginal Corporation

‘We are the Healing ... We are the Answer’

The story of Nelly's Healing ...



- Nelly's Healing was founded and developed by women with experiences of the justices, child protection and mental health systems.
- We use cultural and trauma informed approaches to provide holistic, individually tailored, intensive support services to Aboriginal women and their families.
- How did Nelly's come about? Sharing my story

Developing and growing

- Working from the ground up
- Finding ways to work with government
- Realising strength and empowerment
- Building Trust
- Tender success!!



The importance of support

- A small fish in a big pond
- How the support from Tribal Warrior helped
- Looking for and accepting help and support
- Partnering with other Aboriginal Organisations



Building a relationship with DCJ



- Providing services on a shoestring budget
- Overcoming the stigma of working with government – especially DCJ
- Changing attitudes
- What the relationship means now

Looking up and looking forward

- The Nelly's Healing Vision
- Working with partners to get the best outcomes for our mob
- Where to now?





"Empowering our community through connection to culture and family"



- Tribal Warrior has been established for over 20 years.
- Started from a vision of revitalising Aboriginal culture through economic and social stability.
- What started with maritime training, has developed into so much more – including the first ever Indigenous Crew to take on the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race!





Tribal Warrior has also expanded into a social enterprise, and we support our community in a number of ways ... including mentoring, sharing and practicing culture, providing employment pathway opportunities, facilitating greater economic participation.

Our programs include:

- Clean Slate Without Prejudice
- H.O.M.E. Family Mentoring
- Never Going Back
- Health and Wellbeing
- and we still do the Maritime Training!





Some questions we want to address about our work with DCJ and Nelly's Healing, and our work in supporting other Aboriginal organisations:

- What was the biggest barrier in working with DCJ? How did Tribal Warrior overcome that?
- What are the benefits in working in partnership with DCJ?
- What advice would you give to other organisations, and other DCJ Districts and offices about working better together?
- How was the relationship with Helen and Nelly's Healing formed?
- What are the benefits to Tribal Warrior in supporting smaller organisations like Nelly's Healing?
- What does the future hold for Tribal Warrior in working with Aboriginal children, families, and community/ies?

Discussion and Q&A

Thank you for joining us

