

Koorie Youth Council

Australian Youth AOD Conference

17 August 2017



Koorie Youth Council

The **Koorie Youth Council (KYC)** is the representative body for Koorie young people in Victoria. The KYC provides a voice to government and the wider community of the views, concerns, ideas and aspirations of Aboriginal young people in Victoria.

- ◊ Not-for-profit, **youth led** community organisation
- ◊ 'The **voice** for young Koories in Victoria'
- ◊ KYC is governed and led by **15 young people** from across Victoria
- ◊ Only state-based dedicated advocacy body for Aboriginal young people in Australia

We are a **young community**

- ◇ Around **25,000** Aboriginal children and young people in Victoria
- ◇ Nearly **60%** of the Aboriginal population and growing
- ◇ Average age of Aboriginal people in Victoria is **22**



Koorie Youth Council

- ◊ We provide a platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to have their voices heard in **government policy, program development** and **initiatives**
- ◊ We encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **youth participation** in community
- ◊ We **promote** and **support** the **development** of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Current KYC Projects

- ❖ Koorie Youth Participation Resource (KYPR) Project
- ❖ Marram Nganyin Mentoring Project
- ❖ Justice for Koorie Youth Project
- ❖ BLACKOUT Youth Forums



Koorie Youth Summit 2017

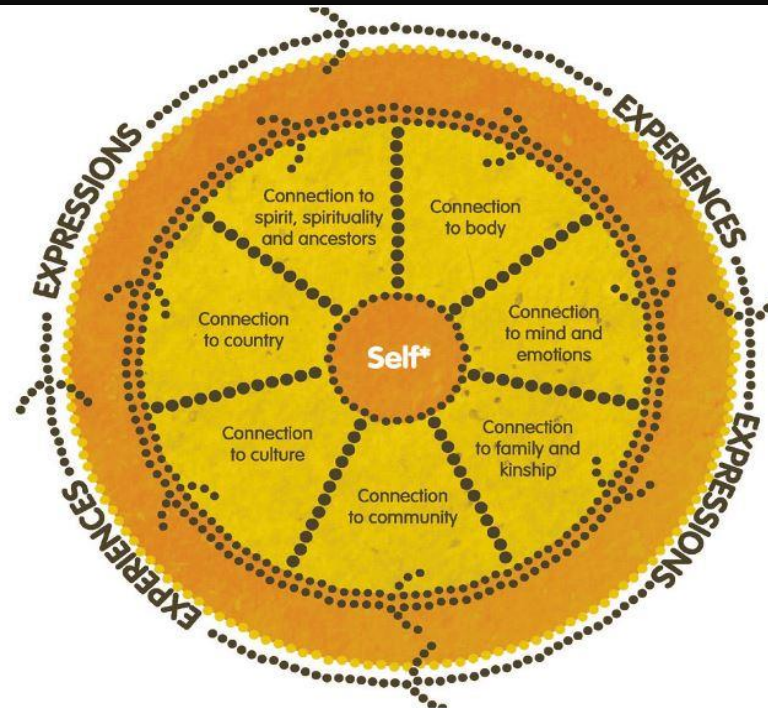


Our Identity. **Our Resilience.** Our Story.

Wrap Video: <https://vimeo.com/222450519>

Cultural Connection: <https://vimeo.com/225051083>

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Emotional Wellbeing



*This conception of self is grounded within a collectivist perspective that views the self as inseparable from, and embedded within, family and community.

© Gee, Dudgeon, Schultz, Hart and Kelly, 2013
Artist: Tristan Schultz, RelativeCreative.

Koorie Youth Participation Resource (KYPR)

- Workshops & a survey with **60 young people** from all across Victoria
- Workshops with **workers & key stakeholders** from several different programs & organisations
- Website based around **practical engagement strategies** for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

What Young People Have Told Us

Most common enablers to participation/engagement:

- ◊ Strong cultural connections
- ◊ Family and/or community support
- ◊ Positive role models/mentors

Most common barriers to participation/engagement:

- ◊ Challenges associated with navigating two worlds (i.e. lack of culturally safe spaces; shame)
- ◊ Cultural loads (caring responsibilities; health issues; family dynamics/commitments)
- ◊ Lateral violence and community conflict
- ◊ Lack of cultural understanding in wider society – i.e. racism; discrimination; tokenistic opportunities

Workshop

- ◆ **How is Koorie youth participation currently practised in your work/community?**
- ◆ **How can Koorie youth participation be strengthened in your work/community?**
- ◆ **How can you be agents for change?**

Questions?

Thank you!