

ABORIGINAL YOUTH COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR

SUMMARY REPORT



JUNE 2022 - JULY 2025



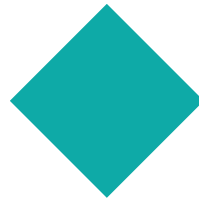
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work on the NSW Central Coast. We pay respect to the Darkinung people, the Darkinung community, their Elders both past and present and their youth who are their future leaders. This is Aboriginal land, Darkinung land.

Always was
Always will be.



Table Of Contents



04	Executive Summary
05	Annual Highlights June 2022 - July 2023
09	Annual Highlights July 2023 - June 2024
12	Annual Highlights July 2024 - June 2025
19	Financials June 2022 - July 2025



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Aboriginal Youth and Community Navigator Program was established through a collaborative agreement between the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and Barang Regional Alliance, formalised through Local Decision Making (LDM) negotiations in 2020.

The LDM initiative was driven by Barang's Regional Development Agenda (RDA) and the community's commitment to youth empowerment. The RDA reflects the voices of Aboriginal people across the Central Coast, outlining key priorities and strategies for achieving them. It also provides Barang with a mandate to engage in LDM negotiations and develop initiatives such as the Aboriginal Youth and Community Navigator program.

This initiative was developed in response to the urgent need to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system on Darkinung Country (Central Coast NSW). The negotiations outlined a shared commitment to designing a culturally safe, community-led service model that would support Aboriginal youth and their families impacted by legal matters, with the goals of increasing coordinated support, reducing offending, and strengthening family and community integrity.

The Central Coast Community Legal Centre (CCCLC) was selected as the host organisation due to its longstanding partnerships with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and its therapeutic, social justice-oriented approach. CCCLC became an Associate Member of Barang Regional Alliance in 2021, and the program officially launched in October 2022.

Since its inception, the program has provided culturally safe, non-legal support to Aboriginal young people navigating the justice system, offering court assistance, referrals to wraparound services, and contributing to broader legal reform efforts. It aligns with the NSW Premier's Priorities and Closing the Gap targets, aiming to reduce reoffending and ensure Aboriginal youth and families are safe and supported.

With the initial funding period concluding on 30 June 2025, DCJ has renewed its support through a new 12-month funding agreement. This extension, brokered under the NSW Government's Local Decision Making initiative and the OCHRE strategy, marks a strategic shift toward deeper community-led systems reform. The renewed agreement reinforces the partnership between DCJ, Barang Regional Alliance, and CCCLC.

2022- 2023



Summary

The Aboriginal Youth & Community Navigator Project, launched in 2022 on Darkinung Country, was a partnership between Barang Regional Alliance, the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, and the Central Coast Community Legal Centre to support Aboriginal youth impacted by the justice system. In its first year, the project recruited two navigators, engaged widely with community stakeholders, and began reducing barriers to justice through culturally informed support and court engagement. These efforts contributed to diversion outcomes and aligned with Closing the Gap targets to reduce reoffending and alignment with Closing the Gap targets.

Annual highlights

- **Project Launch:** Officially launched in October 2022 with a community workshop attended by 47 local youth stakeholders.
- **Team Established:** Barry John Duncan and Brooke Rowsthorne were appointed as the first Navigators.
- **Community Connections:** The team attended events like RUOK Day, Bungree Block Party, Youth Summits, and Children's Court sessions.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Built relationships with Police, Youth Justice, Legal Services, Elders, and Aboriginal controlled community organisations.
- **Focus Areas:** Mapping services, building referral pathways, and exploring models like Broadmeadow Children's Court.

Case Study 1

"Launch Day at the Beachcomber Hotel was a great success. We brought together over 40 organisations from different youth services, helping us all see what support is out there and how we can work better together for our young people on the Central Coast. I'm also working alongside the CCAS worker at Wyong and Woy Woy Children's Courts, supporting Aboriginal kids by linking them with services and being there for them inside and outside of court."

– Brooke, Youth Aboriginal Navigator Worker

Case Study 2

Our Aboriginal Youth and Community Navigator attends weekly Children's Court sittings in Woy Woy, and monthly in Wyong, alongside the CCAS worker from the legal centre. Together, they provide culturally safe support to Aboriginal young people, offering referrals, guidance, and education on navigating the justice system. This consistent presence ensures young people feel supported, informed, and connected to the services they need during a critical time in their lives.

LAUNCH DAY



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

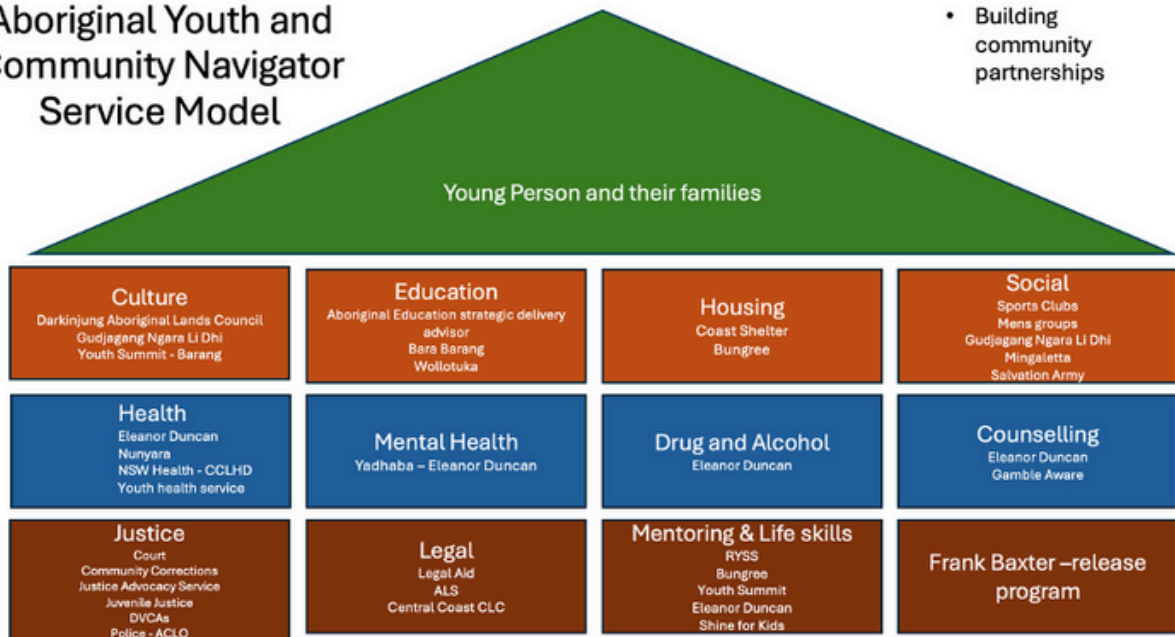


2022-2023

Identified Priorities From the Launch

- 1. Access to Information.** Centralised resource, service directory, and regular updates on supports.
- 2. Legal Education & Support.** Help young people understand the law, and get early legal intervention.
- 3. Culturally Safe Services.** Aboriginal-led spaces, no motel placements, and trauma-informed care.
- 4. Youth Voice & Empowerment.** Tools and platforms for youth to access services and have their voices heard.
- 5. Better Collaboration.** Stronger coordination between services, shared care models, and clear referral pathways.

Aboriginal Youth and Community Navigator Service Model



2023- 2024



Summary

From July 2023 to June 2024, the Aboriginal Youth and Community Navigator program, hosted by the Central Coast Community Legal Centre in partnership with Barang Regional Alliance, made significant strides in supporting Aboriginal young people in the Darkinung community. The program focused on reducing youth involvement in the justice system through culturally safe, wraparound services, court support, diversionary initiatives, and community engagement. Key achievements included the recruitment of new Navigators, expansion of therapeutic and legal support programs, collaboration with local police and courts, and active participation in law reform discussions. The Navigators provided direct assistance to nearly 280 young people at Wyong and Woy Woy Children's Courts, built strong relationships with stakeholders, and launched initiatives like the Bigan Mob Programme and worked with Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services mentoring youth at Frank Baxter. The program continued to advocate for sustained funding and integration of culturally safe legal services beyond June 2025.

Annual highlights

- **New Faces:** Farelled BJ and Brooke, welcomed Zac McEwen (Junior Navigator) and Jason Pitt (Senior Navigator).
- **Youth Summit:** Engaged with over 100 young people, building trust and sharing support options.
- **Justice Reinvest Visit:** Learned from Moree's model to bring ideas back to Darkinung Country.
- **Court Support:** Supported 279 Aboriginal young people at Wyong and Woy Woy Children's Courts.
- **Central Contact Point:** Set up a dedicated email and phone line for referrals
- **Diversion Work:** Worked with Police and Legal Services to promote alternatives to charges, especially around trespass issues.
- **Cultural Programs:** Delivered life skills and cultural workshops at Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre.
- **Legal Reform Advocacy:** Contributed to statewide reforms like Raise the Age and Family is Culture.
- **Community Legal Clinics:** Partnered with Gudjagang Ngara Li Dhi to support youth and families with legal and non-legal needs.

2023-2024

Identified Priorities

- 1. Therapeutic Court Models:** Continue discussions with Magistrates to adopt therapeutic approaches in Wyong and Woy Woy Children's Courts, informed by Broadmeadow Children's Court and the Lit Project.
- 2. Biannual Strategic Meetings:** Maintain ongoing meetings with Barang Regional Alliance and the President of the NSW Children's Court to improve service delivery for Aboriginal youth and families.
- 3. Youth Mentoring and Employment:** Collaborate with Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Lands Council to deliver Work Development Orders (WDOs) .
- 4. Training and Employment Pathways:** Refer youth into Bara Barang's programs including driving, financial counselling, mentoring, and employment support.
- 5. Bigan Mob Programme:** Implement a culturally safe, trauma-informed model of care addressing education, housing, health, legal, and social needs for youth involved in the justice system.
- 6. Post-Release Support:** Work with NSW Health, Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services, and Frank Baxter to support youth transitioning back into community life.
- 7. Youth Justice Engagement:** Present the Navigator role to Youth Justice and promote legal help and WDO opportunities for young people.
- 8. Trespass Diversion Strategy:** Develop a youth legal resource with CLSD Legal Aid and coordinate with shopping centres and police to reduce punitive responses to youth trespass.
- 9. Community Legal Access:** Support Aboriginal staff to become a Justice of the Peace to improve access to certified legal documentation.
- 10. Court and Community Presence:** Continue weekly attendance at Wyong and Woy Woy Children's Courts and maintain strong engagement with youth services.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



2024- 2025



Summary

Between July 2024 and June 2025, the Aboriginal Youth and Community Navigator Program continued to deliver culturally safe, community-led support to Aboriginal youth and families across Darkinung Country. The program expanded its partnerships, strengthened outreach including at Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre and maintained a strong presence in courts, community events, the youth action meetings and interagency networks. With a focus on mentoring, legal education, and family connection, the program continues to make strides in improving access to justice, wellbeing, and cultural pride among Aboriginal youth and their families.

Annual highlights

- Strengthened partnerships with Bigan Mob Resources and other community organisations.
- Delivered outreach and workshops at Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre.
- Provided court support at Wyong and Woy Woy Children's Courts.
- Participated in key networks: PACC, CCAIN, YAMS, and Youth Interagency.
- Delivered community legal education and youth mentoring.
- Reconnected youth with families and Elders through cultural activities.
- Completed the Trespass Legal Resource in partnership with Legal Aid.

Case Study 1

The Aboriginal Youth and Community Navigator Program's designed Bigan Mob Resources. Dedicated to providing culturally informed social and mental health support to Indigenous youth on Darkinung Country, Bigan Mob has significantly enhanced the Navigator's capacity to deliver culturally safe services. Young people were linked to vital supports including cultural healing, mental health, drug and alcohol services, mentoring, education, and legal education. Helping them overcome personal challenges and reconnect with culture, identity, and community.

Case Study 2

In response to a rise in trespass offences among Aboriginal youth, particularly in shopping centres, the Aboriginal Youth and Community Navigators initiated discussions with NSW Police to encourage diversionary approaches. Recognising the need for practical support, the Navigators teamed up with solicitors from the Central Coast Community Legal Centre and collaborated with Legal Aid NSW to develop a Trespass Legal Resource. Now adopted as a statewide resource, to support promoting early intervention and reducing repeat offences.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Let's talk trespass

Know your
rights +
find help



What is trespass?

Trespass is like sneaking into someone's yard or house without asking. Not cool unless they say it's okay!

Trespass can include walking on or staying on someone's property without permission. Even leaving backpacks or a bike on someone's property, or throwing something through a doorway, can be trespass.

Even if you are somewhere where lots of people go, like a supermarket or shopping centre, you might still be trespassing if you have been told to leave and you don't.

Is trespassing a crime?

In NSW, trespass is usually a 'civil' law issue. This means the person responsible for the property might be able to take you to court and make you pay money, or stop you from coming back.

If it's serious, trespass can also be a crime. You could be fined, or you might be charged and have to go to court. You could even face gaol time. If you are convicted of a trespass offence in court, it will appear on your criminal record.

If police want to talk to you about trespass, you should get legal advice straight away.

What if I have a good reason for being here?

The law says that sometimes it is okay for you to be somewhere, even if you didn't ask permission first – for example, if you needed to help in an emergency, like putting out a fire. Or there might be legal reasons that make it okay, like when police officers have a 'warrant'.

What's a 'trespass notice'?

A trespass notice is a warning that says you aren't allowed to be somewhere. If you are given a trespass notice, and you come back anyway, you could be fined or arrested. These notices are given by places like stores or schools to keep everyone safe. A trespass notice can be written or spoken.

Sometimes the notice will be called a 'termination of licence' notice.

Can security guards question or search me?

If a security guard approaches you at a shopping centre, you have rights. They can ask questions, but you don't have to answer. They can only search your bag if you agree. If you say no, they might ask you to leave. Remember shopping centres are private property, so security guards can tell you to leave, or even ban you. Stay calm, be polite, and if you're unsure, ask to call a parent or guardian.

What if I get a trespass notice from a security guard?

If you get a trespass notice at a shopping centre, you can't go back there. If you do, you could be fined or even arrested. It's important to stay away and avoid any trouble. If you're under 18 and you want to complain about a security guard's behaviour or about being banned by a shopping centre, you can call the Legal Aid NSW Youth Hotline on 1800 10 18 10 and speak to a lawyer.

Where can I go for help?

Under 18? Call the Legal Aid NSW Youth Hotline: 1800 10 18 10

LawAccess NSW: 1300 888 529

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT): 1800 765 767

If you live on the Central Coast, you can also contact:

Central Coast Community Legal Centre: (02) 4353 4988

Central Coast Community Legal Centre Aboriginal Youth & Community Navigator: 0492 865 273

This brochure is a general guide to the law. You should not rely on it as legal advice, and we recommend that you talk to a lawyer about your situation. The information is correct at the time of printing, however it may change. For more information contact LawAccess NSW on 1300 888 529.



© Legal Aid NSW 2025

You may copy, print, distribute, download and otherwise freely deal with this work for a non-profit purpose provided that you attribute Legal Aid NSW as the owners, and there is no modification to the work. To reproduce the work for any other purpose, or to modify the work, you need to ask for and be given permission by Legal Aid NSW.

COURT SUPPORT

Aboriginal Youth Navigators provided vital assistance at Wyong and Woy Woy Children's Courts, supporting young people and their families throughout legal proceedings. Their role encompassed guidance on court processes, referrals to culturally safe services, and emotional support. This presence helped to demystify the justice system for Aboriginal youth and encouraged engagement with diversionary pathways.

Thanks to the partnership with Bigan Mob, court support services were significantly expanded to Aboriginal Youth with 203 youth coming into contact with the team at Court. This collaboration enabled direct mentoring and family connection activities, enhancing the programme's ability to intervene at pivotal moments in young people's lives.

Court/No. YP	Jul-Sept 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Total
Woy Woy	32	35	38	12	117
Wyong	26	19	21	20	86

ADVOCACY

Young People Doing it Tough Conference

The Navigator team played an active role in this high-profile event, which brought together youth advocates, support workers, and policy leaders. By sharing lived experiences of the impacts for Aboriginal youth and showcasing successful community-led strategies, Navigators underscored the importance of culturally grounded mentoring, accessible legal support, and trauma-informed care. Their presentations and workshops contributed meaningfully to regional discussions on youth justice, mental health, and family engagement.



Regional, Rural, and Remote (RRR) Summit

The RRR Summit provided a valuable platform for discussing service delivery challenges and innovations in non-urban communities. Navigators highlighted effective partnership models such as their collaboration with Bigan Mob Resources and presented creative approaches to overcoming barriers faced by Aboriginal youth in rural and regional areas. Insights gained from the Summit directly informed future programme development and strengthened network-building efforts across Darkinung Country.

2024-2025

Identified Priorities

1. **Service Linkages:** Strengthen connections with health, education, legal, and social services to ensure wraparound support for Aboriginal youth and families.
2. **Health Access:** Support young people in obtaining 715 Health Checks and Mental Health Care Plans to address physical and emotional wellbeing.
3. **Court Support:** Continue providing weekly support at Wyong and Woy Woy Children's Courts, including for Bigan Mob clients, and expand assistance for legal matters where needed.
4. **Interdisciplinary Legal Practice:** Embed a collaborative model within the legal practice, integrating legal, cultural, and social supports.
5. **Home Visits:** Conduct home visits to build trust, assess needs, and provide direct support in culturally safe environments.
6. **Cultural Connection:** Facilitate reconnection to culture through referrals to Men's and Women's Groups and other cultural healing programs.
7. **Weekly Check-ins:** Maintain regular contact with young people to monitor wellbeing, engagement, and progress.
8. **Program Engagement Follow-up:** Track and support ongoing participation in referred programs to ensure continuity and outcomes.
9. **Frank Baxter Outreach:** Continue regular visits to Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre to build relationships, provide information, and support post-release transitions.
10. **Strengths-Based Support:** Help youth identify interests, hobbies, and strengths, and build personalised support plans around them.
11. **Education Reconnection:** Assist young people in returning to school or alternative education pathways.
12. **Employment Pathways:** Support youth in finding employment opportunities, including through mentoring, training, and referrals.

FINANCIALS



Profit and Loss

Wyong/Gosford Community Legal Services Inc
For the 3 years ended 30 June 2025

	COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR	TOTAL
Trading Income		
Donations	15.49	15.49
Grants - Other	13,148.47	13,148.47
Grants, State - Non-Recurrent	386,851.56	386,851.56
Surplus Funding Brought Forward	200,000.00	200,000.00
Total Trading Income	600,015.52	600,015.52
Gross Profit	600,015.52	600,015.52
Operating Expenses		
Accounting Fees	8,511.58	8,511.58
Advertising & Promotion	5,544.16	5,544.16
Assets Immediately Written Off	4,777.49	4,777.49
Audit Fees	1,335.00	1,335.00
Bank Charges	18.63	18.63
Board/Governance Expenses	274.92	274.92
Cleaning & Pest Control	1,373.38	1,373.38
Client Support Services	4,886.60	4,886.60
Computer Expenses	1,367.68	1,367.68
Consultancy Fees	2,474.77	2,474.77
Depreciation Plant & Equipment	871.10	871.10
Employment Support & Supervision	1,338.00	1,338.00
Entertainment Costs	405.00	405.00
Fees & Permits	80.35	80.35
Fundraising expenses	0.48	0.48
Health & Safety	3.27	3.27
Insurance - Associations	150.66	150.66
Insurance - Cyber Liability	527.22	527.22
Insurance - General	1,640.69	1,640.69
Insurance - Professional Indemnity	1,040.72	1,040.72
Insurance - Public Liability	175.94	175.94
Insurance - Volunteers	380.04	380.04
Low Cost Assets Expensed	327.14	327.14
Management Fees	10,000.00	10,000.00
Meeting Expenses	268.68	268.68
Membership Fees Paid/Subscriptions	1,270.30	1,270.30
Postage, Freight & Courier	75.39	75.39
Printing & Stationery	1,187.27	1,187.27
Project Management Fees	15,000.00	15,000.00
Prov for Annual Leave (60620)	4,947.48	4,947.48
Prov For Long Service Leave	1,229.01	1,229.01
Publications & Info Resources	135.99	135.99

FINANCIALS



	COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR	TOTAL
Recruitment Expenses	311.78	311.78
Rent	7,947.06	7,947.06
Repairs & Maintenance	2,043.09	2,043.09
S & W Salaries & Wages	419,853.28	419,853.28
S & W Wages Paid on WorkCover	2,735.95	2,735.95
S & W Wages Workcover Recoveries	(2,593.69)	(2,593.69)
Security Expenses	82.15	82.15
Staff Amenities	211.55	211.55
Sundry Expenses	5.45	5.45
Superannuation	42,442.53	42,442.53
Telephone & Internet Charges	3,680.70	3,680.70
Training & Development	2,605.67	2,605.67
Travel & Accommod	6,505.58	6,505.58
Utilities	1,702.02	1,702.02
Volunteer Costs	3.58	3.58
Workers Compensation	1,111.22	1,111.22
Total Operating Expenses	560,266.86	560,266.86
Net Profit	39,748.66	39,748.66

