



NALDERUN YULAWIL SHARING CIRCLE JULY 2026

WE ACKNOWLEDGE ALL FIRST PEOPLES ACROSS THIS CONTINENT AS THE SOVEREIGN CUSTODIANS AND TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE UNCEDED LANDS ON WHICH WE WORK AND LIVE.

This learning community was commissioned by Social Enterprise Australia as part of the Australian Government's Social Enterprise Development Initiative (SEDI) to help build social enterprise sector capability and grow social impact.



Yulawil Sharing Circle Overview

Our Purpose

The purpose of the Yulawil Sharing Circle was to firstly bring together First Nations organisation members to yarn about how their organisations support First Nations youth and secondly, to dream up how they would want orgs to support First Nations youth. Yulawil invited First Nations representatives from First Nations organisations, allies working within these orgs and further, extended the invite to First Nations youth.

The Yulawil Sharing Circle convened three times over the span of 3 months, with the first meeting to co-create and form intention for the following meetings.

Each meeting was shaped by what we wanted to share and learn about our approaches to First Nations Youth Leadership and Mentorship within organisations.

The Sharing Circle was tasked with producing a resource to share our insights with organisations, the format decided upon was a short video responding to two prompts:

1. How is your organisation set up to support young mob?
2. If you had a dream, how would you want orgs to support First Nations youth better?

Yulawil Circle Contributors

Chase Norfolk – Nalderun	Ben Reid – Nalderun
Kath Coff – Nalderun	Kate Daglas – Nalderun/Shifting Ground
Sam Nolan – Tumpinyeri Growers	Josh Williams
Andrea Distefano – Nalderun	Jaiden McGregor
Ann-Maree Long – Sandpoppy Weaving/EPIC Pathways	Anthony Milne
Thea Raveneau	Josephine Kilpatrick



First Nations Futurity - Our Young People are Our Future

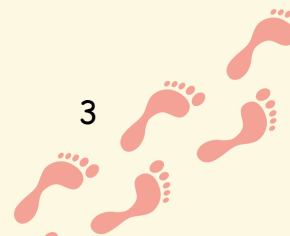
The following points are a medley of challenges, key themes, insights and recommendations from the Yulawil Sharing Circle.

The below is not an exhaustive reflection of the work required to engage with First Nations youth as an organisation. This is the outcome of three separate conversations across four hours, a core recommendation is that **we need more time** to have these conversations, with more First Nations people and organisations.

- Organisations often **don't make it clear what their intentions are** for the young people and what they're getting out of it. This work requires transparency and working with intention
- **Relational practice is automatic for mob**, non-Indigenous organisations need to learn how to do this. Connection is paramount to working with young mob
- Often organisations **aren't set up to support person-centred or trauma informed** approaches to working with young people. Young people are the focus, however are often not consulted on decisions being made about them
- Focus on **shifting outcomes** to be determined by young people, incorporating their measures of success
- **Provide stable and equitable opportunities** that are ongoing, or can lead to the ongoing development of the young people – assisting in their transition into adulthood
- **Young people are holders of wisdom too**
- **Circular mentoring** – everyone enters and engages as a learner
- **Shifting pay structures** to reflect the time, wisdom and ICIP shared by young people, rather than age-based pay structures
- **Trust goes both ways**
- Work should be **guided by Elders and Community** not corporate or government but grounded in anticolonial and self-deterministic ways of being, doing and knowing
- **Safety**. Ensuring spaces and people are safe before young people enter – listen to them, provide space for them to voice any uncomfortability/unsafety
- **Amplify the voices of First Nations youth**
- Finding ways to acknowledge and **push against the systems** and legislation that limit the ability to sufficiently support young mob
- **Show up for young mob** despite the racism and systems that don't understand our ways

Reflections from the Sharing Circle

"Participating in the Yulawil Sharing Circle was an incredibly valuable experience, both for my personal and professional practice. Being held in this space, to learn from and with other mob provided the perfect platform to further develop my understanding of working with First Nations youth.





What emerged was a deeper insight into the core strengths of First Nations organisations working in this space, and an analysis of pressure points to be further explored and addressed, within non-Indigenous organisations. I will be carrying these insights with me into future roles, working with First Nations youth and, working with all youth."

- Yulawil Sharing Circle participant

Reflections from the Yulawil team

Nalderun's Yulawil team had the pleasure of bringing First Nations organisations and young people together, using this opportunity to connect through our shared experiences.

Sharing these insights in a space where we could talk honestly and openly was extremely valuable to us, and to the participants. Nalderun used this as an opportunity to broaden our network and build upon existing connections, allowing us to foster new connections and strengthen others through shared opportunities.

Through the sharing circle, we were able to connect with, and hire a participant on a casual basis who then helped piece this work together. As a final reflection from the Yulawil team, we would like to echo that, collectively, we need more time and space to share in these conversations.



THANK YOU

All intellectual property rights in this document are owned by Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation.

© Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation, 2026

This document is protected by copyright and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Protocols (ICIP), ethical principles that uphold the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to protect their stories, traditions and culture.