

Our Bio's

Dr. Ngardarb Francine Riches

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I am a professional visual artist with a career spanning 35 years. I have exhibited my work Nationally and Internationally. My journey has included being a speaker, student, facilitator, co-editor, and Children's books illustrator. Most of my art projects and pieces are commissioned as Public Art or are paintings for private collections. I have a wealth of life experiences to draw on when consulting for Aboriginal causes and concerns. We have been providing Cultural Awareness and competency training for decades through Schools, Universities, Businesses and charities.

Qualifications

- PhD – Doctor of Philosophy – ‘Healing through the Arts; my Art’
- 2020 Commenced Masters of Art Therapy at Latrobe University
- Masters of Fine Arts by Research at the University of Melbourne. ‘Family traditions and continuity of the Bardi Jawi people’
- Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Research
- Professional Certificate in Indigenous Research
- Cert. IV Business
- Cert. IV Workplace training and assessment
- Mental Health First aid facilitator
- Cert. III Child care
- Training in Community Pastoral Care, Suicide Prevention, holistic health and wellbeing. Etc.

Work roles

- Community Health worker – Co-Health WA, establishing a food share program to assist Aboriginal people to have access to healthcare services. (Also with Isis Health Service)
- Art therapy telehealth placement – Brimbank Community Neighbourhood house projects with five diverse cultural groups
- Community Arts Worker – Arts generator – helping Aboriginal and T.I. people reconnect
- Consultant – Dept. for Child protection for placement of children in care across WA.

- Student support South Metropolitan TAFE – Balga Campus: Perth, WA. Helping ex-offenders
- Client Case Worker – Crisis Hostel for at-risk young women. Ebenezer Services Inc. WA.
- Teachers aid – Alta 1 Landsdale campus. Helping yr. 11-12 students
- Shop owner – Port Hedland WA
- Palliative care services – Established Meals on wheels services
- Womens' group – Community programs
- Hostel Parent – Carnarvon and Esperance WA
- Secretary – WA

Tony Riches

- Advanced Diploma of Ministry and Theology
- Diploma of Business
- Cert. IV Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care
- Cert. IV Workplace training and assessment

Work roles

- CEO Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship of Aus. Inc. from 2016
- CEO of Ebenezer Home Inc. 11 yrs. Managing hostels and support programs for at-risk youth
- Administrator – Gumbarnun Aboriginal Community
- Pastor – One Arm Point, Halls Creek and Melbourne
- Sports Chaplain – AFL and with Fitzroy Stars
- Hostel parent – Esperance WA
- Manager- Aged care facility accommodating 16 people in Carnarvon WA
- Artist, Shop owner, Painter, Electrician.

Together

Founders

- Specialised Indigenous Services – Arts Business, Training and Consultancy

- Melbourne Indigenous church fellowship (MICF)– Caring for the community in Melbourne.
- Solid Chaplaincy Indigenous Youth Program – Training supporters of young people in crisis.
- Scattered Tribes – Art therapy and cultural advisory group in Melbourne’s Western Suburbs
- Pama Ilya Incorporated – Nonprofit org. to help facilitate community programs.

Co-developed and delivered training packages for organisations and groups

- **‘Our Story – finding hope beyond grief’** (with Keren Masters). Grief, loss and trauma training for Women with Pastoral Care needs; Train the trainer workshops.
- **‘Speaking 4 ways’** Suicide prevention and intervention – delivered throughout the Kimberley region of WA
- **‘Living fullness’** – drawing on Cultural knowledge and varied experience to help young people navigate life issues. Training youth workers in FNQ sponsored by Compassion Aus. and Focus on the Family
- **‘Solid Chaplaincy’** – designed and facilitated the first National Aboriginal Chaplain training at Etihad in Melbourne. Helping those working with young people in crisis(also delivered in Fiji)

Councils which we have chaired or been committee members of:
 Gumbarnun Community, Ardyuloon (One Arm Point), ANKAAA – (ANKA) Association of Northern, Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists NT, Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship National and Eastern Ladies groups, Reconciliation Action Committee- City of Maribyrnong, Aboriginal Health and well-being advisory board- Western Region Health. (Sunshine Hospital), Footscray Playgroup – Save the Children Fund, Churches of Christ Vic/Tas Aboriginal Taskforce, Melbourne Indigenous Church Fellowship, etc.

Art Commissions

University of Melbourne (2 current projects), Tearfund International, Brimbank City Council (Neighbourhood House mural), CoHealth Centre Footscray (façade and Internal glass), City of Maribyrnong (installation), SASH’s Salvation Army (3d mural), CoHealth Offices (Triptyche), City of Stirling WA, City of Subiaco WA, Dept. of Health WA, Broome Hospital

(multiple commissions in diverse media – bronze, stone, concrete, plaster, mosaic), Binningup School, Conservation and Land Management (signage), Sculpture by the Sea – Cottesloe, Bondi and Denmark...
Workshops – with Art, Cultural lessons, Murals, Mosaics in dozens of schools in Victoria and WA.
Many private collectors have also commissioned paintings.

PUBLICATIONS

2018 Co-editor– ‘A Celebration of God’s Faithfulness’ – Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship of Australia

2017 Co-authored workbook and Manual – ‘Our Story’ Find Hope Beyond Grief. Co-Facilitated ‘train the trainer’ workshops for Aboriginal women leaders

PRESENTATIONS

Organisations that we have presented for include:

University of Melbourne – VCA and graduation speaker, Latrobe – Anthropology and Sociology, City of Maribyrnong Citizenship ceremonies, Co-health advisor and presenter, AMES (refugees), Book Launch for James Boyce titled 1835, Concern Aus., TEAR Aus., Surrender, Focus on the Family (Families), Churches, CCVT, Prison Fellowship, Multiple churches and schools.

International – Pembroke University – Cultural Anthropology class N.C., Davis College N.Y., Ovalau Festival and Chaplains. Fiji, Wycliffe Associates Pacific Conference Vanuatu.