PRIVATE-CONFIDENTIAL

Yawardani Jan-ga Referrer Consent Form

By signing this consent form, I declare that I accept to participate and 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 I must discuss my intent to refer the young person to Yawardani Jan-ga with the parent(s)/ carer(s) and gain their permission to provide personal information, before completing the Referral Form.
- I understand that the information provided in the Referral Form will be used as baseline from which to track participant progress during Yawardani Jan-ga.
- I understand that I will be contacted by Yawardani Jan-ga staff to have 'check-ins'.
- I understand that 'check-ins' with Yawardani Jan-ga staff will be used to monitor and assess participant's progress in Yawardani Jan-ga.
- I understand that I may be contacted by Yawardani Jan-ga staff to provide feedback about program for evaluation purposes.
- I understand that the information I provide will be combined with information collected from other participants, to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Yawardani Jan-ga and to adapt the EAL program to the Kimberley.
- I understand I can say 'no' or 'stop' at any time.
- I understand that general feedback about the program given to the public will conceal my identity as well as the identity of participants and schools.
- 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.

Referrer Name _____ I consent to:

Completing a Referral Form for a child/young person, with their parent/carer consent	Yes ☐	No ☐
• Have 'check-ins' with Yawardani Jan-ga staff for the purposes of monitoring the progress of the young people I refer to the program	Yes ☐	No ☐
• Help evaluate Yawardani Jan-ga (share experiences in referring to the program, any feedback on the program, and its impact on young people)	Yes ☐	No ☐
• I give permission to be contacted in the future about the young person(s) I have referred to Yawardani Jan-ga for the purposes of understanding the long-term impacts of EAL on participants	Yes ☐	No ☐

Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____

Thank you for taking part in Yawardani Jan-ga.

Name of organisation: _____

Person referring: _____

Position: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Site: Broome / Derby /Halls Creek/Other_____

(circle one)

Date: _____

Yawardani Jan-ga Referral Form

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION	
Participant Name:	
DOB:	Age:
Aboriginal *(circle appropriate)*: Yes No	Gender:
Address: Contact number:	
IF APPLICABLE: Do parent(s)/carer(s) agree to be contacted by Yawardani Jan-ga? *(tick appropriate)* Yes No	
PARENT / CARER INFORMATION	
Name:	Phone:

Address:	Relationship to child:
Email:	
Statement of primary concern: *(Examples: incident details, history of aggression, poor self-regulation, drug/alcohol intake, self-harm/suicide attempts, contact with police, disengagement from school, bullying, recent community or family events)*	
Potential triggers *(Examples: past events, not feeling in control, bullying, feeling judged, smells, loud noises)*	

Strengths *(Examples: interests, communication, family supports, friendships, coping strategies)*
Any additional information we should know *(Examples: Health conditions, disability diagnosis, current medications)*
OFFICE USE ONLY *(after discussion with parent / guardian / carer / referral service)*
Recommended frequency and duration of sessions: Type of Format: _____ Group Work _____ Individual Work _____ Family Work

Treatment goals:

PRIVATE-CONFIDENTIAL

Yawardani Jan-ga
Information for Referral Services

Welcome

The Yawardani Jan-ga Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) program, delivered through **Yawarda Services Ltd, a registered charity**, is running across multiple sites in the Kimberley, including Broome and other localities in the region.

Through this program, we seek to understand the benefits that Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) can provide for young people. It is important that you read and understand the information below to determine whether Yawardani Jan-ga may be suitable for someone you know.

What is the Yawardani Jan-ga research program about?

Yawardani Jan-ga means 'horses helping' in Yawuru language. The aim of the Yawardani Jan-ga project is to support the social, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of Aboriginal young people through the implementation of culturally secure Aboriginal led and run equine-assisted program.

In Yawardani Jan-ga horses are the teachers. Participants go through a series of interactions with horses under the supervision of a qualified local Kimberley Aboriginal EAL Practitioner. The interactions between participant and horse creates feedback loops which develop essential life skills including emotional regulation, self-awareness coping skills and helpful self-talk. These life skills can help build healthy relationships with others, as well as demonstrate a different way of responding to life stresses.

The 'learning' component in Yawardani Jan-ga arises through repeated observation, practice, and reflections of horse-client interactions, guided by trained local Aboriginal qualified EAL-practitioners. A mounted session may be offered at the discretion of the EAL Practitioner.

Each participant attends weekly one-hour sessions for approximately 10 weeks (one school term). Depending on the young person's referral, they may need to be enrolled longer or even on an on-going basis. Sessions are held during school hours (8am – 2:15pm). Yawardani Jan-ga program staff may be able to provide transport for participants. They will work out transport arrangements with the school Principal and each child's parent/carer.

What does a session look like?

Each session begins with a check-in around horse-safety and social and emotional wellbeing. A range of topics are explored in Yawardani Jan-ga, meaning every session will be different and tailored to suit each young person how they present on the day. This planning is completed between the EAL Practitioner and lead researcher, Professor Juli Coffin, before and after every session.

During the sessions, the EAL Practitioner documents observations and things the child may have said or done. Sometimes we will ask permission to take photos and or videos. These methods are some of the ways in which the program tracks the progress of each student during Yawardani Jan-ga, and also helps plan subsequent sessions.

What kind of participants are suitable for the program?

Young Aboriginal people between the ages of 6 and 25 are eligible to be part of the Yawardani Jan-ga program. The program is suitable for all Aboriginal young people, including those with complex social and emotional wellbeing needs, and those demonstrating leadership potential. The program provides prevention, intervention and treatment of issues facing young people.

If a young person is receiving mental health support, it is important they continue to receive mental health support during their enrolment in the Yawardani Jan-ga program.

Are there any risks to taking part in Yawardani Jan-ga?

All participants are given a safety briefing every time there is contact with the horses. 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.

Should a young person 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 is not possible. However, EAL does not deepen into emotional psychotherapy and the focus of EAL sessions remains on the young person's interaction with the horse.

How do young people access the program?

If the potential participant is enrolled in a local school, parents/carers must provide consent. In this case, a Referrer *(e.g. teacher, police, doctor, or mental health professional)*, must discuss their intent to complete a Yawardani Jan-ga Referral Form with the parent/carer, and obtain parent/carer permission to share their contact information with Yawardani Jan-ga.

A Yawardani Jan-ga employee will ensure that parent/carer consent is collected before a child is enrolled in the program. Once Parent/Carer consent has been collected, the Referrer must also provide consent and may then submit a completed Referral Form for each young person they want to refer to the program.

If all Yawardani Jan-ga spots are full during a school term, the young person will be put on a wait list and the program will be offered as soon as possible.

As a Referrer, what do I have to do?

We will require you to complete a Yawardani Jan-ga Referral Form for each young person you think may benefit from the program. The Referral Form requests information about the concerns you have for the young person as well as their strengths will be used as 'baseline data' from which to track participant progress in the program.

The Referrer must discuss their intent to refer a student to Yawardani Jan-ga with the parent/carer before completing a Referral Form and obtain parent/carer permission to share their contact details with Yawardani Jan-ga to begin the consent process.

Once Yawardani Jan-ga has received the Referral Form, we may contact you to clarify any information provided and provide an update on the enrolment of the young person referred.

Yawardani Jan-ga staff will 'check-in' with you mid-way (5-sessions), at the end of the program (all sessions completed), and six-months after the young person's last EAL-session (see Figure 1). These check-ins are expected to take between 5-10 minutes each.

The aim of checking in with the Referrer is to determine the participant's ability to apply knowledge, skills, and behaviours gained during Yawardani Jan-ga outside of the EAL-arena, to ensure the wellbeing of the student, and also help us adjust the program to the local context. The check-in at six months after the student's last EAL session will help us track the long-term impact of the EAL program on each young person, and find out if the student needs to re-engage with Yawardani Jan-ga.

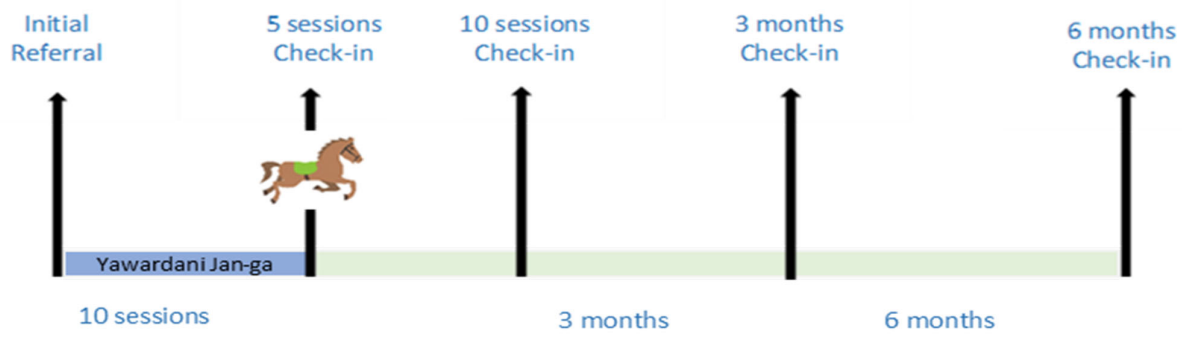

Figure 1: Timing of 'check-ins' with Referrers to track progress in Yawardani Jan-ga

What kind of information do you collect?

Yawardani Jan-ga will collect and store data pertaining to each participant referred to the program. This includes information such as the Referral Form, session notes, photos and videos of child-horse interactions, and feedback from check-ins with the Referrer.

These check-ins with the Referrers (and Parent/Carers) may be recorded using digital voice recorder or written notes, and will help us track the progress of each young person in the short and long-term and adjust sessions according to the student's needs. If we intend to record the check-in conversation, we will ask for your permission on the day.

At the end of the program, we will also ask the Referrer to check-in with the Yawardani Jan-ga team about their experience referring to the program. This information will help us evaluate and improve our processes to ensure the Yawardani Jan-ga is suitable to the context. At the end of each program, we will also collect feedback from EAL practitioners about what worked, what didn't and how the program and processes could be improved. In the future, with parent/carer consent, we will also be requesting school attendance data from public schools for students referred to Yawardani Jan-ga. This will help us understand if EAL helps to improve school attendance.

How will project information be kept private?

All information stored with Yawardani Jan-ga is confidential and is kept under lock and key at the EAL site and on a secure online app called JaneApp which can only be accessed via password protected computers by Professor Juli Coffin, the Program Manager, researchers and the EAL practitioners. EAL practitioners are only able to access information for the young people they individually support. Another secure online application, REDCap, is used to

analyse the data. Both REDCap and JaneApp transfer and store data in encrypted form within Australia with access controlled by Professor Coffin.

Our team of researchers will review all information collected for each participant to independently and objectively assess the progress made by each young person from different perspectives. We will also use the combined information collected to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in improving social emotional wellbeing for different sub-groups of young Aboriginal people and to appropriately adapt the intervention program, referral and follow-up processes, training of EAL facilitators and evaluation tools to the Kimberley context.

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.

In such instances, we will follow the required reporting and referral procedures, in consultation with each Principal.

Will the benefits of Yawardani Jan-ga be shared with the public?

Yes. General results about the whole program will be presented at community meetings and be published in the form of reports, newsletters, and journal articles. When general feedback about the program is given to community, no personal information about people involved will be made public. Any other presentations about the research findings or reports will not identify schools/organisations or individual participants involved.

What if I have a complaint?

Approval to conduct this project has been provided by the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (WAAHEC: HREC 926) and the Curtin University (AEC 353) Animal 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: