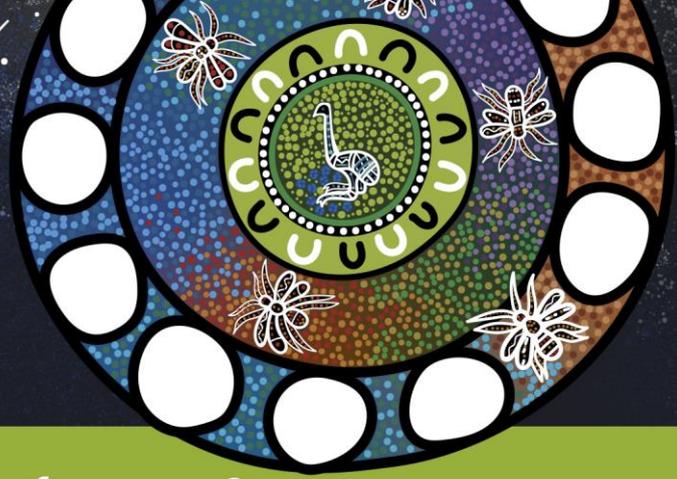




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Queensland Healing Strategy

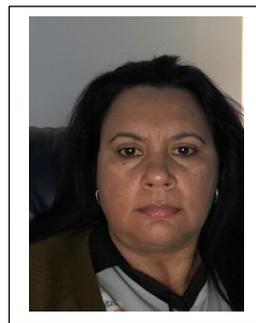
What does healing look like for you?

We are gathering case studies of healing initiatives and healing programs that are working across community organisations in Queensland as part of the Queensland Healing Strategy. We are hoping that you will be able to answer a few questions around healing for us.

1. Can you tell us your name, your role and the organisation you work for?



Cheryl Viellaris
Founding Member and Managing Director
Che-Ki-Dee Pty. Ltd
'Linking of Generations'
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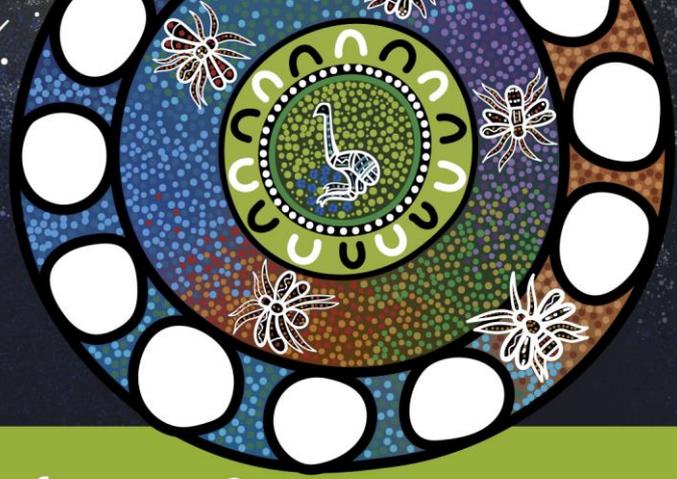


Deanne Viellaris
My Daughter who walks with me in the healing journey and, my inspiration and legacy.



100% Aboriginal owned and privately operated.





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What does healing look like for you?

Spiritual Connection

I am a proud Yidinji/Ma:Mu Aboriginal woman. Che-Ki-Dee Pty. Ltd. began through my dreaming, it is woman's business and focusses on the linking of generations.

Cheryl - first three letters of my first name **Che**
(Mother and Grandmother)

Kianne - first two letters from the first name **Ki**
(Granddaughter)

Deanne - first three letters **Dee**
(Daughter)

The Logo is the scenery that I saw. I woke up to tell my daughter that I had a name for the family business. It was just on dusk, there was the sun going down, with beautiful mountain ranges, with a dead tree in the background. My Traditional Connections – My mother Yidinji/Ma:Mu - North Queensland and father Bungalung -Tweed Heads and surrounding areas.

Che-Ki-Dee was created through my dreaming over 15 years ago. This dreaming - created the story lines for the foundation of Che-Ki-Dee's Cultural Healing Program.

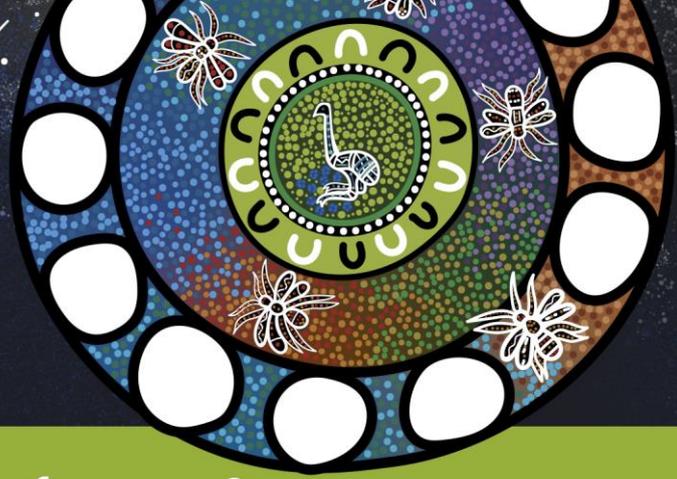
Che-Ki-Dee is a mother and daughter team and because we are healers, we understand that women play a central role in raising a family unit.

As a mother and having my daughter walk with me it is a blessing and is culturally appropriate where Che-Ki-Dee's demonstrates strong women's business in healing: Intuition and connecting spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally, mentally, and culturally. When we are healing, we are 'One'.

During my 33 years working in Aboriginal Affairs my Elders and Mentors have honed my ability to communicate and negotiate with people from all walks of life. I work from a fundamental place of cultural integrity and experience. I listen, converse, and impart Cultural Knowledge to a diverse audience. This is my strength.

I healed myself using a holistic approach, confronting my traumas of grief and loss to reach the core of my pain and break my cycle of inter-generational trauma. That is why I developed Che-Ki-Dee's Cultural Healing Program.





What does healing look like for you?

Che-Ki-Dee are guided by our ancestors. When we engage with the Department of Child Safety and with families – it is through a mutual agreement. We believe everyone has a choice. They choose to engage with the Cultural Healing process, we choose to engage with the family on their healing journey. This is an important part of the healing process – we reinforce that everyone has a voice.

We explain openly how we work with our culture, our spirituality, our intuition – it is ancestral – passed through our women's family line – this guides us throughout the healing process.

2. Can you tell us about a healing initiative or program that is working well in your organisation/community?

Che-Ki-Dee's Cultural Healing Program - the healing practice is based on the group of Grandmother's Lore which is engrained in our work, for my daughter and myself.

The spiritual wellbeing of Che-Ki-Dee's healing is based around the cultural richness to practice our cultural ways of connection to identity, by working and living with our customs, values, and beliefs.

Che-Ki-Dee's acknowledges our Cultural Connection to our Identities - the physical, social, emotional, mental, cultural, and spiritual mindfulness and openness to relationships with all living things. Che-Ki-Dee uses 'Holistic Service Delivery' to address grief and loss within our families and community.

Che-Ki-Dee's principles of caring, sharing and respect – are used to establish our relationship with families. This provides the families with a foundation for healing in a culturally safe space without fear of judgement. It is a mutual agreement between us and the family that is developed to start the healing journey. Everyone's voice is heard and valued.

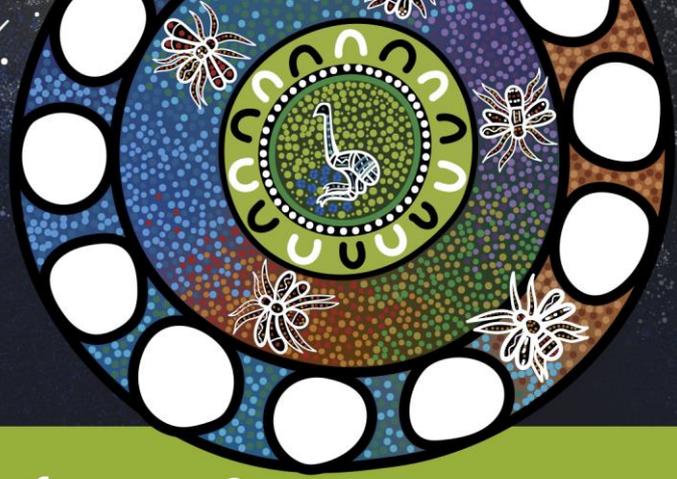
Che-Ki-Dee Cultural Healing program has been instrumental in the reunification process for families. We have provided families with tools to understand their rights as a parent, skills to draw on to continue to nurture the relationship between child and parent and provide referrals to culturally appropriate services for continued connection to their community.





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What does healing look like for you?

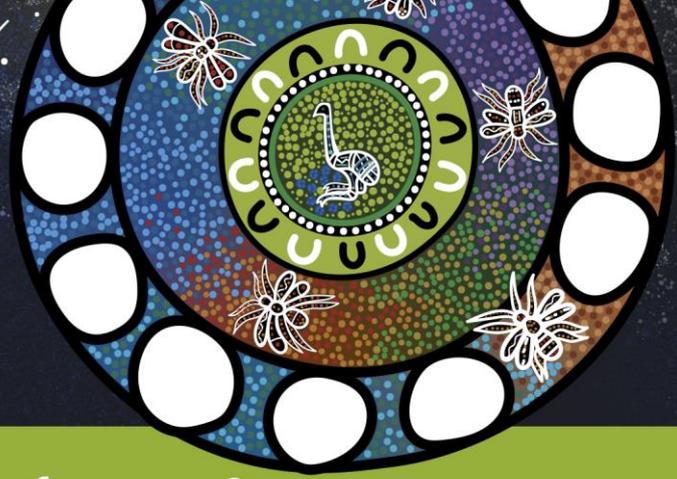
3. What are some of the issues or challenges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are facing in your community?

Che-Ki-Dee have been working with families that are directly affected by the removal of children from families. In many cases we are dealing with generations of families being raised in the Department of Child Safety. These families are dealing with grief and loss; anxiety and depression; the separation and break down of families; loss of culture, connectedness to family, land and community. There is a real sense of dispossession and despair.

Che-Ki-Dee's philosophy of a holistic approach to healing - addresses all issues that are impacting the wellbeing of a person - physical, social, emotional, mental, cultural, environmental and spiritual – by doing this we can start to break the cycle of inter-generational trauma.

We need to address all issues to enable our families to heal.





What does healing look like for you?

4. How does this program contribute to positive healing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in your community?

Che-Ki-Dee's cultural healing program provides hopes and aspirations for families that were affected by the generational cycle of being raised in the Child Protection system. Our program addresses the inter-generational trauma these families were experiencing. We have been privileged to work with women and children who were open to the healing process, we have witnessed their personal growth through their healing journey.

Che-Ki-Dee has also delivered 2 day -Cultural Awareness Training [CAT] to Anglicare SQ, Families and Children who provide services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People in 'Out of home care'. This training is provided to all Anglicare SQ staff and carers from the Gold Coast to Hervey Bay. This program provides advice, guidance and tools for the staff and carers to ensure our children and young people in care are aware of their cultural connection and identity when they exit the system.

5. Can you share some of the feedback you have heard from participants in this program?

This feedback was received from a mother who had participated in our Cultural Healing Program. It was received via text as we left our final healing session.

'I just wanted to let both of you now that I am thankful for all your hard work you and aunty dee have done with my family and would like to say thank you as U have helped me to get my relationship back with my daughter and the jarjums as well I will never forget what u's have done for me and my family'

Mother, 2019

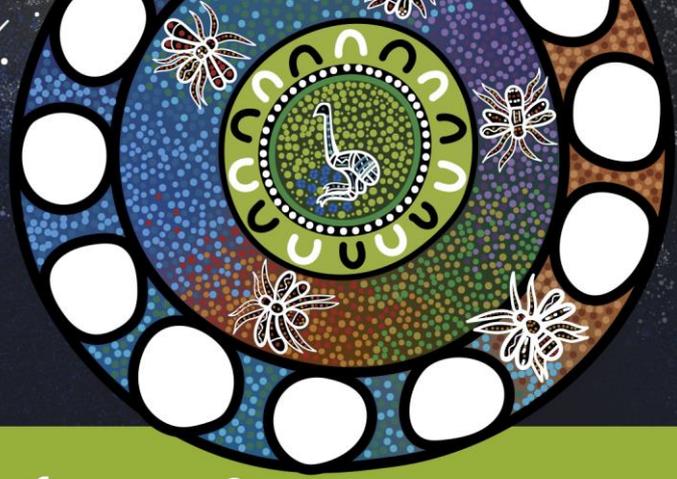
(The names have been removed to protect their identity)





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What does healing look like for you?

6. What difference have you seen this program make for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in your community?

We are helping families and our communities to heal through our Cultural Healing program.

Che-Ki-Dee demonstrate a clear and transparent partnership with the families – we work with respect and develop trust. Che-Ki-Dee work with the families to break down the barriers of communication, with each other and when interacting with the Department of Child Safety. By forming clear lines of communication, we ensure that every one's voice is heard and valued.

The families become the decision makers - this is empowering for our families and community - determining how they engage and interact not only with each other but the department. It is an important part of the healing process – that parents and children can communicate and express their concerns to address their trauma to heal themselves and their families.

Our healing program has strengthened families. Families are being reconnected – they are breaking the cycle of being raised in the Child Protection system. They have a strong sense of self, when they reconnect with their culture and community.

