



DAY 1 PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2026

DRAFT

- 8:00AM - 9:00AM ● Registration
- 9:00AM - 9:05AM ● Opening Address & Welcome: Dr Heather Lovatt, Director - QCDFVR
- 9:05AM - 9:40AM ● Welcome to Country
- 9:40AM - 10:40AM ● Keynote Presentation: Courtney Ugle

10:45AM - 11:15AM : MORNING TEA

- 11:15AM - 11:30AM ● Who's who in the room?
- 11:30AM - 12:30PM ● Community Presentations

12:30PM - 1:30PM : LUNCH

- 1:30PM - 2:30PM ● Community Presentations
- 2:30PM - 4:30PM ● Workshop: Self-care through laughter
- 4:30PM - 7:00PM ● Networking Event

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

STRENGTH IN UNITY



DAY 2 PROGRAM

THURSDAY 21ST MAY 2026

DRAFT

- 8:30AM - 9:00AM ● Registration
- 9:00AM - 9:15AM ● Welcome: Yarning for Change - First Nations Voices
- 9:15AM - 9:35AM ● Presentation: National Commissioner, Sue-Anne Hunter
National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Children and Young People
- 9:35AM - 10:05AM ● Prevention on the agenda
- 10:05AM - 10:30AM ● Two Spirits Presentation

10:30AM - 11:00AM : MORNING TEA

- 11:00AM - 12:00PM ● Community Presentations
- 12:00PM - 12:40PM ● Workshop

12:40PM - 1:30PM : LUNCH

- 1:30PM - 2:45PM ● Workshop: Yarning for Change - A call to action
- 2:45PM - 3:00PM ● Forum Concluding Remarks

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

STRENGTH IN UNITY



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Courtney Ugle



Courtney Ugle, is a proud Ballardong/Wardandi Noongar woman from Bunbury Western Australia. Courtney Ugle was born into a family where domestic violence was normalised, a harsh reality that shaped her early years.

At just 11 years old, she experienced the devastating loss of her dad. Eight years later, tragedy struck again when her mother, was murdered at the age of 42.

These profound losses, coupled with the trauma of growing up in an environment of violence, left Courtney grappling with immense pain at a young age.

Despite the adversity, football became a lifeline. It was more than just a sport, it was a place of solace, healing, and empowerment. Through football, Courtney found not only an outlet for her grief but also the strength to rebuild her life.

It was the community she found on the field that helped her channel her pain into power- this was the seed that eventually grew into Waangkiny.

Waangkiny was founded for everyone. It is a space where stories are shared and healing begins, no matter who you are or where you come from. The name itself means "talking" in Courtney's Noongar language, symbolising the power of conversation and connection in creating positive change.

Waangkiny stands as a testament to the idea that pain can be transformed into strength and that everyone has the potential to rise above their challenges. This is a story of hope and big dreams.

Courtney's story is not about placing blame or bringing shame to her family. Instead, it aims to bring light to the truths that are often hidden in the shadows. She carries no shame in sharing her journey; while she loves her parents deeply, this is her story, and it's one that deserves to be told.

Courtney believes deeply that "we are the warriors and the dreamers, and there are no limits to what we can achieve." Today, she works tirelessly to create safer communities, challenge social norms, and provide a voice for those who have been silenced.

Looking forward, she is committed to expanding her impact and ensuring that the pain she has experienced becomes a force for good, not just for herself, but for her community and generations to come.

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2026

TIME 9:40AM - 10:40AM





OUR SPEAKERS



Sue-Anne Hunter

**NATIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR ABORIGINAL & TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

Sue-Anne Hunter is the inaugural National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, and a Wurundjeri and Ngurai Illum Wurrung woman. She is known for her work as Deputy Chair and Commissioner in Victoria's Yoorrook Justice Commission, Australia's first formal First Peoples truth-telling inquiry. Sue-Anne is also a member of the National Centre for Reconciliation, Truth, and Justice Advisory Board, an Adjunct Professor of Global Engagement at Federation University and a PhD candidate at Monash University.

With a background in child and family services practice, Sue-Anne has over two decades' clinical experience responding to developmental, transgenerational and community trauma. She is widely recognised for developing rights-based, transformative practice responses that empower Aboriginal people to heal from the continuing effects and processes of colonisation.

THURSDAY 21ST MAY 2026
TIME 9:15AM - 9:35AM



Leon Filewood

**NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING
COMEDIAN**

Leon Filewood is a national award-winning comedian and proud Kuku Yalanji Bama and Kemer Kemer Meriam man from Zenadth Kes. Winner of the national Deadly Funny competition in 2018 makes him one of the funniest blackfellas in Australia. Leon has performed at the Oxfam Comedy Gala, the Comedy All Stars Super Show at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, and other major comedy and fringe festivals across the country including Sydney, Adelaide, and Perth.

His debut solo show Holding Space, directed by Tom Ballard, is currently premiering at the 2026 Melbourne International Comedy Festival as part of the prestigious Moosehead Award program. A firm believer that laughter is medicine, Leon's warm, disarmingly sharp comedy is a tool for healing, connection, and truth-telling, making him one of the most exciting and cheekily cutting voices in Australian stand-up.

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2026
TIME 2:30PM - 4:30PM



OUR SPEAKERS



Marnie Davis is a proud Aboriginal woman from Dharug country, with close ties to Bundjalung, Kombumerri and Quandamooka country, where she was raised. Marnie has worked across government and community services as an advocate addressing practice gaps to ensure community needs are addressed, and Aboriginal voices are heard. Marnie has mentored Aboriginal workers across NSW and facilitated state-wide forums for Aboriginal Family Wellbeing & Violence Prevention workers. She has facilitated training within Northern NSW to build capacity in the workforce and improve responses and support for better outcomes for the community.

Marnie's university training was centred around Indigenous Trauma and Recovery Practice and a Masters in Indigenous Health. Marnie has many years of experience as a frontline worker within the Domestic Violence sector; in DV refuge settings, Aboriginal Medical Services, and, as an Aboriginal Family Wellbeing & Violence Prevention Facilitator within NSW Government. Marnie joined WUNH in January 2025 as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Learning and Development Lead for the Enhancing Workforce Responses to Sexual Violence Project and as the organisations Cultural Lead.

Marnie is a Queensland Senate Candidate representing the Indigenous-Aboriginal Party of Australia (IAPA) for the last two federal elections. Marnie is also the Chairperson of the Goori Interagency in Tweed, Executive Committee Member of the Domestic Violence Integrated Response Committee and Board Member of Beyond Behaviour Aboriginal Corporation. In 2026 Marnie was the winner of the Homes NSW Award for Sector Contribution for enhancing Indigenous Trauma Informed Practice in our workforce and community through the delivery of "Yarning for Change" training. <https://wunh.org.au/>



Marnie Davis

WOMAN UP NORTH

THURSDAY 21ST MAY 2026

TIME 1:30PM - 2:45PM

