



# Gunga'yunga Djamarrkuliny

East Arnhem Land Youth Model – Partnership Agreement



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Australian Government  
National Indigenous  
Australians Agency



**NIAA**



# Gunga'yunga Djamarrkuliny East Arnhem Land Youth Model – Partnership Agreement

Parties:

*Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA)*

and

*National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)*

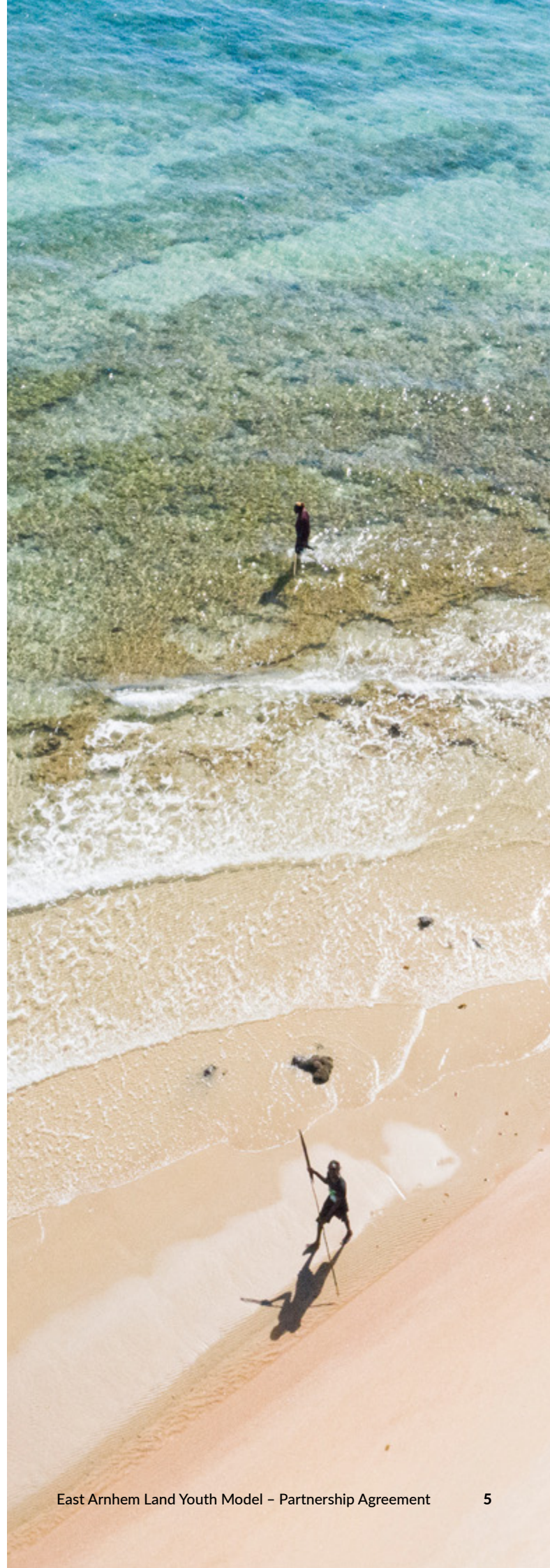
and

*The Northern Territory Government (NTG) represented by the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) and the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (TFHC)*

## 1. Background

- (a) In 2020, the East Arnhem Land Youth Model (now known as Gunga'yunga Djamarrkuliny in the communities within which it is operating; referred to throughout this Partnership Agreement as 'the Model') was established.
- (b) The Model is a community (and homelands) led and controlled model operating in four Yolŋu communities in East Arnhem: Gapuwiyak, Galiwin'ku, Ramingining and Milingimbi.
- (c) Each community has its own local leadership group, created in consultation with the community (including Wanju Watanju (Traditional Owners), bāpurru (clan) leaders and other strong community leaders), which makes decisions about a brokerage fund to engage young people in activities to support them to grow their connection to culture and family.
- (d) The overall Model is not just a youth program or brokerage fund; it is a community capacity-building approach, which aims to restore decision making to clans and communities.
- (e) Each local leadership group meets every four to six weeks to make decisions, including funding decisions regarding a brokerage fund, about activities that can help young people in their community and homelands to grow up strong. Local leadership groups discuss the outcomes of projects previously approved, new project proposals and new ideas. Proposals for activities could originate from local organisations, individual community members or members of the leadership group themselves.
- (f) ALPA administers the brokerage fund for each community at the direction of each local leadership group, as well as employing local Yolŋu coordinators to support the Model's operation.

- (g) The Model and activities funded through it fall at the prevention and early intervention stages of the stepped care continuum, encouraging pro-social behaviours. It does not take referrals from service providers or authorities to support young people who are identified at risk or requiring clinical or more specialised interventions.
- (h) Throughout its first two years of operation, the Model has generated positive engagement in the communities and homelands that it operates in. Many activities funded by local leadership groups are clan-based and focus on building Yolju strength and knowledge in young people. These leadership groups develop local strategies for strong young people and work together with other communities to support the development of regional youth strategies.
- (i) Originally, in 2020, the Model was co-funded by NIAA and NTG for an initial two year period, with a brokerage or facilitation role played by ALPA. Then in 2021 ALPA also invested its own funds in the Model.
- (j) In 2021, ALPA invited NIAA and NTG to partner and co-invest in supporting local leaders to continue the Model beyond June 2022.
- (k) To that end, NTG (via the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities and Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet) and NIAA, have put in place separate five year funding agreements with ALPA which include consistent funding approaches, milestones and reporting arrangements.



## 2. Objectives of the Partnership Agreement

(a) The objectives of this Partnership Agreement are to:

- (i) establish a Partnership Group to facilitate collaboration and better support empowerment of local leadership groups through the Model (see Section 3 below)
- (ii) promote success and lessons of the Model:
  - i. The Parties commit to sharing the story of the Model and promoting the significance and benefits of the Model for the communities in which it operates, as well as the broader East Arnhem region and beyond
  - ii. The Parties also commit to capturing and sharing the stories of the lessons learned by all Parties in the course of working adaptively in the spirit of the objectives of this Partnership Agreement.
- (iii) ensure its integration and alignment with the 10-Year Generational Strategy, as the overarching strategy for children, young people and families in the Northern Territory; underpinned by the Coordinated Investment Framework.
- (iv) ensure other relevant policies and frameworks across jurisdictions that are aligned with, and continuously considered, throughout the Partnership, including:
  - i. Closing the Gap, across all four Priority Reform Areas (next page)
  - ii. Local Decision Making
  - iii. Everyone Together – Aboriginal Affairs Strategy 2019-2029
  - iv. relevant policies, such as The Indigenous Voice to Parliament and Indigenous Advancement Strategy, as advised by NIAA over time.

### *Closing the Gap Priority Reform Areas*

- (b) Each of the four priority reforms that underpin the National Agreement on Closing the Gap are relevant to the Model, and each Party commits to advancing these objectives through the Partnership:
- (i) Priority Reform One – Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making
  - (ii) Priority Reform Two – Building the Community-Controlled Sector
  - (iii) Priority Reform Three – Transforming Government Organisations
  - (iv) Priority Reform Four – Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level.

(c) In respect of Priority Reform Three, the Parties acknowledge the following context:

- (i) In the course of the initial two years establishing the Model, the Parties identified that the innovation that underpins the Model was not only transformative for the communities in which it is operating, but also in the challenges it poses to mainstream public sector decision making and administration, or 'ways of working'.
- (ii) In that way, the Model presents a valuable opportunity to proactively build an understanding of, and advance actions towards, Closing the Gap Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations. This Priority Reform calls on parties to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap to 'commit to systemic and structural transformation of mainstream government organisations to improve accountability, and to respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people'.
- (iii) By entering into this Partnership Agreement, each Party recognises that harnessing the opportunity of the Model to advance systemic and structural transformations will require deliberate and consistent efforts at all levels within the government partners involved.
- (iv) In particular, the Parties acknowledge that while ALPA is a leading partner, it is uniquely placed to highlight to government partners (NTG and NIAA) examples of both what works well, and what gets in the way of the community-controlled sector being able to genuinely partner with governments. It will be important for the Parties to consciously create safety for ALPA, and the community members and leaders involved in the Model, to truthfully express the kinds of practice changes that government partners need to consider to meaningfully progress towards Priority Reform Three.



### 3. The Partnership Group

(a) In addition to the responsibilities of each Party under the relevant funding agreements for the Model, all the Parties are committed to continuing the Partnership Group that has supported the work of the Model since 2020.

(b) The purpose of the Partnership Group is to:

(i) bring a strategic focus premised on innovation governance (beyond funding/contract management), to support agile responses to developments and learnings by all Parties and communities themselves

(ii) collaboratively identify and proactively manage risks and maximise opportunities to advance the outcomes of the Model using all of the levers that Parties can bring to bear, as well as preserving its integrity the context of evolving policy environments

(iii) share learning that emerges through the Model's operation with broader Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments and stakeholders in so far as the practical examples of the Model are relevant to implementation of various empowerment and self-determination policies

(iv) be an agent for change across broader Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments, particularly where departure from methodologies and ways of working that are familiar to government partners.

(c) The Parties commit to:

(i) advancing the objectives of this Agreement by attending and participating in all scheduled Partnership Group activities

(ii) sharing information and resolve any legislative, regulatory or compliance requirements relevant to the achievement of the Model's objectives in a timely manner

(iii) signing legally binding confidentiality/non-disclosure agreements (if necessary) and funding agreements as required

(iv) allocating appropriate resources and representation to the facilitation process contemplated by this Agreement.

### 4. Meetings of the Partnership Group

(a) NTG will convene the Partnership Group (as both Chair and Secretariat.

(b) The Partnership Group will meet every six to eight weeks, unless otherwise agreed in advance.

(c) The Parties commit to two senior representatives (SAO2/EL2 and above) being involved in Partnership Group meetings.

(d) The Parties appreciate that the effectiveness of the Partnership Group depends on the involvement of senior representatives from each Partner to actively participate and use relevant delegations to support flexibility/adaptation in response to identified needs.

(e) A Partnership Group meeting schedule to ensure that all stakeholders can be available and remain highly engaged in the Model.

(f) Meetings of the Partnership Group will include standing agenda items focused on the objectives of this Partnership Agreement.



## 5. Financial and administrative arrangements

- (a) The Parties have agreed to provide financial support to the Model for the five year period from July 2022 to June 2027, as follows (the terms and conditions of which will be set out in formal agreements as necessary):
  - (i) NTG, through TFHC - \$2m (exc GST)
  - (ii) NIAA - \$3.75m (exc GST)
  - (iii) ALPA - \$2m (exc GST).
- (b) The Parties agree to work to align any reporting requirements in their funding arrangements to ensure streamlined and efficient reporting and reduce administrative burden as far as practicable and in line with internal approvals and requirements.

## 6. Evaluation and learning

- (a) The Parties acknowledge that ALPA is establishing a specific monitoring, evaluation and learning framework for the Model, including methodologies to ensure local outcomes and measures are at the fore in evaluation at both individual funded activities and the broader Model.
- (b) ALPA has also included in its budget for funded activities at years three and five a review and evaluation of the Model at levels set in the relevant grant agreements.
- (c) NTG (CM&C and TFHC) and NIAA commit to work together in years four and five of the Model to undertake an independent evaluation to determine whether the Model is achieving its intended objectives for across communities, young people and capacity building for local leadership, as well as unintended outcomes from the Model's implementation, to inform opportunities for further development and future funding decisions. The independent evaluation should also capture the broader policy and practice objectives outlined in Section 2 of this Partnership Agreement, particularly progress towards Closing the Gap Priority Reforms.

## 7. Communication

- (a) The Parties will develop and agree upon:
  - (i) any briefing or media or broader community information content for the Model and the Parties agree not to make any media or community statement outside this process
  - (ii) a uniform description of the Model, its design and its intended benefits for use by each Party.

## 8. Status of agreement

- (a) The Parties acknowledge the benefits associated with working together on the Model and agree to work cooperatively to achieve the objectives set out in this Agreement.
- (b) The Parties agree that it is intended that this Agreement will remain in place until the conclusion of the current five-year funding agreements (June 2027), and may be revised by agreement within that period.
- (c) Other than any obligation on a party to keep information confidential expressed herein, this Agreement is not intended to create legally binding and enforceable rights and obligations. The Parties agree however that they will work diligently to fulfil their overall commitment to complete this Agreement and the Model in good faith in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and any ancillary agreements in relation to dealings with funding and property that may be entered into by all or any combination of the Parties to enable the due delivery of the Model.

## 9. Amendments

- (a) Alterations, additions or amendments to this Agreement may only be made in writing signed by each of the Parties.

# Gunga'yunga Djamarrkuliny

## East Arnhem Land Youth Model – Partnership Agreement

SIGNED BY:

Name: Lily GAKAMBARA - ROY

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: Lily G. Roy

Name: Malarndirri McCarthy

Title: Senator for Northern Territory

Department/Organisation: Commonwealth Parliament

Signed: mmccarthy

Name: SELENA UIBO

Title: NT MINISTER FOR LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Department/Organisation: NT GOVERNMENT

Signed: Selena Uibo

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

