



TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDING

LEANNE EDWARDS

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AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY: This is Colleen Harney. Today I'm with Leanne Edwards Kodga, of Lake Tyers. Leanne would like to tell her story. Leanne, Just
5 hold it.

LEANNE EDWARDS: Yeah.

AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY: Just hold it and talk it all out.
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LEANNE EDWARDS: Well, when we were talking about probably myself from Lake Tyers and growing up at Lake Tyers, I'm a 52 year old woman. I've seen the injustice of the policies that's changed within community growing up. And when we're talking about, sorry - when we're talking about the Lake Tyers Aboriginal
15 Trust in general, it was handed back in 1970, 71 as freehold title land. So it was the first land rights in Australia. And when they got - got the land handed back, they thought that - that things would change of being from missionary days to self-determination. We're in 2004, government has been ongoing amending the legislation, which is to us more of a control mechanism. So there's - it has embedded
20 our community. In fact, it's made it worse from right down to bringing a health centre into the - into the trust. And in that time that it's been there, there's been more people that's probably died than ever before. And majority of the people that live there are on medication, so most of them are medicated due to depression and dealing with alcohol, drug issues. I mean, the stuff that happens within the outer
25 society and then myself, like, I've had to deal with drug problems growing up and - yeah, so I'm stuck. I don't know what else to say. I'm a bit nervous but -

AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY: That's okay, any injustices that you've personally had to go through.
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LEANNE EDWARDS: Yeah, yeah. Okay.

AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY: No you're doing really well.

LEANNE EDWARDS: So yeah, from, Lake Tyers - like perspective, and then from me going out as a young - young person into society, growing up in a drug and alcohol free home environment from my parents and - who were very passionate about self-determination. And then as we do as young fellows, we - we become followers. I became caught up in a - in a situation going to the city. Was on drugs for
40 ten years of my life. Then coming back to community and seeing how community really hasn't been embedded within the infrastructure itself, and then staying home on country. Then, like I said before about the policies that - that changed within the place that governments say that - that they're going to better the place, which hasn't gotten any better. In fact, it's only gotten worse. And from the health perspective, it's
45 like I said before, it's worsened. And yeah, I don't see government changing the legislation of the trust itself to be self-determination, in fact, that it's taken our rights away from us as Aboriginal people and shareholders of the trust. And yeah, I just

have - I'm worried about our future generations, in where that's going to end up in the future. So - and I'm a grandmother of 14 kids, grandchildren, and yeah. I don't know what else to say.

5 **AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY:** Yeah, that's okay.

LEANNE EDWARDS: And I'll probably have more to say, but I'm better off to write it.

10 **AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay.

LEANNE EDWARDS: So - and if I could just write some more about what I have in my mind, because I'm not used to talking on an audio, like you get a bit nervous, so your brain's all over the place.

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AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY: Yeah, that's good.

20 **LEANNE EDWARDS:** And so, and I see today, like all the policies that are being implemented around the countryside, is the same. And like Aboriginal people ain't going to move forward unless we have our rights as recognised as sovereign people within the system. So until we're recognised, I don't think that Aboriginal people are going to succeed. In fact, I think that you know, they're still trying to kill us out like they planned to and - and yeah, like, I don't know what else to say Colleen.

25 **AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY:** No that's okay. Yeah, all good. Okay.

LEANNE EDWARDS: So. I'll just pause it for a minute. How to I pause it? I'm going to hit erase. Yeah -

30 **AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY:** Okay.

LEANNE EDWARDS: That's what I mean, I gotta like, if I put it in writing.

35 **AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY:** Yes.

LEANNE EDWARDS: And I send it to you.

AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY: Yeah, I can come out and pick it up.

40 **LEANNE EDWARDS:** And yeah, you can come and pick it up, and then it'll be more than what I'm saying on audio. Like I said, you know, I suppose, you know, coming from a mission, that's what it's about oppressing and people and like then then we have, we don't get to express really what - and what to say and how to, how to say it, especially when - when you're being recorded because we're not used to it,
45 you know?

AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY: Yeah, okay.

LEANNE EDWARDS: And, A lot of people shame. Yeah.

AUNTY COLLEEN HARNEY: All right. Thank you for that Kodga.

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