





CAN acknowledges the Aboriginal people of the Bibbulmun nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work and live. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and honour all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the first people of this nation. CAN is proud to work with people from all cultures, but we do so on the understanding of First People, first.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

ABOUT CAN

CAN creates positive social
change through the arts,
building inclusion and
understanding between people.

Overview

- Five year program throughout Noongar country
- Drawing on Aboriginal stories, language and culture of each place.
- An initiative based on Professor Len Collard's long term research.
- CAN's federally funded initiative to explore the meaning of towns and places with Noongar names



Why Place Names

- Drawing on Professor Collard's research
- There are more Aboriginal Place Names retained in the south west of WA than in any other cultural bloc across the country
- The retention of Place Names is a direct link to a passive but powerful resistance to colonialism
- In its success, all Australians are speaking Noongar (language)
Every time we say Karrinyup –
we're speaking in language





A bit about process

Place Names - Langford Aboriginal Association





Place Names - Albany Kinjarling



Dual Naming – why does it matter?

“Noongar language to our culture is important, it’s our identity, it belongs to us, it’s significant, it’s special and it’s the only in the world. For us to ignore that is abandoning our being.”

Lester Coyne, Menang Elder



“What we have to get through to agencies, is that we don’t want to rename, we want to dual name. So you can have your name, and we can have ours. We both get what we want.”



Measuring social change in the arts



SOCIAL IMPACT

Social Return for every

\$1 = \$18.58

Social Value

Above

Marion Slater, Nathan Ugle, Kara Jones
Noongar Pop Culture

Photo: Tanya Volchanskaya

Opposite

Noongar Pop Culture video shoot
Photo: Nicola Davison

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KEY FINDINGS

CAN's *Strong Culture, Strong Community* programs:

- Encouraged Noongar students to return to school
- Increased student confidence
- Reconnected Noongar students with Aboriginal culture
- Improved perception of Aboriginal students amongst non-Indigenous peers
- Built resilience

During CAN's time at Narrogin Senior High School, the school reported a 10% improvement in attendance amongst Noongar Students.

The school also elected its first ever Aboriginal Head Girl.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

\$11,000,000
in Social Value created from CAN's investment of
\$592,200

REPORT CONCLUSIONS

CAN's Projects have been instrumental in encouraging Noongar students to return to school.

In the long term, this has significant pay-offs for the wider community because students will have improved career, health, welfare and social wellbeing.

Noongar parents believe the projects have made their children stronger and more resilient.

If CAN increases student attendance by 10.0% the SROI ratio doubles, \$18.58 to \$35.73:1



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Final thoughts for LGAs doing Place Names

- Placenames is more than dual naming (although this is a great start)
- Community engagement and community education – bring the research and kadijjin together
- Share the stories creatively – self determination, social cohesion = SROI
- Invest in reconciliation – commit annually to community engaged, creative outcomes.
- This requires mid-long term planning
- Put \$ not just for a trail, or dual named sign, but to build consensus, real self-determination, and share the stories and the meaning of your town with all of us.



Information on Placenames

<http://www.canwa.com.au/project/placenames/>

<http://langford.placenames.canwa.com.au/>

kaya wandjoo ngala NoongarPedia - Welcome to our Noongarpedia

https://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/nys/Main_Page

National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network - Indigenous Knowledge Production: Generating Change through Connections

<http://www.nirakn.edu.au>

Boodjar Nyungar Placenames of south west of Western Australia

<http://www.boodjar.org.au/index.htm>

Nyungar Wardan Katitjin Bidi – Derbal Nara (People's Ocean Knowledge Trail of Cockburn Sound & Districts)

<http://www.derbalnara.org.au/nyungar-boodjar>

South West Land and Sea Council

<http://www.noongar.org.au/>



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