



**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
PROSECUTIONS**

VICTIM SUPPORT UNIT



BUSH PROMOTION REPORT

AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2001

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is to provide the people of the Northern Territory of Australia with an independent, professional and effective criminal prosecution service that:

- *operates with integrity*
- *is fair and just to both victims and the accused and*
- *is sensitive to the needs of victims, witnesses and to the interests of the community on whose behalf it acts.*

MISSION STATEMENT (IN KRIOL)

WED BLA DPPMOB

DPP-mob bin pudimdan dijlat wed la dijan peipa dumaji olabat wandi dalim eberibodi bla no, hau detmob wandi duwim det wek bla olabat brabli raitwei.

Det wek bla olabat, jei gada album yu bla dijkain trabul:

maiti ib pilijimen im rekin samwan bin meigim brabli nogudwan trabul, laiga ib jei merdrem o kilimbat yu; ib jei stilimbat o demijim enijing blanganta yu.

Maiti det pilijimen rekin det ting im lilbit nogudwan, wal olabat pilijimenmob teigim la kot. O maiti det pilijimen rekin det trabul im rili rongwei, wal det DPP-mob gada teigim la kot det nogudwan sambodi.

Det DPP-mob olabat teigim yu pleis la kot, seimwei laig det Liguleid teigim pleis la det sabodi weya olabat rekin imin duwim rongwan ting.

Det DPP-mob gan weistimbat taim en mani en olabat gan libim dijan hiya rul bla olabat wek:

- Ola weka onli gada woriyabat faindimbat raitwan wed bla wot bin hepin - nomo laigim yu o heitim yu o yu femli o enibodi.
Jei gan toktok la enibodi bla yu bijnij, onli la jeya weka wen jei albumbat yu.
- Det DPP-mob wandim stap gudwan binji seimwei la yu en la det sambodi weya olabat rekin imin duwim det nogudwan ting.
Jei wandi album yu gidim det samwan hu bin duwim det samting rong en faindat la kot raitwei bla banijim bla wot imin du.
- Olabat DPP-mob wandi meigim bla yu en en det sambodi en ola widnijmob go la kot gudwei, nomo hambag en nomo bla meigim yu fil sheim. DPP-mob duwim dijkain wek bla album eberibodi la Northern Territory jidan seifwan en gudbinjigeja.

DPP-mob bin pudim dan dislat wed la dijan peipa dumaji olabat wandim dalim eberibodi bla no, hau detmob wandi duwim det wek bla olabat brabli raitwei.

**FOREWORD
GOES IN
HERE**

BUSH PROMOTION REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The BUSH PROMOTION (formerly known as the *Bush Push*) was an initiative of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) through its Victim Support Unit (VSU) to develop and implement a plan that will allow the VSU to effectively provide more support to victims, witnesses and their families in remote areas. For logistical reasons, it was necessary to restrict the initiative to the Top End and the Katherine region.

The aims of the BUSH PROMOTION were to:

- Increase the level of support to victims, witnesses and their families;
- Increase the numbers of Victim Impact Statements (VIS) presented to bush courts;
- Increase the level of access to the VSU; and
- Ensure the appropriateness of service provision to victims of crime in remote areas.

To implement the BUSH PROMOTION effectively and appropriately it was decided that the VSU visit selected bush courts to create a community presence, build relationships and establish networks with stakeholders.

REMOTE COMMUNITIES

There are many remote communities in the area covered by the ODPP northern region - divided into two court circuits, Darwin and Katherine. Bush courts take place on a monthly basis in some major community centres whilst others are listed every three to six months. Often the circuits coincide with each other. Careful consideration has to be taken of workload, priority and resources when deciding which courts to attend.

BUSH COURTS

Darwin Circuit

Nhulunbuy/Yirrkala/Galawinku*
Wadeye/DalyRiver*
Alyangula+
Nguiu+
Jabiru/Oenpelli+
Maningrida*

Katherine Circuit

Borrooloola*
Ngukurr*
Timber Creek*
Kalkaringi*
Lajamanu*
Beswick*

+ Every month

* Every three to six months.

SIGNIFICANCE

The BUSH PROMOTION is significant because an increased level of service in the bush will give victims, witnesses and their families the necessary support and increase victims' opportunities to prepare a VIS. This will raise the number of VIS received from remote areas. It will also have an impact on how witnesses give evidence. When they are prepared and comfortable with the court process witnesses are more likely to give better evidence.

The majority of victims living in remote areas have probably one opportunity to make a VIS, namely, at the time they report the crime. If a VIS is not made then, or alternative arrangements have not been made, then it is likely that no VIS will be made at all. If given the opportunity to prepare a VIS then victims will feel they had their say in the justice system. Their voice will have been heard.

Mr John Birch, Stipendiary Magistrate, advised us that he had written to the Attorney General about a mobile screen to be used in bush courts. Mr Birch also advised that he wrote to Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Rex Wild QC about having a full-time VSU worker located in Katherine to service that circuit.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increase in the level of support to victims, witnesses and their families in remote areas
- Increase in the number of victims/witnesses better prepared with an understanding of the court process
- Easier access to VSU
- Increase in the number of bush court VIS
- Better understanding of VSU roles and functions
- Improved liaison between VSU and other service providers
- Better relationships between remote communities and VSU
- Improved VSU services to remote communities within the northern region
- Better understanding of community issues by VSU

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

Increase in the level of support to victims, witnesses and their families in remote areas:

- The identification and establishment of community contacts and other community service providers

Increase in the number of victims/witnesses better prepared with an understanding of the court process:

- Better understanding of the justice system

Easier access to VSU:

- Established contacts with other community service providers increasing opportunities to network
- Improved referral service to VSU

Increase in the number of bush court VIS:

- Increased from 9 (2000) to 33 (2001)

Better understanding of VSU roles and functions:

- Presentation and promotion to agencies in each community

Improved liaison between VSU and other service providers:

- Presentation and promotion to establish networks and relationships

Better relationships between remote communities and VSU:

- Creating a community presence
- Sharing knowledge, information and experiences
- Improving liaison

Improved VSU services to remote communities within the northern region:

- Identifying and establishing community contacts, including networks
- Ensuring easier access
- Ensuring better understanding
- Establishing relationships

Better understanding of community issues by VSU:

- Community contacts and other networks
- Knowledge and understanding
- New relationships
- Improved liaison
- Increase in referrals to VSU from community agencies

An outcome that was both unexpected and positive was the level of support shown by Office of Courts Administration. Mr Birch and Summary Prosecutor, Wayne Nayda both suggested that a victim support officer be placed permanently in the Katherine region.

The most obvious insight gained was the lack of awareness in remote communities not only about VSU but also of victims' rights. This included lack of knowledge about Crimes Victims Assistance (CVA), the court process, VIS preparation and court preparation.



Michael Devery, Mr Birch, Mick Obie and Ray Yunga at Kalkarindji

IMPACT ON REMOTE COMMUNITIES

The implementation of this initiative enabled the VSU to effectively promote its services by creating awareness and a presence in remote communities, by establishing contacts within community agencies (stakeholders) through a presentation of VSU roles and functions with a view to providing the earliest possible support to victims of crime.

Victims, witnesses and their families in remote areas were able to gain access to the VSU more easily than in the past through community contacts and other community service providers. Their awareness was raised through this promotion.

The VSU has gained a better understanding of the value of its services to victims in remote communities. The new found relationships and understandings in the region means victims will be referred to the VSU earlier.

As with all clients, face to face contact results in a more positive response to support and therefore better evidence in court.

OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

August/September 2001

VSU initiate discussions with Superintendent Mark Payne and Acting Superintendent Peter Gordon with the aim of obtaining endorsement prior to implementation.

12 September 2001

VSU inform OIC bush stations.

12 September 2001 (on going)

VSU develop an appropriate training plan for stakeholders and ensure on going support.

12 September 2001 (on going)

VSU develop and install a course of action using current data systems to generate and maintain caseload and client lists for bush courts pre court dates.

12 September 2001 (on going)

VSU meet regularly with OIC Summary Prosecutions with a view to installing a system that will effectively generate caseload from bush courts.

12 September 2001 (on going)

VSU develop, install and maintain a filing system for caseload and client lists for bush courts and any other relevant issues.

13 September 2001

Itinerary completed.

26 September 2001

VSU meet Superintendent Mark Payne, Acting Superintendent Peter Gordon and Senior Sergeant Richard Bryson, OIC, Summary Prosecutions to discuss the first phase of the Bush Promotion.

1 October – 21 November 2001

Colleen Burns and Michael Devery (VSU) attend Darwin and Katherine bush courts.

VSU gave presentations to stakeholders whilst at bush courts.

VSU provided information through relevant publications to stakeholders whilst at bush courts.

VSU made contact with stakeholders whilst at bush courts.

1 October 2001 (on going)

VSU ensure liaison is maintained with stakeholders.

1 October 2001 (on going)

VSU ensure the most immediate response to both clients and stakeholders requests as possible.

1 October 2001 - 2 October 2001

VSU attended the Borroloola community.

VSU gave presentations about the VSU and the Bush Promotion, provided information and made contact with:

- Borroloola Health Clinic
- Mabunji Resource Centre
- Rrumburriya Malandari Community Government Council Office
- Borroloola police

VSU made contact with:

- Katherine Aboriginal Family Support Unit (KAFSU)

Note: for detailed community report See Appendix B.

8 October 2001 - 9 October 2001

VSU attended the Beswick, Barunga and Manyaluluk communities.

VSU gave presentations about the VSU and the Bush Promotion, provided information and made contact with:

- Maranboy police
- Barunga Community Council
- Barunga Health Clinic
- Barunga Creche and Aged Care
- Manyaluluk Community Council
- Manyaluluk Women's Centre
- Beswick Community Council
- Beswick Health Clinic

- Beswick Women's Shelter

Note: for detailed community report see Appendix B.

15 October 2001 - 16 October 2001

VSU attended the Alyangula and Angurugu communities.

VSU gave presentations about the VSU and the Bush Promotion, provided information and made contact with:

- Alyangula police
- Angurugu Health Clinic
- RESOLVE Counsellors (Anglican Church)
- Angurugu Council Office

VSU provided information to:

- Angurugu Community School
- Angurugu Community Store

VSU made contact with:

- Top End Women's Legal Service (TEWLS)
- GEMCO

Note: for detailed community report see Appendix A.

22 October 2001-24 October 2001

VSU attended the Timber Creek and Bulla communities.

VSU gave presentations about the VSU and the Bush Promotion, provided information and made contact with:

- Timber Creek police
- Timber Creek Health Clinic
- Bulla Community Health Clinic
- Bulla Community Members

VSU provided information to:

- Ngaliwurru-Wuli Council Office (Timber Creek)
- Bulla Community Council

Note: for detailed community report see Appendix B.

29 October 2001 - 30 October 2001

VSU attended the Jabiru community.

VSU gave presentations about the VSU and the Bush Promotion, provided information and made contact with:

- Jabiru police
- Kakadu Aboriginal Family Resource Centre
- Jabiru Community Health Centre

VSU provided information to:

- Gagadju Association
- Northern Land Council
- Jabiru Town Council
- Gundjhemis Association
- Djabuluka Association

Note: for detailed community report see Appendix A.

31 October 2001

VSU attended the Oenpelli community.

VSU gave presentations about the VSU and the Bush Promotion, provided information and made contact with:

- Oenpelli police
- DEMED Office
- Kunbarllanja Community Government Council
- Kunbarllanja Women's Centre

VSU provided information to:

- Kunbarllanja Health Clinic

VSU made contact with:

- Kunbarllanja Health Clinic
- TEWLS Community Legal Workers

Note: for detailed community report see Appendix A.

6 November 2001 - 7 November 2001

VSU attended the Ngukurr, Mataranka and Jilkmingan communities. VSU gave presentations about the VSU and the Bush Promotion, provided information and made contact with:

- Ngukurr Police
- Ngukurr Community Council
- Women's Resource Centre
- Ngukurr Community Health Clinic

VSU provided information and made contact with:

- Mataranka Health Clinic
- Jilkmingan Community Council
- Jilkmingan Health Clinic

Note: for detailed community report see Appendix B.

20 November 2001 - 21 November 2001

VSU attended the Kalkarindji & Dagaragu communities.

VSU gave presentations about the VSU and the Bush Promotion, provided information and made contact with:

- Kalkarindji Police
- Kalkarindji & Dagaragu Community Council
- Kalkarindji Health Clinic

Note: for detailed community report see Appendix B.

3 December 2001 - 5 December 2001

VSU attended the Nhulunbuy and Yirkkala communities.

VSU gave presentations about the VSU and the Bush Promotion, provided information and made contact with:

- Nhulunbuy police
- Miwatj Health
- Yirkkala Community Health Centre
- Yirkkala Community Council
- Gove/Nhulunbuy Hospital

VSU provided information and made contact with:

- Yirkkala Women's Centre

Note: for detailed community report see Appendix A.



Colleen Burns with community women

10 December 2001 - 13 December 2001

VSU attended the Wadeye community.

VSU gave presentations about the VSU and the Bush Promotion, gave information and made contact with:

- Wadeye police
- Wadeye Community Health Centre
- Kardu Numida Community Council
- Thamarurr Elders

VSU provided information and made contact with:

- Wadeye Women's Centre

Note: for detailed community report see Appendix A.

MANAGEMENT

The Bush Promotion was managed and implemented by Aboriginal Support Coordinator, Colleen Burns and Victim Support Officer, Michael Devery of the VSU (Darwin).

It was overseen by VSU Co-ordinator, Nannette Hunter and fully supported by the Director, Rex Wild.

Colleen and Michael were responsible for getting the promotion up and running and for providing support when on location. This meant spending a lot of time out bush to ensure an effective and appropriate implementation. A huge task considering the large number of bush circuits and their diverse geographical locations.

A method framework reflecting ways of working and their own working experiences within an indigenous context were used to implement the Bush Promotion.

STAFFING

The implementation involved two members of the VSU. Their absence from the office for several days a week for nearly ten weeks meant the two remaining members, Nannette Hunter and Christine Garland, Victim Support Officer had to manage a workload normally conducted by four.

RESOURCES

All necessary resources were made available to the VSU to effectively implement the Bush Promotion by the ODPP.

PUBLICATIONS

The VSU has distributed in total approximately 7,500 publications through the Bush Promotion. The publications consisted of posters, Victim Impact Statement booklets, Crimes Victims Assistance pamphlets, Victim Support Unit pamphlets and Charters for Victims of Crime.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The financial management of the Bush Promotion was undertaken by the Business Manager, Lilia Garard who is responsible for all ODPP finances.

CONCLUSION

The Bush Promotion set out to develop and implement a plan that would allow the VSU to effectively provide more support to victims, witnesses and their families in remote areas.

The VSU completed the majority of the tasks set in a way that can only be described as timely, practical and appropriate. The remaining tasks are on going and long term though preliminary developments have begun. The promotion coincided with scheduled bush circuits in the Darwin and Katherine regions.

There were however some other issues raised during community visits. Those issues include: adequacy of court facilities, areas covered by each police station, whether there was an ACPO present, accommodation in communities and other outside agencies that access the communities. These issues have an impact on how comfortable witnesses are when being prepared for giving evidence in court. (For detailed community reports see Appendices A & B).

The Bush Promotion has given the people in remote areas more opportunities to access the VSU by various means created by the Bush Promotion and has also strengthened their knowledge and understanding of the VSU.

The VSU has reached out and increased victim support in remote areas and has contributed to the empowerment of people living in those areas.

Although the VSU met various stakeholders in communities there are limitations to the support they are able to provide. The employment of local community based VSU workers will resolve this situation.

Mr Birch commented that the reason for having bush courts was to *bring the justice system out into the communities*. The provision of a justice service to those in remote communities, requires investigation of services provided to ensure they are adequate to victims/witnesses needs. People in remote communities should not have to travel into the major centres (Katherine or Darwin) but could have their matter dealt with in their own community.

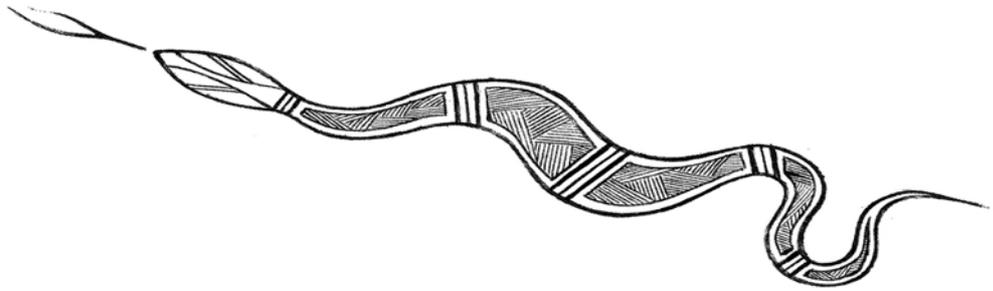
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The VSU would like to acknowledge the support and assistance given by:

- Katherine Aboriginal Family Support Unit (KAFSU) (Helen Turner and Joan Pracy)
- All police stations, officers and ACPOs
- Mr John Birch
- Summary Prosecutions (Darwin and Katherine)
- All stakeholders who assisted us throughout our visits.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. VSU members regularly attend bush courts in the four major communities of Nhulunbuy, Oenpelli/Jabiru, Groote Eylandt and Wadeye/Daly River.
2. The VSU assess and attend other bush courts as required.
3. A permanent full-time VSU officer be employed in Katherine to provide support to the large number of bush courts in that region.
4. The necessary resources be provided to the VSU officer to effectively offer support in that region.
5. The location of the VSU officer be easily accessible and appropriate for people from remote areas.
6. Local language speaking VSU workers that are community based be provided in major community centres where bush circuits sit as a pilot project.
7. The community based workers are given all necessary training. Development and implementation of that training be conducted in full consultation with the respective community elders.
8. The VSU monitor court facilities on a regular basis to ensure that victims' and witnesses' rights are maintained.
9. The VSU make regular visits to both Katherine and Darwin bush circuit courts to monitor services for victims and witnesses.



APPENDIX A

Detailed Community Reports Darwin Circuit

APPENDIX A

DARWIN BUSH COURT CIRCUIT

ALYANGULA/ANGURUGU

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Location

Alyangula is a community on Groote Eylandt. It is largest of three communities on the island. The other two are Angurugu and Umbakumba.

Population/Area Covered

Population of Groote Eylandt is approximately 1500 people. The police station covers the whole island, Numbulwar and Bickerton Island.

Police Officers

Sergeants Matthew Hollamby, Martin McCallum, Senior Constable Gill, Constables Renee McGarvie, Megan Duncan and Martin Ramage. There were six officers we did not meet due to shift work etc.

Aboriginal Community Police Officer

David Dingala

Magistrate

Mr Lowndes

Court

Court is held every month. This is one of the better courts on the circuit. It is a proper court with a bench, bar table, witness box and public gallery seating. It is spacious and comfortable. There is no specific space for victims to be seated.

Domestic violence is quite prevalent on Groote Eylandt. Support was provided to two women who were frightened to sit outside the court for fear of the offender approaching them. Arrangements were made for them to be seated in an interview room. The use of interview rooms is inappropriate because in the event the room is required by police the room has to be vacated. The rooms are small with no windows and are very claustrophobic.

Interpreters

The main language spoken on Groote Eylandt is Anindilyakwa. There are accredited interpreters who are registered with the Aboriginal Interpreter Service. Nancy Lalara and Mary Amagula are used regularly for court.

Community Agencies

Tony Wurramarra, Angurugu Council Office.

Wendy Williams, Angurugu Health Clinic.

Michele Clarke, Community Worker, Substance Misuse Programme, Angurugu Council Office.

Brian and Kathy Massey, Anglicare, Angurugu.

Leanne Haynes, Social Worker/Counsellor, RESOLVE (Anglicare Top End), Alyangula.

Robert Haynes, Counsellor, Anglicare, Alyangula.

Mary Amagula and Judith Wurramara, Indigenous Community Legal Workers, TEWLS, Angurugu/Alyangula.

Rick Peter, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, GEMCO

Visit Report

Monday 15 October 2001

A meeting was held with OIC Sergeant Hollamby to brief him about what we hope to achieve in victim support. Sergeant Hollamby had organised for Domestic Violence Constable McGarvie to assist throughout the visit. Due to unforeseen circumstances we used the services of Constable Duncan instead. Sergeant Hollamby gave us some relevant contacts in the community.

We spoke to Alan Woodcock, private solicitor. Summary Prosecutions had allocated some hearing cases to him. He advised us of a couple of cases where a VIS was required. Before leaving Darwin we were also given a list of VIS requests from Summary Prosecutor, Dave Peach. Senior Constable George Watkinson gave us copies of precis for some of the cases so we knew what facts to cover when working on VIS.

Constable Duncan took us to Angurugu Community where we visited the Angurugu Council Office. On parking our vehicle we noticed smoke around the premises and a closed sign on the door. There was some kind of smoking ceremony in progress. We left out of respect.

We attended Angurugu Health Clinic and spoke to Dr Wendy Williams. Dr Williams advised us that the clinic struggles to get staff to work there,

especially qualified nurses from the mainland. Angurugu Council directed Angurugu Health Clinic staff not to get involved in domestic violence situations due to retaliation they may receive from the victim's partner. This certainly made it difficult for us as VSU workers to directly approach victims to speak about VIS. We did not want to put anyone in a compromising situation.

Constable Duncan told us of a recent situation in which she approached a victim to fill in a VIS. The offender approached the victim and told her to drop the charges. He was armed with an axe. We became more concerned about offenders approaching victims to do VIS.

Dr Williams said that women in domestic violence situations are often taken off the island by police for medical reasons and then later taken to a Women's Shelter, usually in Nhulunbuy.

Constable McGarvie would contact Ms Joyce Thompson, Territory Health Services to make the necessary arrangements for travel for the domestic violence victim. Police assisted in getting the woman to the airport.

We stopped at the Angurugu shops and asked for a poster to be put up. We visited the school to meet Nancy Lalara. Colleen had met her on previous visits to Alyangula. We left a poster and some pamphlets with the adult students studying with Batchelor College.

We spoke about contacts with victims and decided to only make contact with male victims as they would, we assumed, be less intimidated by the offender.

We went back to Alyangula and made an appointment to speak to Rick Peters, Aboriginal Liaison Officer and co-worker of GEMCO who had concerns about a worker assaulted with a machete. We asked that the victim contact VSU direct. We gave a short presentation about VSU work to be passed on to their staff. We were advised by Rick that the Employee Assistance Scheme is used to counsel GEMCO staff.

We gave a short presentation to Leanna and Roger Haynes who are both qualified counsellors with RESOLVE a support service run by the Anglican Church. Both advised us that they would be available to assist victims of crime where necessary.

Tuesday 16 October 2001

We discussed community problems with Sergeant Hollamby and Constable McGarvie.

Throughout the day we provided support to victims as requested by the summary prosecutor and police at court. We assisted two clients to make VIS.

We were unable to visit other community agencies at Umbakumba and Angurugu because of the court support provided most of Tuesday.

Victim Impact Statements

2 VIS prepared.

Contact Details

Tony Wurrarrba, Angurugu Council Office. Ph: 89 876266

Wendy Williams, Angurugu Health Clinic. Ph: 89 876311

Michele Clarke, Community Worker, Substance Misuse Programme, Angurugu Council Office. Ph: 89 876706

Brian and Kathy Massey, Anglicare, Angurugu. Ph: 89 876 598

Leanne Haynes, Social Worker/Counsellor, RESOLVE (Anglicare Top End) Alyangula. Ph: 89 877197

Robert Haynes, Counsellor, Anglicare, Alyangula. Ph: 89 877197 or 89 876421

Mary Amagula and Judith Wurrarama, Indigenous Community Legal Workers, TEWLS, Angurugu/Alyangula. Contact through Kate Halliday.

Rick Peters, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, GEMCO. Ph: 89 874444

Kate Halliday, TEWLS, Darwin. Ph: 89 419989

Miwatj Legal Service, Nhulunbuy. Ph: 89 871300

Joyce Thompson, DV Unit, Territory Health Services, Nhulunbuy. Ph: 89 870403

Kay Deal, Correctional Services Department.

Other Agencies that Access the Community

TEWLS, Darwin

Miwatj Legal Service, Nhulunbuy

Domestic Violence Unit, Territory Health Services, Nhulunbuy

Correctional Services Department

JABIRU/OENPELLI

Location

Jabiru and Oenpelli are located in the Arnhem Land area, approximately two hours from Darwin. Oenpelli Community is approximately 50km north east of Jabiru. It is also known as Kunbarllanjanja Community, sometimes spelt Gunbalunya. Court sits in Jabiru. The next day it sits in Oenpelli.

Population/Area Covered

The Oenpelli police station covers the Coburg Peninsula, Croker and Goulburn Islands and the surrounding outstations around Oenpelli. The population is 1200.

Jabiru police station covers communities and outstations around Jabiru.

Police Officers

Oenpelli

Sergeant Mark Malorgorski and Constable Adrian Waters.

Jabiru

Senior Sergeant David Pryce with eight other officers.

Aboriginal Community Police Officer

Andrew Garnarradj is stationed at Oenpelli. There is no ACPO in Jabiru.

Magistrate

Mr Cavanagh.

Court

Oenpelli

This court was held in the DEMED Pty Ltd ground floor Conference Room. This facility is quite spacious and air-conditioned. Court is held every month.

The only problem observed was with the seating for witnesses and defendants. On this day the defendant sat at the bar table with the defence lawyer and the prosecutor. This gave a wrong impression to victims and witnesses who had to give evidence and to family members who sat in court to listen to the proceedings.

On previous visits to Oenpelli prosecutors and defence lawyers arranged the seating so that the defence lawyer was closest to the door leading to the outside (right side of bar table). This made it easier for defendants to come in from sitting outside. A chair was placed near that door for them to sit to hear the proceedings. This makes it easier for prosecution witnesses (who usually sit on the other side of the building) to enter from the office reception entrance door and be seated on the left of the bar table, with their own table and microphone set up to give evidence. This is important especially if vulnerable witness equipment is to be used, eg. a screen.

Jabiru

This court is a proper court with appropriate seating for officials as well as for the general public. It is air-conditioned. There are a number of interview

rooms that were used by TEWLS, NAALAS and VSU. A small problem is that there is not enough seating for the general public in the foyer. Overall, a smoothly run facility.

Community Agencies

Oenpelli

Kunbarllanjanja Community Government Council
Kunbarllanjanja Women's Centre
Top End Women's Legal Service – Community Legal Workers
DEMED Pty Ltd

Jabiru

Jabiru Community Health Centre
Kakadu Aboriginal Family Resource Centre
Gagadju Association
Gundjhemmi Association
Djabuluka Association

Visit Report

Monday 29 October 2001 – Jabiru

We arrived in Jabiru at 9.00am. We went directly to the Jabiru police station. Spent morning assisting Crown Prosecutor Grant Hayward and making appointments with community agencies for the following day in Jabiru.

Grant Hayward advised that he had victims/witnesses to see in Oenpelli and required our assistance. The afternoon was spent at Oenpelli police station proofing witnesses for hearings coming up on Wednesday. We spoke to several women victim/witnesses throughout the afternoon.

During this time Michael Devery made visits to the DEMED Office, Kunbarllanjanja Community Government Council Office, and the Women's Centre where he distributed VSU posters and pamphlets and gave a brief presentation about the Bush Promotion. Michael arranged for Colleen Burns to visit the Women's Centre at a later time to give a presentation.

Interpreters were organised with the Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) for Kunwinjku and Tiwi interpreters for victim/witnesses for Wednesday's hearing. Colleen spoke to a Kunwinjku interpreter who was unavailable on Tuesday but was available on Wednesday. She advised AIS through an official Interpreter Booking Request. We went back to Jabiru.

Tuesday 30 October 2001

At 8.00am Senior Sergeant Pryce assembled some of the officers in the muster room for a presentation about the Bush Promotion and the VSU visit.

We received a referral from police. Colleen assisted with a VIS and a CVA referral was made to TEWLS who may do the CVA or refer it on to a relevant organisation. There are no private law firms in Jabiru.

10.00am presentation to women's group at Women's Resource Centre.

10.30am presentation to Lyn Miller, Jabiru Community Health Centre.

Met with TEWLS – Julie Franz, Solicitor who will now be taking over from Kate Halliday. There are no Aboriginal Community Legal Workers in Jabiru, only in Oenpelli.

We sat in court and observed proceedings.

Wednesday 31 October 2001

We arrived in Oenpelli just after 8.00am.

The morning was spent assisting Grant Hayward proofing victim/witnesses for three hearings.

Colleen organised a Kunwinjku interpreter on Monday but was advised that the interpreter was not available. She investigated other Kunwinjku interpreters to assist in court.

Colleen visited the Kunbarllanjanja Women's Centre and spoke to Cheryl Clark, Co-ordinator. She gave a short presentation about the VSU and the Bush Promotion. Cheryl advised that the Women's Centre was happy to distribute VSU pamphlets and information. Cheryl said that this agency was mostly involved in Child Care, Old Age Pensioner Food Assistance and as a place for women to get involved in Arts and Crafts.

The TEWLS workers arrived at the Women's Centre. Colleen spoke to Guywanga about the Kunwinjku interpreter problem. She suggested Colleen speak to Noelene Maralngurra. Noelene assisted with interpreting at the hearing. Colleen advised AIS.

Five witnesses were brought in for one of the hearings from Nguuiu Community (Bathurst Island) with an AIS Tiwi interpreter.

Court support was provided to a number of victim/witnesses for various hearings set down for the day.

A VIS was prepared with a Nguuiu victim with the assistance of the Tiwi interpreter. We provided court support to the victim and other witnesses for this case. We gave them referrals for Crimes Victim Assistance. Colleen organised a meeting with Julie Franz for the Nguuiu victim and Tiwi Interpreter to discuss CVA options.

Victim Impact Statements

Three VIS were prepared at Oenpelli. Two VIS were presented and accepted in Oenpelli court.

One VIS was prepared and accepted in Jabiru court.

Other Agencies that Access the Community

Kate Halliday and Julie Franz, TEWLS deal with Domestic Violence Restraining Order and CVA matters. They also provide court support to their clients. Community Legal Workers are Noelene Maralngurra, Guywanga Guymala and Carol Maralngurra.

NAALAS, Darwin.

AIS – various Kunwinjku interpreters in the community.

Correctional Services Department.

Contact Details

Jabiru

Lyn Miller, Jabiru Community Health Centre. Ph: 89 792018

Cheryl Cahill, Kakadu Aboriginal Family Resource Centre. Ph: 89 793013

Gagadju Association. Ph: 89 792375

Yvonne Margarula, Gundjhemmi Association. Ph: 89 792700

Djabuluka Association. Ph: 89 792227

Oenpelli

Kunbarllanjanja Community Government Council. Ph: 89 790170

Cheryl Clark, Co-ordinator, Kunbarllanjanja Women's Centre. Ph: 89 790025

DEMED Pty Ltd. Ph: 89 790131 or 89 790144

Kunbarllanjanja Community Health Centre. Ph: 89 790178

NHULUNBUY

Location

Nhulunbuy is situated on the Gove Peninsula 650km east of Darwin. Most access to and from the township is by plane (approximately 45 minutes). There is an alternative route (450km of dirt road via the Stuart Hwy, just north of Katherine), subject to weather conditions.

Population/Area Covered

Nhulunbuy has a population of approximately 4,000 and includes the Yirrkala and Ski Beach Communities for which the Yolngu people are the traditional owners.

Police Officers

Senior Sergeant Steve Bradley and 11 other officers.

Aboriginal Community Police Officers

Garry Munungurritj and Trish Groth (Yirrkala), Noel Mangurra (Gapuwiyak) and Daisy Gumbula (Galiwinku).

Magistrate

Mr Loadman

Court

Nhulunbuy has its own courthouse with adequate facilities and a permanent OCA staff member.

Community Agencies

Miwatj Health
Miwatj Legal Service
Nhulunbuy Hospital
Nhulunbuy Domestic Violence Unit
Yirrkala Community Health Centre
Yirrkala Community Council
Yirrkala Women's Centre
Lanapuy Homelands

Victim Impact Statements

Two VIS prepared, presented and accepted during these sittings.

Contact Details

Virginia Martin, Director of Nursing, Nhulunbuy Hospital. Ph: 89 870266

Judith Wunungmurra, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Nhulunbuy Hospital.
Ph: 89 870211

Paul Quinlin, Community Health Manager (remote centres), Nhulunbuy Hospital. Ph: 89 870212

Britt Steiner, Nhulunbuy Domestic Violence Unit. Ph: 89 870403

Judy Tibonne, Manager, Miwatj Health. Ph: 89 871102

Graham Carr, Solicitor in charge, Miwatj Legal Service. Ph: 89 871300

WADEYE

Location

450 kilometres by road via Daly River and is situated in the Daly River Reserve.

Population/Area Covered

Wadeye is the largest remote centre of indigenous population in the Northern Territory. Wadeye has a population of approximately 2200 (1500 under the age of 25). It has the highest incarceration rate per capita of any town/community in Australia. Of the Northern Territory's Adult Correctional Centres in-mates, 61% are indigenous, with 5% from Wadeye.

Sixteen clans reside at Wadeye. Each has their own language and dreaming (totem). They each belong to a specific piece of land that surrounds the Wadeye area. The Kardu-Diminin clan are the traditional landowners of Wadeye Township and are Murin-Patha speakers. There are several other languages spoken at Wadeye but Murin-Patha is the most commonly used within the community due to cultural protocols when on another group's land. The clans are organised into three ceremony groups Wangka, Lirrga and Thanba who come together at times of significance.

Police Officers

Sergeant Don Garner and three other officers.

Aboriginal Community Police Officer

Ernest Perdjert

Magistrate

Mr Wallace

Court

The court is located next door to the Wadeye police station in the centre of town.

Community Agencies

Kardu Numida Council Inc/Thamarurr Elders
Wadeye Community Health Centre
Wadeye Women's Centre
Wadeye Community Police
Victim Impact Statements

No VIS.

Contact Details

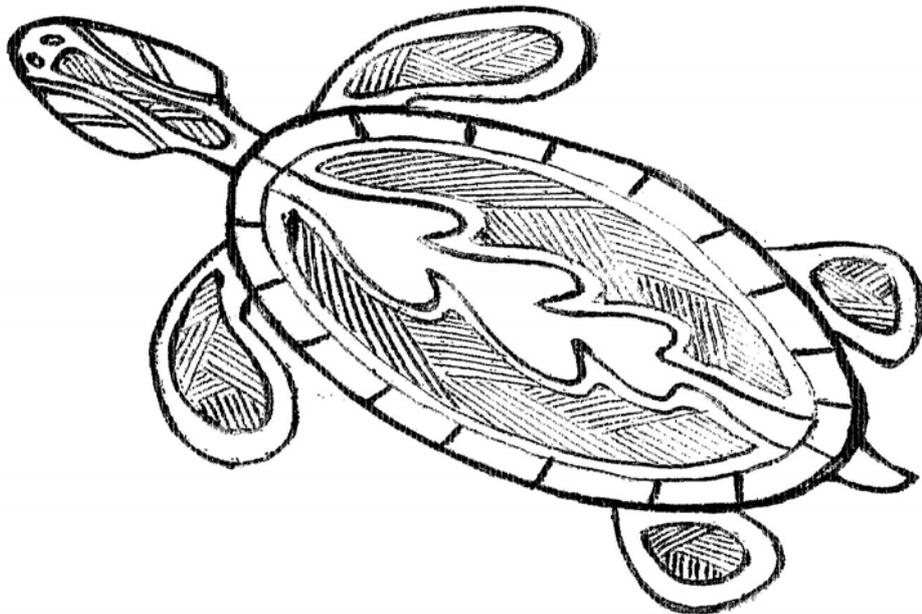
Terry Bullimore, Town Clerk, Kardu Numida Council Inc. Ph: 89 782355

Julie Reece, Manager, Wadeye Community Health Centre.

Rosemary Perdjert, Wadeye Women's Centre. Ph: 89 782571

Sergeant Don Garner, Wadeye Police Station. Ph: 89 782366

Correction Services. Ph: 89 782309



APPENDIX B

Detailed Community Reports Katherine Circuit

KATHERINE BUSH COURT CIRCUIT

BORROLOOLA

Location

Borroloola Community is located near the coast in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Population/Area Covered

The population of Borroloola is approximately 900. The police station covers north to the Limmen Bight River, east to the Queensland border, south to Barkley Highway and west to the Stuart Highway (Hi Way Inn).

Police Officers

Sergeant Dave Proctor, Constables Shane Johnson and Ross Martin

Aboriginal Community Police Officer

Noel Dixon

Magistrate

Mr Birch

Court

Court was held at the Adult Education Centre. This court is listed four times a year, every three months and usually coincides with the school holidays.

Court is held in a large, spacious, air-conditioned classroom.

Visit Report

Monday 1 October 2001

We arrived at Borroloola at approximately 12.30pm.

We met Crown Prosecutor, Glen Dooley. He made his car available. We went to Borroloola police station to meet Sergeant Proctor. We gave a short presentation about the Bush Promotion. He gave us the names of government and non-government agencies in Borroloola. These were Borroloola Health

Clinic, Mabunji Resource Centre and Rrumburriya Malandari Community Government Council Office. We left some pamphlets and posters for the station.

We visited the Mabunji Resource Centre. No one was there so we left our contact details and said we would return the next day. There were community meetings on and had been a death (family of committee member).

We visited the Rrumburriya Malandari Community Government Council Office who are responsible for housing programs in the community. We spoke to Bill South, Town Clerk who directed us to Jocelyn Mawson, Women's Issues Officer. We gave a short presentation and left posters and pamphlets.

We visited the Borroloola Library in the same building complex as the Council Office and spoke to the Librarian, Val Sieb about the Bush Promotion. She understood the concerns of women in the community and said she would assist women who wanted to make a VIS. We gave her some pamphlets and posters.

Tuesday 2 October 2001

We attended Borroloola Court at 10.00am. We identified two possible victims for a VIS. We had previously sent a VSU letter. Both cases were adjourned. We spoke to Summary Prosecutor, Bob Materna who advised that he did not have any other VIS or support work to do.

We spoke to Mr Birch and gave him a brief overview of what the VSU wanted to achieve in the Bush Promotion. He was supportive and advised us that he rarely saw a VIS in a bush court.

We spoke to KAFSU Co-ordinator, Helen Turner and Caseworker, Audrey Melaney who were at court for CVA applications and Domestic Violence Orders. Helen Turner said that she was quite willing to assist with VIS in the community if the VSU could not get out to the Borroloola area. She also said that KAFSU did not want to take on VSU's role but would assist when required. Helen said she appreciated the network between KAFSU and VSU.

We went to the Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Centre and spoke to Earl Johnson, Chief Executive Officer. We gave a short presentation to Earl and his staff. He advised us that Mabunji Resource Centre was responsible for outstations around the Borroloola area. They were also responsible for Wunala Creche, Radio Station, CDEP and Women's Group.

We went to the Borroloola Health Clinic and spoke to Acting Clinic Manager, Beverly Blaxton and nursing sister, Kay Grainger. We gave a short presentation. Both women were positive and supportive of the VSU and said they will encourage women who may need our assistance. One of the nursing sisters was a victim of assault and her matter was mentioned in court that morning. We were able to pass on the result of the case to her. The she did not

want to do a VIS. We later advised the Borroloola police. We left VSU posters and pamphlets.

We went to the Yanyula Camp and spoke to witnesses in the Borroloola/Robinson River Trial (mostly Borroloola witnesses). Colleen gave an update. No trial date had been set.

Victim Impact Statements

No VIS.

Other Agencies that Access the Community

KAFSU – Katherine Aboriginal Families Support Unit

Co-ordinator, Helen Turner
Senior Caseworker, Joan Pracy
Caseworker, Audrey Melaney

Address: Corner Lindsay & Second Street, Katherine. Ph: 89 723200

KAFSU assists Aboriginal families in Katherine, Ngukurr, Borroloola, Timber Creek, Beswick and surrounding communities in the Katherine area. Their core business includes legal service dispute resolution, mediation, referral services, education and information programs for families.

Contact Details

Borroloola

Mabunji Resource Centre

Mabunji is funded by ATSIC, THS and Centrelink (CDEP)

Earl Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Sylvia Francis, Finance/Administration/Women's Issues
Roddy Friday, Chairperson, Women's Group. Ph: 89 758746, Fax: 89 758743

Address: Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association, PO Box 435 Borroloola NT 0854

Rrumburriya Malandari Aboriginal Council Incorporated/Local Community Government

This organisation services the Yanyula Camp, Garawa One Camp, Mara Camp and any Subdivision Houses. They are funded by ATSIC.

Bill South, Chief Executive Officer
Jocelyn Mawson, Women's Issues Officer. Ph: 89 758858

Address: John Street, Borroloola. NT 0854

Borroloola Library

Val Sieb, Librarian. Ph: 89 758763, Fax: 89 758618

BESWICK/BARUNGA/MANYALLULUK

Location

All three communities are situated south east of Katherine.

Population/Area Covered

The population for this area is approximately 2,000. This is an estimate as many people in this area are transient. The Maranboy police station covers Beswick, Barunga, Manyalluluk, Bulman, Emu Springs, Mt Catt and Weemol. There are approximately 200 people per community.

Police Officers

Sergeant Gavin Kennedy and Constable Clay Evans.

Aboriginal Community Police Officers

Frank Curtis at Barunga and Manyalluluk. Steven Anderson at Beswick and Manyalluluk.

Magistrate

Mr Birch

Court

The Beswick court is held in the Council Office Meeting Room. The room itself is quite small and reminiscent of the Court held at Daly River, which also was the Council Office meeting room.

In our opinion, this room is far too small to adequately house a functioning court. There is no room if a hearing (in an assault case) were to take place. The meeting room table takes up most of the room. Because of the lack of space in that room the VSU workers were outside the court and did not see the court in action. There were no seats or room to be seated in this court.

There is no confidentiality. The defence lawyer and field officer often spoke to clients in a non-confidential manner, due to the lack of space and time. We observed that the court list quite large and covered traffic offences to consume liquor in restricted area offences.

We arrived at 10.00am and realised it was too late to speak with Bob Materna who had already started in court.

Community Agencies

Barunga Community

Community Government Council Office
Barunga Creche and Aged Care Centre
Barunga Health Clinic

Manyulluluk Community

Community Government Council Office
Manyalluluk Women's Centre

Beswick Community

Wugularr Community Government Council Office
Beswick Women's Centre
Beswick Health Clinic

Visit Report

Monday 8 October 2001

On arrival at Maranboy we spoke to OIC, Sergeant Gavin Kennedy and Constable Clay Evans. They had received instructions to provide support and assistance to us on our visit to the area. We gave a short presentation about VSU Bush Promotion and left some posters and pamphlets. We also gathered information from Sergeant Kennedy about what government and non-government agencies we should visit in each of the communities. Sergeant Kennedy organised for ACPO Frank Curtis to accompany us on the visits to Barunga and Manyulluluk Communities.

Frank Curtis took us to visit the Barunga Creche and Aged Care Centre where there were a few women gathered. There is no Women's Centre in Barunga and the Creche and Aged Care Centre is the place where most women gather and share information. Colleen gave a short presentation and left pamphlets and posters for the women. The Co-ordinator of this centre is Nell Brown.

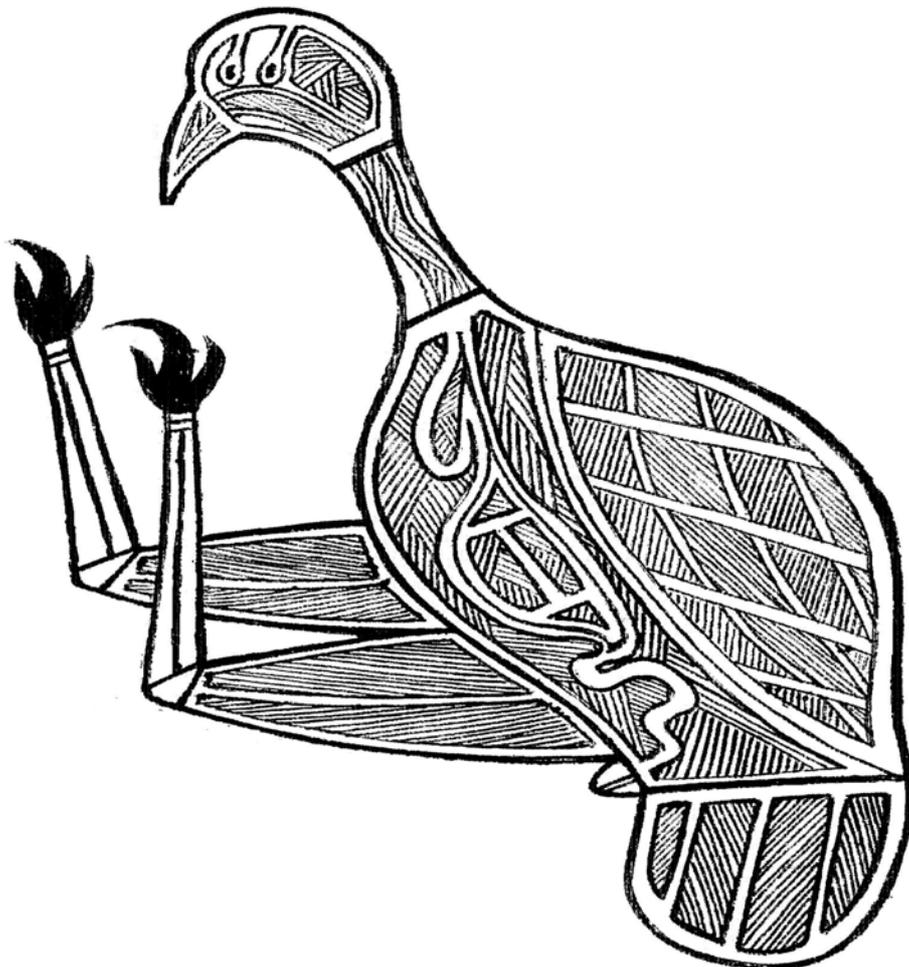
We could not visit any other agency as they were out to lunch. We decided to travel to Manyulluluk and come back to Barunga later in the day.

We arrived just after 1.00pm and spoke to the Town Clerk, Steve Fletcher. We gave a short presentation and left some pamphlets. We advised Mr Fletcher that we will send some posters in the near future and replenish pamphlet stocks. We visited the Women's Centre and spoke to Marie Farrell, Co-ordinator. We gave a short presentation and left pamphlets and said we would send some posters to her. She agreed that she would help the women in the community if required. We then went back to Barunga Community.

We spoke to staff members at the Barunga Council Office and gave a short presentation. We then went to the Barunga Health Clinic. The Clinic was very busy and we could only briefly speak to a nursing sister. We left pamphlets for the Aboriginal Health Worker to distribute.

After leaving the Barunga Health Clinic Colleen was approached by a victim of an assault and domestic violence case. She had been to the Barunga Council Office and they gave her some pamphlets that we had left there earlier. She spoke of her husband *half killing me* and showed a scar on her forearm. She wanted to enquire about a DVO and/or CVA. She was referred to KAFSU who do DV Orders and claims. Colleen advised that she would send information or ask the KAFSU worker to call on her soon as KAFSU serviced this area regularly. We then went back to Katherine.

We went to the KAFSU office for a meeting to advise of the referral from Barunga as well as to let them know we were attending Beswick court the next day.



Tuesday 9 October 2001

When we arrived around 10.00am court had already started. We underestimated the time to drive to Beswick Community. We had a quick tour of the facility. We then met KAFSU workers and they advised that they will be proceeding with the DVO for the client we referred to them yesterday. KAFSU had made arrangements for the client to be brought in from Barunga Community to attend Beswick Court so that DVO and CVA matters can be dealt with.

We also spoke to two community women, Milli Sandy and Anita Camfoo who said that they would assist victims with interpreting and or provide assistance with VIS, referrals for CVA and general support to women in the community. These women were assisting KAFSU on this day.

We then spoke to Constable Evans who asked Colleen to speak to a DV client who spent the previous night at ACPO Steven Anderson's place. The victim was related to the ACPO's wife and felt safe staying there, rather than the Beswick Women's Shelter. After speaking to the client she did not want to proceed with assault charges. She advised that this was the first time that her husband had ever hit her.

Colleen visited the Beswick Women's Shelter/Centre. She met with Lorraine Bennett who is also an ATSIC Regional Board member, Edna Snape, Supervisor and a group of community women that use the centre for creche or other business. Colleen gave a presentation, gave out pamphlets and gave an explanation of each. The women were quite interested in VSU work. Colleen was given a tour of the centre.

We visited Veronica Birrell, Arts and Craft Co-ordinator at the Wugularr Council Office. She was the only council worker that could speak to us at short notice. She agreed to pass on information to people in the community about victim support.

Victim Impact Statements

No VIS.

Other Agencies that Access the Community

KRALAS
KAFSU
Correctional Services

Contact Details

Barunga Community

Barunga Council Office, PMB 25, Barunga.

Nell Brown, Co-ordinator, Creche & Age Care Centre, Barunga Community, PMB 25, Barunga. NT 0852.

Ann Marie Lee, Senior Aboriginal Health Worker, Barunga Health Clinic. Ph: 89 754501

Victim Assistance/Interpreters

Anita Camfoo and Milli Sandy.

Barunga Primary School, Community Education Centre, PMB 117, Katherine. NT 0850. Ph: 89 754502 wk or Fax: 89 754616.

Manyalluluk

Marie Farrell, Co-ordinator, Women's Centre, PMB 134, Manyalluluk. NT.

Steve Fletcher, Town Clerk, Manyalluluk Community. Ph: 89 754727.

Beswick

Andrew Urquhart, Clinic Manager, Beswick Community Health Clinic. PMB 191, Katherine. NT 0850. Ph: 89 754527.

Lorraine Bennett and Edna Snape, Beswick Women's Centre. PMB 26, Katherine. NT 0850 Ph: 89 754275 Fax: 89 754276.

Veronica Birrell, Arts & Craft Co-ordinator, Wugularr Council Office. PMB 26. Katherine. NT 0850. Ph: 89 754520 or Fax: 89 754565.



Edna Snape and Lorraine Bennett from Beswick



Beswick Women's Centre

KATHERINE, TIMBER CREEK AND BULLA

Location

The primary community visit was to Timber Creek. We included the other communities in the area.

Population/Area Covered

The police station covers west to the WA border, south to Pigeon Hole and Yarralin Communities and Halls Creek. Overall there are thirteen pastoral stations and sixteen Aboriginal communities and outstations within this area.

Police Officers

Sergeant Garry Wenck and Constable Kim Chambers

Aboriginal Community Police Officers

Joy Campbell (Yarralin), Lorraine Jones

Magistrate

Mr Birch

Court

The court is the same design as Port Keats (Wadeye) police station/court. The Court and Visiting Officers Quarters are on the opposite sides of the police station. They are of the same dimensions. The Timber Creek court appears roomier. Perhaps this is because of the light colour on the walls. Port Keats court has grey walls which give it a smaller appearance. This facility only has room for the magistrate's desk, orderly's desk and a shared bar table for prosecutor and defence lawyer. There is limited seating which is usually taken up by Correctional Services officers, defendant and police guard.

Community Agencies

Ngaliwurru-wuli Aboriginal Co-operation (Timber Creek)
Timber Creek Health Clinic
Bulla Community Health Clinic

Katherine Agencies

KAFSU
Katherine Regional Aboriginal Language Centre
Wurli Wurlingjang's Family Healing Place
Katherine Sobering Up Shelter (Mission Australia)
Binjari Community Council Office

Visit Report

Monday 22 October 2001

We arrived in Katherine approximately 9.00am, picked up an NT Fleet car and met some of the agencies in Katherine. Our first visit was to KAFSU to drop off some VIS booklets. KAFSU workers, Helen Turner and Joan Pracy were also going to Timber Creek court. They arranged a meeting for us with the women at Bulla Community.

We visited the Katherine Aboriginal Language Centre and spoke to Robyn Hodgson. This organisation provides interpreters for court. We gave a presentation about VSU. Also present at their office was Fay Gibson, Walpiri interpreter who the ODPP has used on a number of occasions. I spoke to Robyn about including VIS training so that interpreters may be able to assist victims. We left posters and pamphlets.

We then visited the Wurli Wurlinjang's Family Healing Place. We spoke to Pam Viti, Co-ordinator and one of their counsellors, George King. We gave a presentation about our services, which was followed by a short presentation about the services they provide. This organisation provides counselling to Aboriginal people in the Katherine area. They do not go out to communities yet but it is anticipated that they will service communities around Katherine.

We visited the Wurli Wurlinjang Health Clinic next door to the Family Healing Place. We spoke to receptionist who said that she would display our posters and pamphlets.

We visited the Katherine Sobering Up Shelter which is run by Mission Australia. This organisation's details were given to us by Pam Viti because of the women that drink in the long grass and are often assaulted. We gave a short presentation to the front office staff about what VSU did and left posters and pamphlets. They said they would inform people of our services.

We visited Binjari Camp. This community is approximately 20km outside Katherine. We briefly spoke to Kim Manbulloo. Our appointment was with Co-ordinator Debbie Aliosi, but because of medical reasons she was not available. We left posters and pamphlets and went on to Timber Creek (three hours away).

On arrival at Timber Creek at approximately 4.00pm we went to the police station and met Sergeant Gary Wenck, Constable Kim Chambers and ACPO Joy Campbell. We gave a short presentation about the VSU. Sergeant Wenck had a couple of victim support cases for us to work on. We were advised that the Bob Materna and Mr Birch would be arriving the next morning. We arranged to meet early the next morning to follow up those victims mentioned earlier, before court started.

Tuesday 23 October 2001

We arrived at the Timber Creek police station at approximately 9.00am. We noticed that KRALAS lawyers and field officers had no room available to take instructions and were sitting under a tree or on the front part of the court on chairs. This was the same for KAFSU workers. This was not very confidential as there were other people sitting around who could listen in on what instructions were being given. There did not appear to be any extra rooms set aside for defence lawyers, VSU or other agencies to take instructions.

We spoke to Mr Birch who was by now accustomed to seeing us at bush courts. When asked about whether this court did assault hearings and he told us that they are usually sent to Katherine court. Colleen enquired about vulnerable witness equipment, in particular a screen. There did not appear to be a screen available. Mr Birch said he would look into it. Colleen had been told that a portable screen was available to be taken to bush courts. She was unsure if this applied only to Darwin bush court circuits.

Sergeant Wenck asked that Colleen speak to a victim privately about an assault hearing which was listed for today's court. As there were no interview rooms available Colleen was able to speak to the victim in the VOQ. Colleen had the opportunity to speak to two women that morning about DV matters.

We sat in court and observed throughout the morning.

Court was finished at approximately 1.00pm.

We visited the Timber Creek Health Clinic. We gave a short presentation to nursing staff Bruce Roggiero and Donna Coulthard. Posters and pamphlets were given. The Health Clinic staff said they will refer assault matters on to VSU or KAFSU.

We spoke to a DV client at the police station and advised her about some options. Arrangements were made for us to transport her back to Katherine, as we were returning there the next day.

Wednesday 24 October 2001

Bulla Community

We met Aboriginal Health Worker Betty Laurie and Jack Little at the Bulla Community Health Clinic.

Colleen prepared a VIS with a client, who was chosen on behalf of her family to do this.

We had a meeting with 12-15 people at Bulla Community. We gave a short presentation along with the KAFSU workers as they also service this small community. KAFSU organised this meeting.

We then went back to Timber Creek.

We picked up the DV client on our way back to Katherine. She was dropped off to family in Katherine. Colleen spoke about doing a VIS and gave her a booklet to read. Colleen spoke to the client about assistance that KAFSU can give, eg Centrelink payment assistance or priority housing issues. We showed the client where the KAFSU office was located.

Victim Impact Statements

Two VIS prepared.

Other Agencies that Access the Community

Katherine Aboriginal Family Support Unit

Contact Details

Timber Creek/Bulla Communities

Nursing Staff, Donna Coulthard and Bruce Roggier, Timber Creek Health Clinic. Ph: 89 750727

Betty Laurie, Bulla Community Health Clinic. Ph: 91687306(?)

Helen Turner, KAFSU. Ph: 89 723200

Deborah Jones, Ngaliwurru-wuli Council Office. Ph: 89 750710

Katherine Agencies

Robyn Hodgson, Katherine Regional Aboriginal Language Centre, PO Box 89, Katherine. N.T. 0851. Ph: 89 711233, Fax: 89 710561

Pam Viti and George King, Wurli Wurlingjang's Family Healing Place, PO Box 896, Katherine. N.T. 0851. Ph: 89 712716, Fax: 89 712784

Katherine Sobering Up Shelter (run by Mission Australia), 32 Giles Street, Katherine, N.T. 0850. Ph: 89 710498

Katherine West Health Board Aboriginal Corporation, PO Box 147, Katherine. N.T. 0851. Ph: 89 721211, Fax: 89 721233

Debbie Eliosi, Binjari Community Council Office. Ph: 89 710823

NGUKURR

Location

South east of Katherine. On our way to Ngukurr we stopped at Jilkminggan Community (aka Duck Creek Community) and Mataranka.

Population/Area Covered

The Ngukurr police station covers approximately as far north to Numbulwar, south to Towns/Limmen Rivers, west to Hodgson Downs and east to the coast near Roper Valley. This encompasses the communities and outstations within this area.

Police Officers

Brev Sergeant Michael Ward and Constable Jamie O'Brien

Aboriginal Community Police Officers

Graham Turner and Nathaniel Miller

Magistrate

Mr Birch

Court

The court was held in the Recreational Centre. It is an air-conditioned room with lots of space but there was limited seating. There were no other rooms available for defence lawyers or VSU to take instructions or have briefings.

There was no seating in the foyer area.

Community Agencies

Ngukurr Community Council Office
Ngukurr Women's Centre
Ngukurr Community Health Centre

Visit Report

Monday 5 November 2001

We decided to stop at some communities on the way to Ngukurr. We stopped at the Mataranka Community Health Centre, but this was not open at that time. We went on to Jilkminggan Community (aka Duck Creek Community). We spoke to the Centre Manager, who in turn said that he would pass on the information to people in the community. We left posters and pamphlets at this Centre as well as the Jilkminggan Council Office. The Centre Manager advised us that he also manages the Mataranka Centre.

We arrived in Ngukurr approximately 1.00pm. We met OIC and officers at Ngukurr police station. This station was not advised of our visit and therefore was not aware of our role in the ODPP. After some discussion Colleen explained our role and the OIC arranged for ACPO, Graham Turner to accompany us to the Council Office and Women's Resource Centre. The first visit was to the Ngukurr Council where we met Andy Robertson, Chairperson. We explained our role and why we had come to visit. We asked Andy if we could speak to the women at the Women's Centre. Graham Turner then took us to the Women's Centre where we met Maureen Smiler, Co-ordinator. Maureen arranged for the women (approximately 12) to listen to our presentation. The women appeared interested in VSU work. Colleen advised the women that they could come and see her privately at the Rectory if they wanted more information.

Tuesday 6 November 2001

Court was delayed as the magistrate was late driving out due to the heavy load of OCA equipment. Court started at 12 noon.

We took this opportunity to meet with Janet Fletcher, Sister-in-charge, Ngukurr Community Health Centre. Colleen gave a short presentation. Michael spoke to an Aboriginal Health Worker about our roles. Janet advised that she has had some experience assisting people in court matters and had been threatened by family members of the defendant. Janet said she was happy to pass on our information to domestic violence or other victims for assistance from the VSU.

Janet also explained that Health Centre staff try not to get involved with domestic violence situations for fear of retaliation from family members.

We observed the court. It was mostly traffic offences. No assault hearings or victims present.

Colleen went back to the Rectory in the afternoon so that the women could come and speak to her.

Colleen spoke to Elaine Daniels and Roberta Roberts who were at the Anglican Church preparing for a Children's Church Group session that afternoon. She gave a short presentation to them and the children sat in and listened. She gave a general overview so that the children could understand.

In the afternoon a Women's Centre client came up to the Rectory to speak to Colleen privately about a case. She took down the details and arranged to get back to the client at a later date.

The Ngukurr police put on a BBQ for the visitors. We attended.

Wednesday 7 November 2001

We were informed the night before that there was a death in the community. This would cause some delay with court because various amenities would have to be smoked out before they could open for business. The court was smoked out, as well as the shop and council office. The court then started at approximately 11.00am.

After looking over the court list we noted that there were no hearings for assault matters and made a decision to return to Darwin.

Ngukurr does not have a lot of accommodation available for visiting government workers.

Victim Impact Statements

No VIS.

Other Agencies that Access the Community

KAFSU
Correctional Services

KRALAS

Contact Details

Andy Roberts, Ngukurr Community Council Office. Ph: 89 754656

Maureen Smiler, Ngukurr Women's Centre. Ph: 89 754 877.

Janet Fletcher, Centre Manager, Ngukurr Community Health Centre.
Ph: 89 754688

Centre Manager, Jilkminggan Community Health Centre. Ph: 89 754741

Centre Manager, Mataranka Community Health Centre. Ph: 89 754547

Elaine Daniels and Roberta Roberts, Ngukurr Anglican Church Rectory Office.

KALKARINDJI

Location

South west of Katherine.

Population/Area Covered

The population fluctuates between 800-1000. This station also covers Pigeon Hole Community and Old Top Springs Community.

Police Officer

Sergeant Chris Ruzsicska and Constable Chris McNeill

Aboriginal Community Police Officers

None

Magistrate

Mr Birch

Court

Court was held in an air-conditioned shed with a lot of space. The only problem was there was not enough seating inside the room. There were no rooms available for defence or VSU to talk privately with clients. Most instructions were taken under a tree.

Community Agencies

Kalkarindji Community Council Office
Kalkarindji Community Health Centre

Visit Report

Monday 19 November 2001

On our way to Kalkarindji we decided to visit the Katherine Family Link Agency in Katherine due to contact made the previous week. We arrived at approximately 9.30am and met the staff of Katherine Family Link, Senior Counsellor Jean Packham and Counsellor Jana Paterakis. This agency is under Centacare Northern Territory and provides counselling for sexual assault, domestic violence, family violence etc. We gave a presentation and left our pamphlets, business cards and posters. This agency is an appropriate referral for victims of crime.

We dropped into the Katherine court to speak to Wayne Nayda to check if Kalkarindji Court was still going ahead and we were advised that it was. We also left posters for OCA staff to put on their notice board.

At approximately 12.00 noon we set off for Kalkarindji and arrived around 4.10pm. We went directly to the police station and met Sergeant Ruzicska and explained what the VSU Bush Promotion was all about. He said he did not receive information on this project from his superiors but he was willing to assist us wherever necessary. Colleen agreed to send the Bush Promotion information through e-mail. Sergeant Ruzicska advised us that the Chief Executive Officer, Kalkarindji Council Office is Shaun Heffernan, the Acting Chief Executive Officer is Roslyn Frith and the Kalkarindji Health Clinic Manager is Joan Tuppak. It was too late in the afternoon to visit agencies so we decided to leave the visits until the next day.

Tuesday 20 November 2001

Spoke to Roslyn Frith, A/CEO, Kalkarindji Council Office. Colleen previously worked with Roslyn Frith when she was employed as an Aboriginal Community Worker at Territory Health Services. We gave a short presentation to her and left posters and pamphlets. She advised that she would allow herself to be a contact in the community, especially in cases of women victims of domestic violence. Roslyn then allowed us to use her office to speak to a victim of an assault.

We provided information to two victims of assaults, which were referred to us by police. Neither wanted to do a VIS. Colleen gave information to both women about CVA.

While we waited for the magistrate to arrive we visited the Kalkarindji Health Clinic. The clinic was very busy with patients so we left posters and pamphlets with the staff.

The Bush Promotion has certainly raised the awareness for the need for a full-time VSU worker among Summary Prosecutions as well as community agencies that work in the Katherine court circuit region.

Colleen spoke to smaller groups of women who had come to court for the day to support family members and gave them information about VSU.

We were advised not to attend Daguragu Community as most of them would attend court in Kalkarindji today.

Wayne Nayda asked Colleen to assist him in finding a victim of an assault, which was put down for a hearing today. She had spoken to family members and was advised that she, the victim, will come down to court later in the day.

Colleen spoke to a group of men waiting outside the court and advised them of her role as a VSU worker. Elders, Mick Obie and Ray Yunga advised that Kalkarindji was made up of a few groups. Those being Ngarriman, Walpiri, Wandjira, Mudbura and the main group being Gurindji. She was also advised that there are no Gurindji Interpreters in Kalkarindji.

Victim Impact Statement

One VIS.

Other Agencies that Access the Community

KRALAS
Correctional Services

Contact Details

Kalkarindji

Roslyn Frith, Kalkarindji Council Office, CMB, Via Katherine, NT. 0852.
Ph: 89 750799.

Kalkarindji Health Clinic. Ph: 89 750785

Correctional Services Department

Katherine

Jean Packham, Senior Counsellor, or Jana Paterakis, Counsellor - Centacare Northern Territory or Katherine Family Link, Cnr First & Giles Streets, Katherine. N.T . 0851 or PO Box 919, Katherine. NT. 0851. Ph: 89 710777, Fax: 89 711400.

Email: kfl@nt.centacare.org.au

