


Name of Library	Logan City Council Libraries	
Address	PO Box 3226, Logan City DC Qld, 4114	
Phone	07 3412 4100	
Contact person	Rebecca Randle	
Email	RebeccaRandle@logan.qld.gov.au	

Title of project/innovation/initiative	<i>Yarning with our Mob Story Time</i>
Date initiated	July 2011
Date completed	ongoing

The issue/challenge

Logan City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities make up 2.8% of Logan City's population, 0.3% higher than the national average of 2.5%. There are also significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations well over 2.8% within the majority of Logan's electoral divisions, which are serviced by Logan City's nine public libraries.

The challenge was to reach out in ways that meet their interests and needs, and raise the libraries' profile and service potential to users and non-users in the community. In response to this challenge, the goal was to provide a program that would enhance the library service's welcoming environment and create a visible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence in our spaces.

A partnership was developed with Logan District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Elders to develop a program and resources that built recognition and understanding of the histories, cultures, values and beliefs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Logan City. The program promotes cross-cultural understanding and reconciliation, and features Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander materials, artists and presenters. It also promotes the Logan City Council Libraries' collections and facilities, including the Nyeumba Meta Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collection.

Challenges:

- Develop a community engagement process, inclusive of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, which would then be taken up by other library branches to ensure sustainability of outcomes.
- Build community relationships and trust.
- While this project has initiated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement, there remains a need for on-going conversations to understand and continue to deliver information services best suited our communities, families and individuals.
- Program requires ongoing planning with Elders, library staff and community. Elders volunteer their time and often have competing demands for community representation.

Project details

Logan City Council Libraries hosts a family story time event of the third Saturday every month. Each *Yarning with our mob* story time event starts at 10am at Logan Central, Beenleigh and Marsden libraries, and is run with the Logan District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Elders.

The first *Yarning with our mob* event was held as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations in July 2011 at Logan Central Library. It quickly established itself as a popular family event with Logan residents. In 2013 the program expanded to Marsden and Beenleigh libraries. To date, over 680 people have attended these events.

Each month has a different topic to coincide with library-wide themes and/or significant events such as The Apology, Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. Some of the topics have included: bush tucker, memory boxes, music, family history, totems, rainbow serpent history timeline, growing our culture, star gazing, The Dreaming, etc. *Yarning with our mob* has attracted attention outside of Logan City. The Queensland Theatre Company recently performed Stradbroke Dreamtime at one of the sessions, and National Indigenous Television (NI TV) has visited.

A number of the sessions have allowed for the development of displays and artwork. Elders and respected community members have made valuable contributions to the consultation process.

Yarning with our mob has a significant multicultural audience reflecting the rich cultural diversity of Logan City. It has allowed the opportunity to explore common themes across many cultures. A special *What is Sorry Business?* event saw members of the Logan Artists Association Inc invited to partner with local Indigenous artists to create artwork on small canvas tiles for the event. The Elders asked people to create artwork that interpreted their experience or understanding of a number of key themes, including *Sorry Business, Separation, Stolen Generation* and *Reconciliation*.

Many participants related to their own personal family experiences of making the journey to Australia. They remembered how it felt to be separated and torn apart from loved ones. The loss of identity, including cultural and family ties, was keenly felt. *What is Sorry Business?* community artwork is now available for display in all Logan City Council Libraries, and is a powerful example of how many migrant families in Logan City are now connecting to the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, as well as creating and sharing art that reflects upon the universal themes of these stories.

Yarning with our mob has produced many outcomes. The library service now engages with a range of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and organisations. There is a range of talks, displays and exhibitions on offer. A significant community donation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's resources has been added to the Nyeumba Meta collection that supports *Yarning with our Mob*.

Finally for the Logan District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Elders, *Yarning with our mob* has led to a raised profile in the wider community, and many invitations to present at events focusing on teaching culture.