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Yawardani Jan-ga - Parent/Carer Consent Form

By signing this consent form I declare that I accept that I have understood the following:

- I understand this project is trying to find out what benefits EAL has on Aboriginal children and young people.
- I understand that my child has to leave the school grounds to take part in Yawardani Jan-ga.
- I understand the risks of allowing my child / the child in my care to take part in this project.
- I agree for my child to be part of the project and understand he/she can say 'no' or 'stop' at any time.
- I understand that the purpose of 'check-ins' with the organisation that referred my child to Yawardani Jan-ga are for tracking my child's progress.
- I agree to have 'check-ins' with Yawardani Jan-ga staff about how my child is going.
- I understand that my child's school attendance will be requested by researchers to see if the program changes their school attendance.
- I understand that information collected about my child will be combined with the information collected from all other children enrolled in Yawardani Jan-ga to understand the overall impact of the program, and how to improve the program for other young people and families.
- I understand that general feedback about the program given to community or research reports will not reveal my child's name or personal information.
- That information about my child will be stored confidentially and will be analysed by Yawardani Jan-ga researchers to assess the impact of program on my child and improve the program. I have been given enough information and the opportunity to ask questions.
- I have been given a copy of the Information Sheet to take home.

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I _____ have read and understood the "Information for
(Parent/Caregiver name)

Parents and Carers" and give permission for _____ to:
(Child's name)

I give permission for my child to participate in Yawardani Jan-ga.	Yes ☐	No ☐
If the school Principal agrees, I give permission for my child to leave school to take part in Yawardani Jan-ga.	Yes ☐	No ☐
I give permission for notes, photos and /or video and voice to be recorded during Yawardani Jan-ga to track my child's progress.	Yes ☐	No ☐
I understand that general feedback about the program given to the community or research reports will not reveal my child's name or personal information.	Yes ☐	No ☐
I agree to have 'check-ins' with Yawardani Jan-ga staff to help improve the program.	Yes ☐	No ☐
I give permission for myself and my child to be contacted in the future.	Yes ☐	No ☐
I give permission for the school to give the Yawardani Jan-ga researchers my child's attendance and absence rates (authorised and unauthorised) for the semester before, during and the semester after your child stops attending the program.	Yes ☐	No ☐
I give permission for all information collected about my child by Yawardani Jan-ga staff to be used to work out the overall impact of the program, and to improve the program.	Yes ☐	No ☐
I give permission for the information collected about my child to be used in presentations to the community or included in research reports as long as my child cannot be identified.	Yes ☐	No ☐
I give permission for the following arrangements for my child to get to and from the program. • School/Organisation to provide a drop off/pick up service. • Yawardani Jan-ga program to provide a drop off/pick up service. This arrangement will in place for the duration of the child's participation in the Research Program.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____

Thank you for taking part in Yawardani Jan-ga.

Yawardani Jan-ga - Parent/Carer Check list

Date completed:	
Name of person(s) completing check list:	

CONTACT INFORMATION		
Name of child or young person:		*Weight (kg):*
School Name:	Grade:	Form class / classroom teacher:
Emergency contact name and phone number:		relationship to the young person
Alternate contact person name and phone number:		relationship to the young person

HEALTH HISTORY Please indicate any medical condition that may impact participation in the Yawardani Jan-ga program	
	Details / Management (e.g. medication, therapy)
Does your child have any allergies:	Tick all that apply: ☐ To animal hair *(details):* ☐ To any medicines (details): ☐ Asthma *(details):* ☐ Other *(details):*
Is your child taking any medications? *in the case on an emergency, incident or injury, this information will help us inform first aid responders.*	Please tick: ☐ No ☐ Yes (*details):*
Is there any other information about your child you think we should know?	

Yawardani Jan-ga
Information for Parents and Carers

Welcome

The Yawardani Jan-ga (Horses helping) Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) program is delivered through **Yawarda Services Ltd, a registered charity,** in Broome, and other locations in the Kimberley region.

We would like to ask permission for your child to be part of the Yawardani Jan-ga EAL Program. It is important to know about this project and what it involves before saying “Yes” or “No” to your child taking part.

What is the Yawardani Jan-ga research program about?

Yawardani Jan-ga means ‘horses helping’ in Yawuru language.

In this research, we are seeing what benefits EAL has for young people.

In Yawardani Jan-ga horses are the teachers. During the program, your child will work with, or around horses on the ground doing activities like grooming the horse or leading the horse through an obstacle course following the instructions from a trained EAL Practitioner. A mounted session may be offered to your child if the EAL Practitioner thinks it is safe and appropriate to do so.

These activities with the horse help show young people life skills, such as how to recognise and understand their feelings, coping and emotional regulation strategies, friendship making skills, and helpful self-talk. These life skills help build healthy relationships with others, as well as demonstrate a different way of responding to life stresses. This is called “Experiential Learning” and is one of the only ways we can develop life-long learning and become more mindful.

How does my child access the program?

As a parent/carer you must provide consent for your child to participate in the program and consent for how they will get to and from the program.

A Referral Form must be submitted to Yawardani Jan-ga from a local service provider. This means your child’s teacher, youth worker, police, or another appropriate person can complete a Referral Form with your permission.

The Referral Form requests information about your child’s challenges, strengths, and supports. This information will be used to plan the program for your child and track your child’s progress during the program.

What does my child have to do?

For Yawardani Jan-ga, young people do not need any experience with horses.

Most children will attend Yawardani Jan-ga for one session a week for one school term (about 10 weeks). Depending on what your child needs help with, they may be enrolled longer or even on an on-going basis.

Sessions last 45 minutes to 1-hour and are held during school hours (8am – 2:15pm). Yawardani Jan-ga program staff will talk to you and the school Principal to arrange pick-up and drop-off of your child from school or home.

Each session begins with a horse-safety briefing and check-in around social and emotional wellbeing.

Every session will be different and planning between the EAL Practitioner and Professor Juli Coffin will occur before and after every session. The focus is on the experience that the young person has, and the feedback provided from the horse. All sessions are guided by a local Aboriginal trained EAL Practitioner.

During the sessions, the EAL Practitioner may take notes to document progress and make plans for the next session. Sometimes, we will ask if it is ok for us to take photos, videos, or voice recordings. This is one way we track the progress your child is making in the program. Each session, your child can say 'yes' or 'no' to the photos, video, or voice recordings without missing out on the horse experience.

What if my child doesn't want to do one of the activities in the session?

If we start a session and your child decides that he/she wants to stop, they can stop the session by simply saying they wish to stop.

In the Yawardani Jan-ga program, your child is in-charge of their time and can say 'yes' or 'no' to yarns, video recordings, photos and activities. This will be encouraged by the EAL practitioner to build self-awareness and 'choice'. No one will mind if they want to stop.

Are there any risks to my child?

Every session begins with safety instructions and a check-in around their social and emotional wellbeing.

Horses are big animals and can sometimes act in sudden and unpredictable (changeable) ways, especially if frightened or hurt. The horses are in a natural state and can move freely and quickly at times. The EAL Practitioner is responsible for monitoring the session and stopping and/or changing the experience if, in their opinion, there are any safety risks to your child.

Should your child become upset or need further support, the Yawardani Jan-ga program has support from local youth counselling services, and online/phone access to trained Aboriginal counsellors if an in-person visit was not possible.

All Yawardani Jan-ga program staff and researchers are required to have a Working With Children Check Card and WA Police Clearance.

As a parent/caregiver, what do I have to do?

For your child to be part of this program, you will be required to do two things:

1. You will need to give your consent by signing a Consent Form. If your child currently attends school, there is a section in the Consent Form that seeks your permission for your child to leave the school premises (or location) during the school day. Depending on each school procedures, you might need to speak directly to the school principal about giving your child permission to leave school for one hour each week. You will also need to give permission for the arrangements about how your child will get to and from the program.
2. We will request to check-in with you mid-way (5-weeks), towards the end (10-weeks), and approximately 6-months after the last EAL session. These check-ins last about 5 minutes and are to see if what your child is learning from the horses is being applied at home. The information collected from you through these check-ins is another way to track the progress your child is making. During these check-ins notes may be taken by the EAL Practitioner. You can say 'no' to these check-ins. It will not stop your child from being in Yawardani Jan-ga.

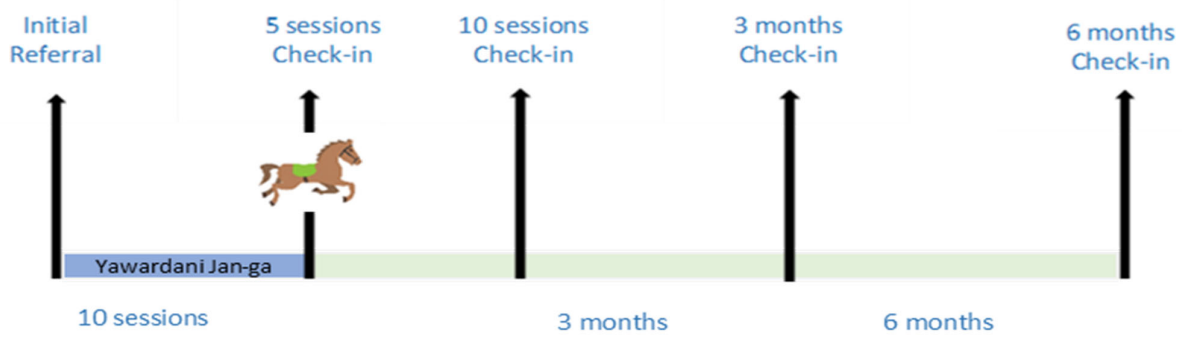

Figure 1: Timing of 'check-ins' with Referrers to track progress in Yawardani Jan-ga

What kind of information do you collect about my child?

Yawardani Jan-ga will keep a 'Participant-file' on each young person taking part in the program. The Participant-file will contain personal information such as the Referral Form, session notes, photos and videos of child-horse interactions, and feedback from check-ins with the Referrer and the Parents/Carers.

Check-ins with people in regular contact with your child will help us track the progress of each young person and find out if the skills gained in the EAL-program are being transferred into other settings, like the school, the home, and the wider community. Six months after your child's last session, we will request to speak with you again to see how your child is going, and also to request feedback about the program, and how we can improve it for other families.

In the future, we would also like to check in with you and the organisation that referred your child to Yawardani Jan-ga to help us understand the long-term impact of this program on your child.

Finally, we would like to know if Yawardani Jan-ga encourages kids to go to school. With your permission we will ask the school to provide us with your child's attendance and absence rates (authorised and unauthorised) for the semester before, during, and the semester after your child stops attending the program.

How will information you collect about my child be used?

Information collected about your child will be used to:

- Understand if and how Yawardani Jan-ga is helping your child, in both the short and long term.
- We will also combine the information we collect about your child with information we collect about other young people enrolled in Yawardani Jan-ga. This will help us determine if and how the program has helped Aboriginal young people as a group and also help us make the program work specifically for the Kimberley.
- We will also combine information we collect about your child with the 'attendance' information collected from your child's school.

How will you keep my child's information private?

All information stored with Yawardani Jan-ga is **confidential** and is kept under lock and key at the EAL site and on a password protected computer that only the Dr Juli Coffin, the Program Manager, and the EAL practitioners have access to.

Our research team will review the Participant-files independently and confidentially to access the progress made by each young person according to different people who have contact with your child in different settings (for example, the school, the home etc).

The information we collect about each participant will not be shared with any other services without consent of the parents/carers and the participant themselves, unless:

- the participant becomes involved in a serious criminal matter where others are at risk; or
- we perceive the participant to be at risk of self-harm or harm to others; or
- we are required to by the law.

All the information we collect about your child will be stored securely for at least 7 years after we publish a report or project completion or until your child turns 25 years of age, whichever is longest. After this time, all information will be destroyed.

Will I receive feedback on my child's progress?

Yes. Contact with parents/carers is necessary, and we will contact you regularly to let you know how your child is going in the program.

Also, general results about the whole program will be presented at community meetings and be published in the form of a report. When general feedback about the program is given to community, no personal information about people involved will be disclosed. This means that the name of your child, the name of the school, and the names of people we spoke to about your child's progress will not be made public.

Is there anything else I should know about this study?

Yes. We would like to ask your permission to contact you and your child **in the future to** catch-up and see how your child is going. For example, we might ask you to tell us what your child is up to, or we might ask your child how they think the program helped them, if at all. Right now, we are only asking for permission to contact you and your child in the future. When we contact you in the future, you can say 'yes' or 'no' to talking to us. It will be completely up to you.

What if I have a complaint?

Approval to conduct this project has been provided by the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee. Any person with concerns or complaints about how we have behaved in your community may make any complaints by contacting the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (08) 9227 1631 or by emailing ethics@ahcwa.org.

What if I have more questions or want more information?

If you require further information or want to ask questions, please contact:

Professor Juli Coffin on 0436 454 422 or email: info@yawardanijanga.com.au

Our partners: