



TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDING

MUNGABAREENA GROUP 1 SUBMISSION

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<THE RECORDING HAS COMMENCED

INTERVIEWER: Right that's recording now. So I might just start by saying thank you for coming. We've got community members and staff from the Munga -
5 Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation in?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Yeah, yes.

INTERVIEWER: Yep, said that right? Yeah. So we've had a brief chat about some
10 of the issues that you guys have raised. Is there a place that you guys want to start? Is there something that you feel is most important that we want to start at?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Can we start of the health?

15 **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah, let's start at health. Alright.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Yeah. So we've got AWAHS or Wodonga
Aboriginal Health who does cross border. It's not good, and you know, right down
20 from doctors misdiagnosing, not diagnosing. Or not being able to get an
appointment, which then means people have to go elsewhere and actually pay
money, so then people aren't going to the doctors. But you also have when people
presenting with mental health issues, and doctors are just prescribing medication, not
doing a mental health care plan. So then there's no counselling or anything. And
then, you know, and then you've got people - because of that self-medications, and
25 then drugs come in to deal with the trauma and stuff that they actually need
counselling for. What else? Trying and do too much and not doing enough.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: It's very hard to ensure continuity of care with the
clients that I work with. Because you just cannot get those appointments. And on that
30 level of you know, the - what we've always seen as drug seeking with so many - my
view as a worker and ongoing care officer. So many clients come to me who have
been struggling in pain for months, and have been too scared to go to their doctor to
ask for the pain medication, and it's gotten to the point it's affecting their mental
well-being. And it only takes one going to (indistinct 00:02:05), And suddenly the
35 doctor will listen. And it's sad that it's at that point that when come and seek help to
us because something that they could have done on their own, and that they've been
asking for on their own.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: because you can't go to an appointment. People
40 have gone to the hospital, where they're treated like - people who fallen and get
breath tested. You know, because of their file or whatever that they've looked at from
20 years ago. Treated with racism and discrimination, and not giving proper care and
sent away from the hospital, like without being treated.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** But even -

INTERVIEWER: Is that an example, where you've had a fall and they assume it's because of -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Yeah.

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INTERVIEWER: Drinking -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Because I was drunk, yeah.

10 **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: That's what they assumed. And bought the breathalyser in. They put me out in the waiting room with a head injury, and then had given me morphine and green whistle, so I didn't know where I was, I didn't know
15 what was going on. They sent me out in the waiting room with my bag. Then my partner, like, spoke up and said you'd want to do something for her and get her a bed, she's got a head injury. Do you want that on you? Then they put me in the family room. I woke up on a couch. I again, didn't know where I was, and they're breath
20 tested me. And then saying, oh, someone pushed you off the wall. So sign this, trying to say that I'd been through family violence when I hadn't. I simply tripped over the wall because it was dark and I couldn't see. I'm like, and I'm doing all this - social workers are coming to see me, and you know, it was just -

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Then I had to have a friend come in because they were giving me procedure in the bed that should have been done in surgery. But I didn't know what was going on, so she had to come in and advocate for me, so that I got the proper care and then got sent home that afternoon. And, you know, it was just
30 one thing after the next. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: It's the assumptions made on stigmatisation all the time, particularly in healthcare. It's all up front. (indistinct 00:04:28). Based on
35 stigmatising.

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INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

40 **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah. Other people agree with that kind of thing.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Yeah. I've taken my mum in, who was non-coherent. Didn't know her name, what day it was or anything, and her body had swollen up. So we took her up to the hospital and they said what drugs have she taken? And we're like, Panadol for a headache, and they sent her in the waiting room,
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and then another doctor came out. She goes, she needs to go on a drip, she's dehydrated, we'll do blood tests. And then another doctor come, [REDACTED], I don't know if anyone has had any - and then, so she came out. She goes you're discharged, leave hospital immediately. So I wrote a complaint to the representative for, you
5 know, the border. And I got a letter from the Minister of Health stating that that doctor had worked 40 hours that day, and that was the excuse. And I - and I've done it again, they had my son, that had the surgery. He was six, and they give him medication, and I went to the chemist to get it. And they go, is this for you? And I said, no, my son (indistinct 00:05:39) and they said, this is an adult dose. He would
10 shit his insides out. That's how strong - for this kid. So I took photos of the surgery that they botched up and send it all again, and they wrote back and said that it was a trainee nurse who had written a script. You know, so there's no - there's no, there's - doesn't matter what you do. Like we're just. Yeah.

15 **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So there's no use talking about cases of racism when you're in
20 hospital, and then no accountability -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: For the thing that happened.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: There's always an excuse by the (indistinct 00:06:16) people at the hospital, you know, the board who see all - and it's always an excuse for their staff's behaviour. No accountability.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4:** No. They protect their staff at any cost, doesn't matter. And you can't fight against the system like, you know what I mean? A system like that, you don't know where to go, who to turn to. Like, there's that many stories of injustice in that system.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** But there's also Aboriginal liaison officers at our, hospitals on both sides. You never see them.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: No.

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** You know, even ten years one's been there now, and I met him once, and it was in this year. You can't see (indistinct 00:06:54)? Yeah. We have clients go there and we ring them to, you know, make contact with them, but they never do. Yeah. And they're the ones - so as soon as you have a child,
45 and we have to have babies in Wodonga, even if we're from New South Wales, and as soon as you put down that your Aboriginal, that automatically goes to child protection because that's a red flag. And then they're there waiting. Yeah, yeah. They're nearly cutting the cords for the babies. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: That's - yeah.

5 **INTERVIEWER:** Did anyone else want to share anything about, either generally about experiences in the health system, or your experiences that you're comfortable with sharing?

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** Well, I think our Aboriginal medical service needs to be restructured or investigated. You know, my (indistinct 00:08:00) he used to work as a transport officer and ten years, and he always glued it with the managers and the workers saying, you know what - what, why do we have - why is it an Aboriginal medical service or, you know. He always said, this is an Aboriginal medical service. It's not a white collar medical service. That's what it was set up for our people. So yeah, I think at that point you know more. But I think our - it takes up
15 to three months for our, for community people to get an appointment there. Which is really, you know, not good. And it's hard for them to get into other GP's because a lot of people, our people have - haven't got transport. And that's the whole idea of the medical service and having this Aboriginal medical service for our people, for transport as well.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3:** It's also the financial burden too, like the barrier.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah.

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3:** If there's no bulk billing, (indistinct 00:08:58) can't afford the doctor's fee, which AWAHS, you know, provides the service free of charge. So you can't just go up to another GP. And once you're swinging around at GP clinics, automatically your doctor shopping.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: You've got that attached to you then. So you're getting scripts from different doctors each time, going to the pharmacist, you're now doctor shopping.

35 **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: So we've got to be very aware of that being attached. So -

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** or if they go to the hospital they have a heart attack, or you know, a slight heart attack and they get discharged and then sent back to the community, and go back to their own medical service. Like I said, it takes three months. But then when they do get in and see the doctor, they get a referral to go and have their heart checked at the cardio centre, or sent away. A lot of our
45 people haven't got the money, so they don't go to their appointments that's going to cost up to 1000 bucks to have their heart checked, or you know, anything else done.

There's no support from our medical service there for our clients, for our Aboriginal people to go to other services to as well. And that's where we get a lot of them come over to here, without referral - it's self referral, and we try and help and support those as well. But they're our medical service, they should be able to assist and do a lot more for our people.

INTERVIEWER: So barriers around transport the barriers around cost. There's poor experiences when you get in there, experiences of being targeted and racist experiences, and the lack of accountability for those experiences.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Did you want to -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: I was supposed to have a sleep apnoea machine, but I can't get that -

INTERVIEWER: Sleep -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: No support. My daughter to wake me up, which couldn't even (indistinct 00:10:46). I stopped breathing in my sleep.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: That's why I wanted the machine.

INTERVIEWER: There's not enough support for you to get that, is that what you're saying? Yeah, yeah. So there's other, other barriers there, cost and need for things that people can't access?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: There's some - things, the same as a prison - medical staff. We get we go to jail, we get processed. They asked you the straight question. Are you Torres Strait or Aboriginal, as soon as you say you're Aboriginal, you know, (indistinct 00:11:21). That's just ridiculous in that I went - I was sentenced, two months in prison. Two days prior to that, I spent nine hours on an operating theatre when the (indistinct 00:11:34) had bowel cancer. I was put in prison two days later. The judge ordered that I was taken care of - taken. Make sure I was (indistinct 00:11:43), and make sure I went to hospital. He told them it was as soon as I got into prison, and I said I was Aboriginal - Nothing was done. Four weeks later, I went into the senior (indistinct 00:11:54). He goes what's that? I lifted up my shirt, And she goes what? I go if it makes you come in - I had 28 stitches in my guts cut open everything (indistinct 00:12:07) from cancer. And I was put into the (indistinct 00:12:12) hospital there. Was just like, they read them off this. A few (indistinct 00:12:19), I'll play Aboriginal (indistinct 00:12:20) all you want. And they got the ball rolling. It wasn't planned. I was (indistinct 00:12:25) there. I ended up

getting a stomach infection, and they rushed me out of there. And I was constantly C1, minimum security, which as inmate, you get transported to gaol, they'll put you there (indistinct 00:12:38) shackled. When you say why? Because they want minimum security, you don't have to put handcuffs and shackles. But they put me on
5 the show, took me to Saint Vincents, and it was (indistinct 00:12:49).

They would have left me in that room. It's like in that (indistinct 00:12:55). A lot the people as you (indistinct 00:12:57), you break your leg, and they just give you a ton of them. You'll be right, go away. But you're targeted as soon as you walk in that
10 prison, and they ask you if you're Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal, as soon as you say Aboriginal, when you get search - they get you, then you get shipped off the yard, and you're segregated from everyone else. Put you in a Aboriginal unit, and half the blokes in there the time (indistinct 00:13:18) that are unwell. I was up in the middle of the night. Three hours later, they come around. Yeah, what's your
15 problem? Throw a Panadol through the door. Then the next one i found out had a minor heart attack, he was rushed off to hospital. That's in the prison system. That's the hospital, the staffing, that's it. I'm not targeting them saying, you know, because we're Aboriginal, it's just the way it works. As soon as you walk in there and you get processed, they ask you are you Aboriginal or Torres Strait - as soon as you say your
20 Aboriginal, bang that's it. Comes up on your list, and they can't give a shit. They just walk in and give you Panadol as though it will fix everything. And that's the whole story. I was supposed to start two weeks later, start chemotherapy. It was too late. And written on the file from the judge and was told, but I went to a privatised gaol, which is run by America.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: There's a difference between government and private. There's a big difference.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: I had supposed to start chemo. (indistinct
30 00:14:38) As time went in the system, was a lot of young Indigenous young fellas that have - mental state, everything, first timers going to gaol. Yeah, they might muck up because they don't know how to do things so they just like them in the centre, they're waiting 24 hours - lock down. And then the next minute they're in there smashing their heads against the wall, you know? And they (indistinct
35 00:14:58) just have to (indistinct 00:15:00) oh you can go with them, no one.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Give me a head (indistinct 00:15:02). Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: We'll just - we'll just throw a shoe and then
40 (indistinct 00:15:05) rips it up, you know? My brother's (indistinct 00:15:11) from - I want to transfer (indistinct 00:15:13) the other yard. And luckily there was an Indigenous officer there working there, and she used to - I wasn't allowed to go back to the other yard because I was sentenced. She used to call me back to go back and talk to the young fellas that had just first come in, to help them get through the
45 system. And it was a lot of young fellas in there, were like suicidal thoughts and everything, and it just got crazy. In the system there was no one there to help me. We had to help each other.

INTERVIEWER: (indistinct 00:15:49) think we could speak a bit about justice systems. You started with that. Is there anything else about the health space that people could (indistinct 00:15:58).

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Could a worker get involved with that client and still have their job?

INTERVIEWER: Say that again, could a worker get involved?

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Involved with a client who would go - looking for help with mental health and counselling and all that?

INTERVIEWER: You're talking about a worker getting inappropriately involved with the client? Yeah, yeah. So that's -

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Still working today, the same place.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Just asking the question.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: No.

INTERVIEWER: No. They obviously - they shouldn't do that. I imagine most orgs would have sort of codes of practice and stuff around.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: She's still working at the same place.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: She got involved with my son.

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INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: She's still working at the same place. You know, my son (indistinct 00:16:41) the service (indistinct 00:16:44) - conflict.

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INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: So he's not worried about going there because she's still there working. Now he's just roaming the streets with his mental issues - health?

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INTERVIEWER: Yeah. So this is similar - another example of inappropriate behaviour and accountability - that's pulled out.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: There is a lot of mental health going around, for fellas. Because of this drug, ice. You know that comes this way now, but I can't - see a lot of people that are mentally ill turn up from that drug. But recently a brother to a brother who was - he was mentally unstable and lived in the same house at the back of mine, and he started recently. And the brother was going to have another brother (indistinct 00:17:39) house, because the coppers knew they (indistinct 00:17:42), and laughed at them, drove past them, taunted them, and this happens. Didn't happen in this town, but it happened close to this town. It's up the river. Mental health is going to hit the door with a big bang, and ambulance, they will come flooding in, that's with ice. Are we prepared for that? No, not at that level.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think there's enough support for other mental health or for young people and -

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: There's never enough.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: There's no massive waitlist to mental health. We've only got one (indistinct 00:18:19) in the hospital here that otherwise is going to Melbourne. And then in terms - we've got no AAD clinic at all. so you go to send like young people way down to Melbourne, down Gippsland, you know, nowhere around here, but at home near their families or whatever. And then not funding AAD positions. Like youth AAD positions are not being refunded.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: It's a self-inflicting drug. Same as alcohol, marijuana - self-inflicting. But this is dangerous. This is the endgame, if you get on it now, youse dies. That's - games over, it's already flooded - so probably down the track, this way you'll see people going that - no people are saying they need help because I'm mentally stable. Like I just said, the two brothers. I don't know if they're (indistinct 00:19:22) over, but one's in jail and one's about to be buried. Yeah, it's getting worse. And how did that - how (indistinct 00:19:34) cover that? You know, mothers and fathers and kids and everything. they've got to couple that hard hours. (indistinct 00:19:39) got to cover that (indistinct 00:19:41) able to.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: But that's also people in our community that are selling the drugs. It could be a neighbour. It could be people renting (indistinct 00:19:51) -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yes.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: It's our own people that are doing it for those big honcho ice dealers.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: You know, and it's - you know they are, but how do you, you know, you don't know whether to tell the police or not because they could be in on it, too.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** But years ago, to be a man you to go through the process of being a man. You know what I mean?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah, (indistinct 00:20:14).

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** But these days, it's -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Protected.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Yeah, how do you be a man? You're supposed to be a man, but traditionally -.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** But they (indistinct 00:20:29) be a man. We're going the wrong way about it.

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1:** That's exactly right, because you don't argue with someone - I was sat in the room once - I don't take drugs. I was sat in the room once at a mate's place and I watched him - two people walk in that front door and dropped it down on the coffee table, and they were wearing police uniforms. I got up and walked out the back door. (indistinct 00:22:55). See you never know.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Well, we're dealing with things now. But what did that come to light? So I've said this already, but you gotta deal with the aftermath of that.

35 **INTERVIEWER:** What do you think would help? What would be good to support young people or anyone that's using?

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3:** A rehab centre here. Specifically for Aboriginal use, and we need a better mental health person, and that's across anywhere, the mental health system. It's not good enough, shouldn't be like this. We shouldn't have anyone being in the hospital, that's for sure. But that's a major barrier. Especially because family unit is what keeps kids going today. Without that, you know, that's why we have a higher suicide rate. And to have to send our young people to Melbourne, away and family and everything, just to get them right and support, then that - they don't go, they don't go. Yeah. And then we're going to rely on AWAHS
45 because we don't have transport, and then we can't get to them. And then we've got staff sleeping with staff or AAD workers selling drugs to the kids.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: That's true yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: And Yeah. So it's kind of like we've got to fight.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** And we - yeah. And we and I got a good rapport with the CEO and a few other staff there. And I made mention, you know, we hear it out in the community what's going on. And I tell them, tell the managers and that what's going on and what we hear. But they say, oh, well, it's second hand information. We can't do anything about it.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: That work on my son (indistinct 00:22:59) and that other worker.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: He went to look for his phone, it disappeared. Now he's walking the streets, I don't know what.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Mental health is -

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: mental health -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: It's wrong, yeah. Destroying families, and still got our of problems here, then you put that on top of the cake, you know? Yeah.

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INTERVIEWER: Is there anything happening for the young ones that are before the age of (indistinct 00:23:40). Like any -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Progress?

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INTERVIEWER: To that -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Programs?

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INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Like health -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: I wouldn't have a clue but - no. There's no one really. Pretty much, probably most programs would start for those young fellas about 14, 15. And anything before that, they just don't. Yeah, there's no mention. Like you'd have to go to programs down in Melbourne to actually see something like that. It's like, it's four hours away. Like, why would you want to do that when you can just be at home?

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: There's no early intervention. So the schools aren't delivering it because they're scared that they're going to give them ideas, so they don't worry about it. They just do the sex Ed stuff, and then a lot of the youth programs start at 12. So kids at eight and that age gap, they're already learning about

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it because they've seen older siblings or cousins doing it, you know? And then by the time you're 12, you know, we've had 13 year old girls using ice. And because they're a risk to everyone else in the group, they can't participate. So then they get culturally isolated, and then you know, and then mainstream doesn't pick them up because the waitlist is too long to even connect, you know, in group wise. Yeah, it's just, it's not good. It's just this big circle. Yeah. To me rehab -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Because of that as well, because the (indistinct 00:25:08) and the boys and the girls are going to be stigmatized for doing that. And the (indistinct 00:25:11), they thought you were drunk when you went in the hospital. It's just that, you know, young person goes to the hospital. You know, are you on ice mate? Are you taking anything else, or fentanyl or, you know, or the police are waiting there for him to muck up. Ice is dangerous to every community, and especially to ours. It's the killer, the end game. I said game over.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Yeah. Scared of my (indistinct 00:25:39) growing up in this next ten years.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Society of zombies walking the streets.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: And go out -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: On top of that. It's the lack of social housing. They're building those high rise apartments, and that creates its own little community. And they don't work. They're standing on every street, they don't work. And they're building them. There's one near strawberry going, and another one out in Wodonga at the old school. Like, you know, they're not - yeah. They're not listening to the people that are experiencing the issues, it's coming from the top down. We need it to come from the bottom up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: We need a back yard. Every Aboriginal family gets a back yard. Not a high rise. They Don't have a back yard to just - it's the land. It's a - the backyard to have fun in. You can't play in a high rise. Why it's going to happen here - but in the country we have - that has already happened in the cities, where you've got no backyard for the kids. They're stuck in the lounge room, and it just festers problems.

INTERVIEWER: You guys really just laid out a whole bunch of issues and ills, and a whole bunch of ideas to fix them in the gaps and things like that. I think that's all - we really hear it strong, thank you. Can we have a question around suicide - you mentioned, do you know any sort of statistics around that, or is that something that's happening with the, with the younger people -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: You see it with the younger ones, and a lot of that is stemmed from social media, which is now coming out to be honest. Yes, internet,

5 but the whole social media thing, kids getting bullied online. When you - back in the day you'd go to school, you know, you might have some issues as a kid, you know, punch on after school, that's it. And now it just continues into the home, into the home. Kids disengaged from school, isolated. And then, you know, parents can't get them into mental health services because the wait was too long. And then, yeah.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Just festers and festers. And in the old days, I had two uncles hung themselves, because they were alone, depressed and drinking and just didn't know what to do. So, see you later.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Yeah. Like I'm 24. I grew up around here and before the age of 19. I had about six friends hanging themselves from suicide. So - (crosstalk 00:28:32) Yeah, Like -

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** It's a problem, you know. You can't put it in a barrel and pick one out. It's got to be sorted out.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1:** And the worst thing, they're getting younger and younger on suicide.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1:** You know deaths in custody, was that (indistinct 00:28:50) 96 by (indistinct 00:28:54) and they're getting younger and younger every day. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So are you saying that mental - are you saying that mental health made - It's a direct link between that and the amount of suicides and depression.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** And no support.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** Most of the councils around schools once it goes onto online, they can't do anything. Like, there's no support for them and they just say, oh, just turn off your phone, but yeah, so nothing.

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** Not on the mental health services, you've got to have to tick a box where you have an admission or being diagnosed or whatever. But you can't diagnose transgenerational trauma. And, you know, our babies are born with it and we don't have any healers here. You know, we don't really have - don't have an Aboriginal health organisation that understands, because it's not Aboriginal run. Yeah, so it just - it just yeah. I suppose we could go on forever about it.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** No. I think we need more mentoring and yeah. Yeah, more men's group, more women's group, more men's group, and kid's groups. So we can tie each other together again.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: I will say anything to help fund them, some of these groups. We have to fund it themselves. We have to do stuff to do the women's group. They're not going to be getting funded to do that. It's the money and the resources to do it. No one's helping us. It's all on our back to do it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Funding's it's getting pulled, or you get 12 months or whatever, and then it's gone.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Yeah. It's short term. Hard to get.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: But they'll still go out and build a bloody \$30 million football stadium.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Or send money overseas.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Yeah. That's it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: That gets me every time.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: It's not prioritised for actual community support.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: There's just no support. There's just no funding. All the fundings -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Commissions aren't tailored for Aboriginal community controlled organisations. So, you know, if you want to put in funding submission to the department to get funding, you've got to tweak your wording to suit their narrative. And that doesn't fit with us. So then we've got to change the way we would deliver a brief, just so we're hitting the funding target. So it doesn't it doesn't work.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. (indistinct 00:31:25) top down rather than.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Community.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. I know there's a lot to say in every area. I want to thank you. And I know we've shared what we've shared. Do we want to talk about some of the things you raise in the justice space?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah. Wodonga police station has to be investigated. Yes, probably Albury too, I don't know. But (indistinct 00:31:56) against the law for them to step into a court, to a case, to help these fellas. I don't
5 know how that goes, but that - what I'm going to come down to, they need to be investigated because they're not helping. They're not doing nothing, in my books anyway. And that (indistinct 00:32:16) there, did nothing.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: They don't (indistinct 00:32:19) some officer.
10

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: No they don't.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: No, they do now. Andrew Wilson at Wodonga.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3:** Is he aboriginal?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: He's not. That's the other thing though -

(crosstalk 00:32:29)
20

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: That's been -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Another copper that's been appointed -

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** And that's what's been happening in the last probably a few years, four years I would say.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Five, Yeah.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** That position has been vacant for a very long time, after - 5 years -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: The last one was Shane.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** Yeah, Shane. So we did have (indistinct 00:32:49), then she left. I don't know, for but - yeah. And then they'll just appoint another police officer just to, you know, do that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Tick the box -

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** They do a good job and engage the community and do what, you know, talked to community, then they get pulled in. Then another police officer stepped in and someone else put something new on their resume -

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1:** Sitting behind a desk and I'm getting out in community doesn't help.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: No, it's not.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: You can sit there all day behind the desk. These kids out on the street need help. They need to get off their ass and get out and do something.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: And show their appearance and treat them like human, you know? (indistinct 00:33:27) And just, you know?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: We need the old school coppers back.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Yeah, true. Absolutely. And you got in trouble them days, got a kick in your arse and (indistinct 00:33:36) go on. Not locked up or you know, you know, straight down the cells and then ring the parents up or whatever.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: My father's an Aboriginal elder and was a policeman for 25 years. So I hear his stories on one hand like that, again trying to be old school. Take kids home, talk to parents. Yeah. You know, build up your (indistinct 00:33:57)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: You can't be locked up for hearsay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: You don't call - it's now call them dinosaurs. Yeah. The dinosaurs.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: That's what they call it these days. Hearsay. You can get 12, 15, 20 years for hearsay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: And the police wonder why we're not getting straight, when they do this to the kids.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: No investigation, nothing I guess. Yeah, hearsay, bang you're locked up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Have instances where kids are having a fight in school, and the school just calls the police, and the police come. So then that young fella's on their radar, and they can be walking down the street with friends, and they get pulled over, and then, you know, like they can't - and then they feel because, well, I'm gonna get in trouble anyway.

(crosstalk 00:34:41)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Because the police's bothering them -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: That's the potential information for the coppers, they know kids that have information about where this - you know, this fella will come back to -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: - Keep it at school.

INTERVIEWER: That's talking about targeting -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah targeting the adults through kids.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: My son only recently finished flexi land, which is like a special school. You know, kids have a hard time attending mainstream at school. Recently, sitting at - yarning with a mate, king hit five times from behind. Don't even know what he did wrong to this kid, and took him to the police station, head injury in the emergency for six hours. Kid got a warning. That was it. Like - and it was an 18 year old, and my son's 16. Where's the justice?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: There is none.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: He's going out and he's going to take out another kid. It could have been a teacher. And this kid was six foot two and built like a fridge, like. What's a warning telling a kid like that? It just doesn't gel with me.

INTERVIEWER: Margaret you mentioned before that's a lack of support for people that are leaving.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: The justice system. Yeah. Once they leave the jails, there's no transition into, you know, probably transition back into their community. Like housing, you know, you have a housing for our ones - come back out, coming out of Gaol, and slowly services work with them to build their self-esteem up and so they can be back within their community or part of their community again, because I think if, you know, in and out of jail, they get - they just do something to go back because they haven't got that family support or community to link back into. So a lot of people just do, you know, a crime to go back. There's a lot that I know that do that. So you know, I know we've done a lot with Ted, and Ted comes in and do - you know, we help with their housing - solution, mention the name - housing and, he comes and do volunteer stuff too. It would be interesting, talking (indistinct 00:37:04). But yeah, I think it's important. We all need that - like a housing - Transition into housing for our people that goes into gaol and come out. Yeah. And then they got, you know, it's the services that - I think they need to be linked into services where they're - where they're going to, because a lot of them don't have that when they get out. They have to start from scratch again. And a lot of our people don't ask for help and support.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Even our judges, magistrates that sit on the court - same two people can have the same charges. One's Aboriginal and one's not. And you see it in the difference, you read in the paper, of the difference in that you know, that they've been sentenced and the other one's got community hours and, you know,
5 like, what the hell? It's the same - the same F'ing thing, but it's different - different circumstances. All the yeah, all the magistrates, when it comes to the legal system, they're all different. They all have their own biases, their own agendas. And it's yeah, across, across the board with both of them as well.

10 **INTERVIEWER:** Anyone else have any thoughts on leaving or courts -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: I question when - sorry, I question when within the prison system, if there's any funding to be provided from the liaison within there for mob who can't afford -

15

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: I was about to say that -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Where you? We've probably had this conversation - for those who can't have funding put into their spends, like on their phones and that
20 to maintain contact with family or kinship, because that is the be all and end all for mob. You know, if they can't maintain that connection while incarcerated, it causes massive issues.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: And if they're in a private jail like Serco you've got to buy everything, like down to your own shampoo and everything, and your own food. You've got to pay for everything.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah, pillows, everything.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** And I just, I mean, you read anything about prisons, and they say they've got a duty of care to look after the prisoners. This doesn't happen in the private ones. They have to supply everything themselves. So how do they manage in there?

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** That's ridiculous. Every time this government gets in Victoria's string up (indistinct 00:39:33) 365, 18 mate, a day. Have you seen the (indistinct 00:39:39) they share?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: And I'll be - at my brother might be in WA, but I'm
40 paying 170 a week for him to survive in there.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Same over here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: And I've got no shame for him though.

45

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: No.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: He's my brother, I love him.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: No.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** And I know that's WA, but that's only an example.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Where are you starting from - from the start, from the kids. The kids, the most important thing in the world at the moment. You got to start with them. And then only - want to prevent anything that happens after that.
10 There might be a few that betray you, you know bad eggs, but you've got to start with the kids now, for (crosstalk 00:40:18) this generation -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: To get to the more community -

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Otherwise they're -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Starting with the kids -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Bring them back to the elders -

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** And community -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Look after the elders - elders, yeah. Make sure they get to hospital and then get all the medical things done. The kids are the most
25 important thing. We all know that and -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: The reason I say that is because my grandson is 16, and all he wants to do is go out and fish, and he does. He goes out and fishes, and he does the lawns, he likes the lawns, but he goes fishing. He doesn't want to go out on
30 the streets with his mates. He actually has dumped the girl he knew the other week because he found out she was smoking marijuana. And I think a lot of it -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: So proud of him -

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** I am too, because he doesn't want to go out there and roam the streets and get onto all this stuff. And I mean, we were just like him, back then we just spent a lot of time with him, taking him fishing and stuff. I think maybe there needs to be more in youth groups in the aboriginal -

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** In our country -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: For the kids.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: But we're proper people, live off the land -

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** That's it -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: And now the land was taken away, and now he's just got to live by these rules, these rules that that condemn us, don't allow us to be Aboriginal people.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** No, we need to get into it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah. There's a gap in the services for the youth. Because youth is class at 11 to 25, so they can access head space or whatever. And then, you know, like incidence groups I run 12 from 18. Others do that one - but
10 there's nothing from that eight - that eight years old, because that's when they find their friendships at school. So at 8 to 11, there's nothing -.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Yeah right.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** Across the board there's no groups based into it, if you go to boys in the bush, you're paying \$1000 (crosstalk 00:42:15).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: They're ripping off everyone -

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** It's white washed anyway.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: And from a social (crosstalk 00:42:20).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: And yeah. And then it's now gone NUS. You've
25 got to have NUS patch.

INTERVIEWER: This is a program that does the whole country?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Well yeah. Yeah.

30 (crosstalk 00:42:34)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Because there's more money in it.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: That's why they're going -.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: I mentioned it to where I work that that's the gap.
40 But I can't wait for little kids, I can't do it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: You need a special way to do that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: You know, I use - the little ones I struggle with,
45 so, you know, and but I know there's a gap there, you know, like, and a (indistinct 00:43:03) worker does. And, you know, family.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: They know, us mob know but yeah, not even government agencies are -

5

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: We were lucky. We got - we got help to send my grandson to equine therapy, and that was amazing. That really is - (crosstalk 00:43:22) a lot of issues.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Lot of issues and that type of thing. So - and he worked on horse care and stuff, and yeah I think the younger ones need more of that. I know they're expensive. Some of those things are expensive, but just getting them out in the bush, going fishing with the guys, you know?

15

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: You need to get more of that happening.

20

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Yeah. (indistinct 00:43:43) just turned 40.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: He'd been bullied at school (indistinct 00:43:49) after the bullying, she didn't want to go back.

25

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: No.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: (crosstalk 00:43:55) Yes, and she could be walking around town, down at the shop. Police would pick on him.

30

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Sad. It's wrong.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6:** It's only six, seven o'clock. Yeah, they'll drop - drop him off home. Because they're with their friends. Kids get bullied at school, nothing gets done. And the kids -

40

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: No it doesn't -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: The younger ones go and do things, you know, to get in trouble.

INTERVIEWER: Not enough supports -

45

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: No support.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: No. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Not for the parents and the grandparents.

5 **INTERVIEWER:** You mentioned at the start that you wanted to raise something around land in this space?

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** Yeah. The getting an acknowledgement, a plaque at places like massacre site would be a really good start, because, like, you've got most of the hills around this area are major massacre sites, and they all use it as a tourism for, like, Ned Kelly and everything. And the government or the local towns are getting profit off it. Where for our people, it's a very sad spot. Like up in Beechworth, the Woolshed Falls, the - that's a massive massacre site. There was a big corroboree there, and that's when all the bushrangers came and took all the
15 people, like the women and children. They forced them to jump off a massive cliff. And the only way that the women thought they could save their kids was actually the mothers jumping onto the rocks and pushing the babies into the river, hoping that they can survive. And then the men actually having to witness that and getting castrated at the same time. Like and that's - I only found that out from like when I
20 was about 20. Like never knew anything about that, and I've been to that spot so many times. I always had an eerie feeling about it, but I've never known it. And there's going to be more generations like that, but at least getting some clarity of what's happened on that site, and maybe some healing on that site. And then one of the schools around here too, Albury High, that's an old mission, and that's where
25 most of the Indigenous people get sent to - like, and nobody knows about it. Like, yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: That's interesting.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** That's that Bush.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Yeah.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** (indistinct 00:46:22) go bush. That's where you get your spiritual beliefs from, and put - yeah, put it anywhere - and you'll feel that connection through spiritually - through yourself.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Yeah.

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Yeah.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Experience that - everybody must have the experience.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: And then as well, like most of the old buildings around here, like the - was it not 18? Ones that were built in 1870, like that's got mortar in it. And there used to be a gravesite at Noreuil Park that was a gravesite. And that's where all the - all the white fellas, that's where they got all the sand, from the grave sites. And now, you know, like, all our people are in those walls now, like, where's the - and there's no sign of that. And that's another tourist destination. Like, where's that sign? Like, yeah it's in - yeah pretty humane for do say so myself. And it hasn't been brought up anywhere.

5
10 **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: The winds are blowing and we're getting eroded. So, so about (indistinct 00:47:25) everything's been eroded. How do you fix that?

15 **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Yeah, it's not -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Talk about it, you know, sit down right here -

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** Talk about it -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah, it's done -

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** It doesn't have to be a major - oh, you have to shut this down. Like, just maybe a little acknowledgement, saying about the wrongdoings like, yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: You know the past, you know the future.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: And a lot of black kids don't know past.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** Because they weren't taught it.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you. Thanks for sharing that with us. (crosstalk 00:48:05) Is there anything else? So you've both been sharing on a lot of issues now on health and young people and on land. On solutions. Is there anything that people want to finish up on, or anything else you want to share?

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** There's plenty of land out there. So -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Yeah.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** It's like Warrakoo - what I want to do with it, Warrakoo is the best place to go to. Instead of going to gaol, you go out there and

you work. You let us share a share. Let us (indistinct 00:48:33). Don't go to round up - a lot of fencing. We was working, and getting more places like it there, and its young fellows would be sent out there, and get them into some sort of work mode. And they got that - they were reconnected with the workmate thing and started

5 working with me. That was Warrakoo, yeah, until someone did something out there - I don't know what they did, but they now it's just a dry out. You go down and dry out, it's not working station anymore. But we need more places like that, and its connection. It's out in the land, it's in the bush where you can connect with yourself.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** And as well, I don't think anybody's really brought it up - like the cross border. The difference in law.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** Like, what are we meant to do on a border perspective, where we have to go over to New South Wales and they've got different law, and then we come to Victoria and they've got a different law. And then if a crime happens in New South Wales, you're in the New South Wales system. And then you're in Victoria in the Victorian system like what - what's the go there? Like,

20 how is that - and like nobody across border actually like, works together. Like, and it's really hard for these cross border towns to actually get a consistent support. Like it needs to - you need to have like, like this is Albury Wodonga. You need to have that bubble in there from getting funding from both states like, yeah. And the funding from both states never happens, because Albury Wodonga's not seen as either

25 Victorian or New South Wales, like the border stops at Shepparton or Wagga like - yeah it's not -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: That's what they did. Mildura courts were sending Victorian people at Warrakoo - the Victorian courts were sending people from there

30 at Warrakoo. But Warrakoo on New South Wales side, but - 40 K's from the South Australian border, it's like right on in the corner there, and we've got more places like that. But that the course is all about supporting each other, they say (indistinct 00:40:45) for shit - that's what I say. But actually Warrakoo was New South Wales. So what was the problem there? There's no problem there.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** Few of the elders going there too.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yes.

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** Talk to them and do some cultural stuff too.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah. They have lawyers out there. Judges go out there, you know, for barbecues and everything. And they're having a big yarn out there.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** Aboriginal health workers as well.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yes, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: And they will work on the land.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Yeah. And they were getting housing through
there - long, instead of six month stay, 12 month stay, and I think 18 months stay out
there, depending on what goes on court and everything. But it was a - a lot of people
walked away. A few people walked away from there with their heads screwed on
right. You know, the work made - what they had to do to get work, find work and
10 keep work. And they turn out all right. But there's some problems that, you know, it's
like you get a young black fella who's fit and healthy and ready to go, you know
what I mean? Yeah, and there's nothing stopping him, except for a copper. But he's -
yeah. He's got no other future, but he's fit and healthy and ready to go. He's ready to
go. No matter what it is, he'd probably get him in trouble as well, but.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** We had, remember (indistinct 00:52:13). You've
heard of that centre?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Yeah, my son went there. Yeah.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** It's a youth - disengage centre. That's out at near
Darlington Point, Griffith. And it was - it was set up in 2015 or 2010 - somewhere
there. And it was for boys that were disengaged. And that was around the Riverina
area. But it's closed now, because - it's now closed because of misappropriation of
25 funds and workers not there, but that was a good centre where the drivers used to go
and pick the kids up, like you do application, pick up the kids, take them out there.
They'll stay for up to -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Three months -

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** Three months. And then they've done - they've
done a lot of cultural stuff. They had schooling on the grounds there. One day a week
they'd go to the actual school at Coleambally. And then they used to go into the
health service to have their health checks and that too. And they used to do a lot of
35 stuff for them out there, doing a lot of cultural stuff. Yeah, (crosstalk 00:54:29)
wellbeing centres would be good. But we've got the (indistinct 00:54:34) as well.
They got a bit of land out here that they're fighting for, that they're setting up for a
cultural - a lot of cultural activities and stuff out there. They're hoping and trying to
get that land through the 99 year lease shit, but they're building - like, got men's and
40 women's business out there, and a yarnning circle, and people can start linking in out
there to do the cultural stuff. And schools have been going out there, and other
service providers with kids that are under, you know - youth, they take them out
there too on the one on one program. They've got a festival out there on the 20th of
November. So yeah.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** Oh, yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: So they're also working with a lot of landowners and doing cultural burns, and talk to the landowners about the cultural sites and stuff, too. So they got a good rapport with everyone around that area, and they give them a call to go and check their land and stuff too. Yeah, so.

5

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: We were taken from the land, now we need to go back to the land.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

10

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Or we need to get the land back. That's the problem, that's the issue. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Like I say, there's a lot of Crown - Crown land around the, you know, around Australia. But why aren't they allocating that back to the communities, or the traditional owners?

15

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Because it's their investment.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Yeah.

20

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: It's stolen land. Is their investment, that Crown land.

INTERVIEWER: (indistinct 00:55:06) you mentioned before, the farmers finding artefacts and remains and stuff. You know, are you happy to talk a little bit about what you were saying?

25

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: But just what I've said, yeah, that was turning up a Warrakoo, because we got to know the farmers, because we are supplying them with free labour. And the boys go out there because they did their time, instead of going to gaol. So we got to know the neighbours and we go and work on their land, you know, (indistinct 00:55:32) for them, doing whatever they needed. And we got to know them, that they started to trust the people that worked at Warrakoo, and they all of a sudden - they'd turn up from nowhere, in the ute, and they'd have a skull in their ute saying, you know, this has been on the mantelpiece. I want to give it back to you, (indistinct 00:55:51). And like I said, the boys, a lot of boys are frightened of that because, you know, spiritually and but yeah, that was - yeah, once you get to know the land owners, they're good people. They work hard for what they got, but they got land there. But (indistinct 00:56:09) to do with us. But it's yeah, it's over 200 years developing all this shit, and - but there's a lot of sites out there even in (indistinct 00:56:21), you know, there's sites out there that haven't been seen before, because it's on private property or, you know, it's a sheep station and that. Yeah, it's a lot more out there. But (indistinct 00:56:34) said they don't want to show anyone or tell anyone because they might think their land would be taken off them.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: That's been the mindset for 100 -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: 180 years.

5

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: And more so now -

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: With that (indistinct 00:56:48), That's when -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah -

15

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: What was going to happen.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah. They probably had things too out here, but now they put them back in the cupboard now. So -

20

INTERVIEWER: They think this lands going to be taken off them.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Yeah -

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** A bridge - there's a road that's going out to Warrakoo.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** Out to Lake Victoria.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yes.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** That's one of the roads we've got. (indistinct 00:57:08) showed us the road, we all stopped there and had a look. He showed us a skull in the road.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yes.

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** The council is not wanting to veer around that, and you know, mark that off. We actually - he stopped us there and showed us that skull in the road, so there's still haven't, you know? Elders have fought for years and years and they still haven't changed the road.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** They've done that at our laboratory there. We helped put tarp over it there, (indistinct 00:57:37) Mission. But I (indistinct 00:57:39) to say that the (indistinct 00:57:40), corner has bones out there. And there's the

(indistinct 00:57:46) station. You've got this seven foot fella laying down there. A 7 to 8 foot is laying in there, and he's got all these people laying around him. And at Neds Corner, at South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales border there, on the Victorian side, Lake Victoria. Yeah, just got one big fella and he's got all these bones
5 laying around him. So that's where that - story is that the fella wanted to get rid of them. So he gave them poison flower and that - poison tea, whatever it was, and killed them there. That's where they decide to lay down. And there's a lot of other bones out there too as well. As bones all around the place here, but not being told about it because it's been hidden away, or just graded over or, you know, the house
10 being built on it. There's probably bones underneath there, but you won't know about. We don't know, but that's what we're talking about today -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: (crosstalk 00:58:37) education and awareness too.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: To our local governments or the organisations there too.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** If you know who you are, you know where you're going. Yeah, so we've got to bring back that cultural education. Just got -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Done out of school as well.

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** And also got told this story a few months ago by one of the uncles down at Wangaratta. Like, the main streets there called Faithfull Street. And it's a massive - like the Bangerang people around down there, like what they - what happened was that fella what's his name? George Faithfull, I think. He actually - the women were having women's business in the entry to Wangaratta, and
30 he's got all his bushrangers or his policemen, and it was a massive massacre site there. Like, and now he's getting the main street named after him on the same spot where he did that massive massacre site. Like yeah, don't want it to -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: In Benalla too -

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** In Benalla too. Like, yeah. We don't want - we don't want, like that changed, but we just wanted to have an acknowledgement that that's happened there. Like, and there's still clay balls down at the swamp and Wangaratta with the handprints of the women still there, like yeah.

40 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Say you were driving, driving around town, or driving from here to Melbourne or whatever, you know? You come across the town and you think to yourself, any black fellas live here? Did you ever think that?

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8:** Yeah.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Yeah, any black fellas living in this little town? When Aboriginal people in this country, and nowadays you go up to a town and think are there black fellas here? I think that all the time. they probably did, there probably was tribe there years ago, but now there's no one living there. Where are they -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: I moved to Wangaratta 20 years ago -

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6:** (indistinct 01:00:41) Mission -

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: And I went to this medical centre and they were like - I asked is there any Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people living here, and they said, we don't know.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** (indistinct 01:00:48)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: (indistinct 01:00:52) moved here -

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Yes, see that (indistinct 01:00:57) and I wondered at the time. Yeah, I just go through towns and everyone kept telling me in Mildura, you know, go to New South Wales side, I'll go (indistinct 01:01:04). And little towns there, I think to myself, well no, I don't see any black fellas here, what happened to the black fellas here? In case I do break down or something, you know?

25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** But even (indistinct 01:01:16) Road, you know, down in (indistinct 01:01:19). What's it called? And never drive.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Yeah, yeah.

30 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5:** Never drive - they shouldn't (indistinct 01:01:26). Yeah. (crosstalk 01:01:27) Why call the road that?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

35 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1:** Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: That wasn't well thought out, that.

40 **INTERVIEWER:** I'm conscious that it's just after two, and there might be a few people that need to run off at two. So we might finish it up, unless there's anything burning someone wants to share? And if not, we're more than happy to come in tomorrow.

45 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2:** Tomorrow -

INTERVIEWER: We're here tomorrow we're going to stick around even now, for anyone.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: I'll be here.

5 **INTERVIEWER:** So I'll press stop. I just want to say thank you so much for sharing so honestly and powerfully. And it's really important, and we'll do our best to make sure it's meaningful, what you shared. And so thank you. Thank you very much.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7:** Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Thank you. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Thank you.

15 **INTERVIEWER:** Thank you. Fabulous. Thank you.

<THE RECORDING CONCLUDED