Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Terminology

Balardung (Baladon) – People from York, Beverley and along the Avon River, north to the Wongan hills, Western Australia.

Bardi – People from north of Broome and parts of the Dampier Peninsular in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Benelong's Haven – Benelong's Haven Family Rehabilitation Centre was established in 1974 and offers a residential treatment service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with a dependence on alcohol or other drugs.

Bepo – Time.

Bibbulmun – People from Dwellingup, Collie, Balingup, Donnelly River Village, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Walpole, Peaceful Bay and Denmark in Western Australia.

Bilyurr – Our spirit from within.

BTH services – Bringing Them Home services and support.

Dadaway – Traditional meeting grounds.

Goreng – Aboriginal people from Jerramungup, Gnowerangerup and Katanning areas of Western Australia.

Gurindji People – A group of Indigenous Australians living in northern Australia, 460 km southwest of Katherine in the Northern Territory's Victoria River region.

Hermannsburg people – Refers to the Western Arrernte People of Central Australia who were exposed to a western style of education through the mission established by Pastor Carl Strehlow in 1877.

Ilan Pasin – This is our way.

Kamilaroi – ‘to heal’ or ‘put back together’.

Karajarri – People and their traditional tountry located in the area around Bidyadanga Community, which used to be called La Grange Mission, Western Australia.

Kaurna – People whose traditional lands include the area around the Adelaide Plains of South Australia.

Koori Kids – Support programs in Victoria and NSW.

Kutjungka region – Comprise the communities of Balgo, Billiluna and Mulan in Western Australia.

Liyarn – Heart or spirit.

Lore – A body of traditions and knowledge on a subject or held by a particular group.

Lore time – Time to gain knowledge through tradition.

Mabarn (or ‘clever’ men) – Men who have great knowledge of healing both mentally and physically. They also deal with the metaphysical and spiritual world.

Mai – The Mourning. Immediate and extended families mourn deceased.
Mantha – Water from the Dreamtime.

Maralinga Tjarutja – People who traditionally inhabit the remote western areas of South Australia. They are a Southern Pitjantiatjara people.

Maralinga Workshop – First activity of its kind designed for psychologists to highlight first hand the issues of social (in)justice and their effects on Aboriginal people. The meeting was held in 1990 with Elders of the Maralinga Tjarutja community in the South Australian desert.

Mari Gethal – Mari Gethal means “Hand of the Spirit” where the “Law of the Deceased” defines specific cultural practices and issues that must be addressed when informing relatives of a death and when making funeral arrangements. Dressing of the body also has special significance in healing.

Men’s business – An Aboriginal ritual open only to initiated males.

Minang – People from Mount Barker, Denmark, Albany and Cape Vancouver areas in Western Australia.

Murama Theodan – The Burial. Burial Site selected and decorated. Male Mari Gethal has a significant role.

Murr Merr or Uthisha Tharan – Reports of sorcery affecting or being performed by a person suffering from depression as well as delusions of jealousy, including a preoccupation with the alleged perpetrator’s footprints.

Ngarlu – The Karajarri word for defining the place of the Inner Spirit. The Inner Spirit model is based on cultural beliefs and customs and concepts of emotional, spiritual and social wellbeing that have sustained Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for centuries.

Nyangar (Noonygar) – Aboriginal people from the southwest corner of Western Australia, from Geraldton on the west coast to Esperance on the south coast. Traditionally, they inhabited the region from Jurien Bay to the southern coast of Western Australia and east to what is now Ravensthorpe and Southern Cross.

Oombulgurri – Community in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Pintubi – People from the Central Western Desert.

Pitjantjaratjara – People from the Central Western Desert.

Rai – Our spirit from the country.

Tai or Markai tombstone opening – Ceremony to signify that the deceased is “housed”. Official grieving ceases. There is a feast and gifts are given to people who cared for the family of the deceased.

Thoerabau Ai – The Burial Feast. Originally a feast for Mari Gethal, but now the whole community is involved. Time for debriefing. Also an opportunity for Mari Gethal to assess the level of grief and intervention strategies.

Uman Goega – The Day of the Death. Tidings of the deceased taken to the community by Mari Gethal.

Wadjuk – Aboriginal people acknowledged as the traditional custodians of much of the area where the city of Perth stands.

Walpiri – People from the Central Australian desert.

Waraja Ngarlu – To agree to be of one stomach and to be of one mind.

We Al-li – Train-the-trainer model approach to achieve and support community change over time.

Werra Werra – Name of a group of women in the Eastern Kimberley region of Western Australian.

Wongi – Aboriginal people from the Western Desert and Goldfields of Western Australia.

Yadungal – Group dwelling place.

Yamatji – People from the Gascoyne-Murchison region of Western Australia.

Yolgnu Tribe – People from East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.