



Facilitators

Jason King

Forum MC



Jason King has worked in Aboriginal health and public affairs since 2002. He is 51 years old and a proud Aboriginal man - his father's parent's ancestry comes from the Gunditjmara people of Western Victoria and Ngarigo people of Southern NSW. And from his mother's side has Scottish and Irish heritage.

Jason has served on the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation board (6 years), National Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (4 years), Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (6 years) and is currently the Chairperson of the Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative in Bairnsdale & currently lives and works on Gunaikurnai country (Gippsland).

Terori Hareko-Avaivilla
Founder and Managing Director, Avaivilla Group



Terori is a First Nation cultural educator, artist, founder, and Managing Director at Avaivilla Group, formerly Salt Studio Consultancy. Terori originally established Salt Studio as a platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female artists to grow their brand within the visual art space. The consultancy half of the business was added later to combine Terori's love of sharing her creative culture and education. Terori comes from a health and community services background with 20 years of strategic engagement, planning and cultural facilitation.

Terori brings her rich Islander identity as a salt water woman with tri-cultural heritage, infusing her songlines of Papua New Guinea, Torres Strait and Samoa to provide a unique world view and cultural practice. Terori's passionate about working with purpose and a focus on social justice and inclusion of all. To this end, Terori focuses on working with and collaborating with change agents and allies in the community leadership space, as well as cultural knowledge sharing.

Terori is an active member of the Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership, and recently held the roles of Deputy Chair and Interim Chair on the Koondie Woonga-gat Toor-rong Board.



Helen Rodd
Founder & Director, Hot House Community Projects



Helen has been working in a range of roles across the community development, youth work and education sectors for over 30 years. Her passions include working alongside diverse communities, and practising (and teaching) community development. Her life pursuit in this field is understanding and facilitating the complex dynamics of generational and social change. Helen seeks an answer to this question: how do we create environments where we can live well with each other, where all (people and planet) can thrive?

Her current focus is transforming communities through grass roots community participation, community leadership and community-based research. This focus has enabled her to partner with local government to develop and deliver over fifty bespoke community leadership programs, facilitating a groundswell of local action and a platform for community voice, influencing the culture, values and priorities of their local communities.

Helen works collaboratively with like-minded creatives and innovators who bring fresh thinking to social justice and community transformation. She partners with Avaivilla Group (a First Nations led enterprise) and Track C Consultancy who bring extraordinary diverse perspectives to the work of community building and inclusion.





Stream 1: Allies



Aunty Diane Kerr OAM
Senior Wurundjeri Elder

Aunty Diane Kerr is a Snr Wurundjeri Elder and knowledge keeper from the Ganun Willam Barak Clan. She is a well-respected community leader and cultural mentor to many in both community and mainstream services. Aunty Diane Kerr has contributed to advocacy and influencing change through her work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community services and cross sector organisations. Including child protection, health, education, stolen generations, native title, state and local governments.

She has been appointed as chair on various councils and committees, notable as the former chair of Native Titles Services Victoria. In 2016, she was appointed to the Aboriginal Treaty Interim Working Group by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Victorian State Government.

Aunty Diane Kerr conducts Welcomes to Country at events and gatherings across Naarm (Melbourne). In 2018, she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her contribution to the Australian Society.

Jane Lewis
ARC Anti-racism Facilitator



With a background in entertainment, Applied Psychology and consulting in leadership and critical thinking for corporates and legal firms, Jane worked for seven years for the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission. A fifth-generation Anglo Australian, Jane shares the advantages and responsibilities of many 'white' participants and leaders and builds rapport rather than defensiveness with her respectful facilitation.

In her own consultancy for six years, Jane produces powerful AntiRacism videos and co-facilitates AntiRacism Commitments, Conversations and Q&As with associates with lived experience of racism and its impacts.

Working alongside Professor Yin Paradies, a Wakaya man, Jane designed innovative, evidence-based anti-racism training for workplaces, including train-the-trainer materials for the Australian Human Rights Commission to address systemic discrimination in service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. Her collaboration with Professor Paradies, now Chair of Race Relations at Deakin University, has continued ever since.

Justin Mohamed, as Commissioner for Aboriginal Children & Young People, wrote to Jane in late 2021 saying, "The work you do is very powerful. Don't stop what you are doing."

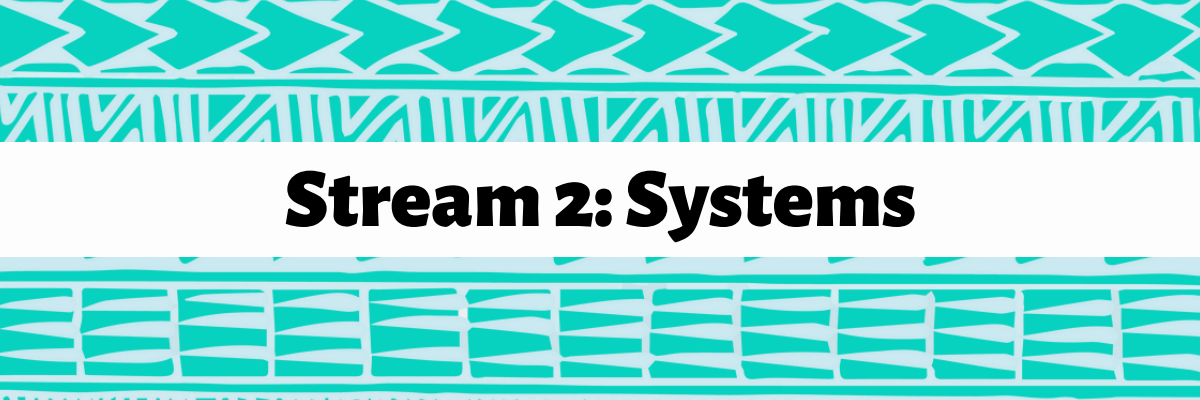
Jody Barney
Executive Officer, Koondée Woonga-gat Toor-rong



Jody is a proud Birri-Gubba/ Urangan Aboriginal & South-Sea Islander Deaf woman who has spent the past 30+ years working with communities of First Nations peoples with disabilities, as a leader, trainer and change agent. Jody has worked with First Nations peoples who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and with complex sign language systems to help them engage in culturally safe communication, in order to access all necessary services they require.

Jody currently is Executive Officer of Koondée Woonga-gat Toor-rong (KWT), a First Nations Led Community Fund based in Narm (Melbourne). KWT was founded in 2018, with the kind support and allyship of Toward A Justice Society, and recently with the support of the Paul Ramsay Foundation. KWT sits as a sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation, while working towards incorporation as the first all First Nations Led Charitable Fund in Australia.

Jody is an award winning social advocate for First Nations peoples with different abilities, she is also a Senior Fellow within the Atlantic Fellow for Social Equity (University of Melbourne), and a active member of the Indigenous Fellowship of Leadership (FIL).



Stream 2: Systems



Maria Dugan
Founder & Director, Wanplace

Maria is a proud Saltwater woman, with connection to land and sea from the Torres Straits to Papua New Guinea. She lives on Wurundjeri Country and works on Bunurong Country.

Maria is a First Nations HR consultant, with over 10 years' experience, who holds extensive experience with initiating, implementing and leading human resources and administration strategy initiatives in a changing environment. Maria develops and establishes systems and processes for strategic outcomes to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander employment. Maria's ambition was to have a career in Human Resources, focusing on the Generalist-side of HR. Her work embeds strategic frameworks that support First Nations cultural safety and inclusion in policy development.

Maria has a postgraduate in Human Resources at Swinburne University and plans to undertake further studies in the field. Maria has spent her career working in Local Government, Community Health and the Disability Sector. Now, Maria's work focuses heavily on strategically fostering workforce employment changes, to increase sustainable long-term employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.





Pirooz Jafari
Author, Founder & Director, Track C Consulting

Pirooz is an author, as well as the founder & Director of Track C Consulting. Pirooz migrated to Australia in the late 1990's. Upon successful completion of his law degree at the University of Wollongong, he pursued a career in law and worked in various community-based organisations in NSW before moving to Victoria where he worked at statutory bodies including various local governments and Victoria Legal Aid Commission.

Over the years, Pirooz undertook pro bono legal work at a number of community legal centres including Refugee Legal (formerly known as Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre). He then ran his own migration law practice for over 5 years specialising in asylum seeker and humanitarian cases. This experience enriched his understanding of people's diverse voices and their experience of gross violation of human rights.

With over 20 years' experience in the legal arena, community development, community engagement, project management, and policy development within the human rights framework, Pirooz is versatile and capable of taking on challenging projects. He is also a photographer, a writer and a storyteller, as such, has a unique set of skills and sensitivity to capture people's stories and voices.





Jacqui Watkins
Founder and Director, Jinkigi Consultancy

Jacqueline is a descendant of Jingili/Mudburra people of Elliott in the Northern Territory. Born on Larrakia Nation, Darwin and raised on Arrernte lands, at Mparntwe (Alice Springs). Jacqui has a strong background in health, justice and education, and has advocate in Aboriginal affairs within these spaces and broader community.

Jacqui is passionate about bring people from different backgrounds together to build cultural understanding as well as challenging thought change, and creating respectful narratives of First Nations experiences in mainstream services.

Jacqui is actively involved in her local community in the Metro West, and is also an active member on the Board of Koondee Woonga-gat Toor-rong, a First Nations Led Community Fund based in Narm. Jacqui has recently completed the prestigious Williamson Leadership Program that challenged and enhanced her leadership within the workplace and community particularly working in two words.

