



## FUNDING SUCCESS LEADS TO MUCH NEEDED SERVICES

Kings Narrative is an Aboriginal owned and operated social enterprise that is centered on culturally appropriate counselling and coaching for Aboriginal men. Founded and led by Managing Director and proud Arrernte man, Tyson Carmody, Kings Narrative aims to change the discourse surrounding Aboriginal men and provide much needed support services.

*“UNDERSTANDING HOW CHALLENGING IT CAN BE FOR ABORIGINAL MEN TO ENGAGE WITH COUNSELLING SERVICES AND CONSTANTLY BEING FRUSTRATED WITH THE LACK OF CULTURALLY COMPETENT SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE. IT HAS BEEN MY MISSION TO ESTABLISH AN ABORIGINAL LED, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE THAT PROVIDES CULTURALLY SAFE AND STRONG COUNSELLING/COACHING PROGRAMS ON COUNTRY, DELIVERED THROUGH NARRATIVE APPROACHES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE.”*

*– Tyson Carmody, Founder and Managing Director, Kings Narrative.*

By taking men out on Country, making bush medicines, and providing cultural immersions, Kings Narrative is connecting Aboriginal men to their roots. Using Narrative Approaches to help Aboriginal men unpack, understand and re-author their own story, Tyson’s mission is to unlock the potential of each participant.



*Tyson Carmody, Founder and Managing Director, Kings Narrative*

## CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY FIRST DEVELOPMENT

Since Kings Narrative's launch in December 2021, demand for their services has rapidly increased. Kings Narrative has a site out at Black Tank (Apmwerre), 80km north-east of Alice Springs, where they can facilitate their services from. To grow their organisation, they needed support to secure funding to establish the necessary infrastructure and acquire vehicles to assist with service delivery.

**KINGS NARRATIVE FIRST APPROACHED COMMUNITY FIRST DEVELOPMENT IN MARCH 2022. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER ON TWO SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS.**

## CREATING AN IMPACT PROGRAM

Kings Narrative wanted to create an Impact Program that could be used to support funding proposals. Community First Development Senior Community Development Officer, Alex, connected Tyson and his partner Jess, Kings Narrative's Business Manager, with skilled Community First Development volunteer, Katherine, who has a range of expertise including in communications, business development and submission writing.

Tyson and Jess invited Katherine and Alex to visit their homelands at Black Tank (Apmwerre), where they spent the weekend developing content for the Impact Program and a Central Lands Council (CLC) funding proposal. The trip on Country provided a valuable time of connection and included a smoking ceremony, sleeping under the stars and eating stew from the camp oven. Following Katherine's visit, Tyson, Jess and Katherine finalised and submitted the proposal to the CLC.



Tyson, Founder and Managing Director of King's Narrative, welcoming volunteer, Katherine, to Country with a smoking ceremony.



**IN AUGUST 2022, THE CLC ADVISED KINGS NARRATIVE THAT THEIR FUNDING APPLICATION WAS SUCCESSFUL FOR A TOTAL OF \$480,000!**

This has supported Kings Narrative to do the following:

- Purchase two Hilux Utes (with branding + signage).
- Purchase a disability-friendly 12-seater bus (with branding + signage)
- Employ two young family members as caretakers of Black Tank Homelands.
- Launch their bush medicine range online.
- Commence and complete infrastructure works at Black Tank including storage rooms for camping gear, a meeting place/ conference room, shower and toilet amenities, and a commercial kitchen to manufacture bush medicine products in.

For Jess, a highlight of the project was working with Katherine, particularly the way she listened and engaged with both Tyson and her.

**"WE FELT VERY SAFE WORKING WITH KATHERINE. MORE THAN OFTEN, WE SEE A LOT OF PROFESSIONALS LET THEIR EXPERTISE AND PERSPECTIVES DROWN OUT THE VOICES OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE. THIS WAS NOT THE CASE WITH KATHERINE, HER CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS WERE COMPLIMENTARY AND HELPED US TELL OUR STORY IN A WAY THAT OTHER PEOPLE CAN ALSO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND OUR VALUES AND MISSION."**

- Jess, Business Manager, Kings Narrative.

## SECURING FUNDING TO EXPAND SERVICES

Following the success of the first project, Kings Narrative invited us to work with them on a second project aimed at securing funding to expand their services. Jess and Tyson invited Katherine to work with them again, working remotely together over several months to progress and submit funding applications to three philanthropic foundations.

In April 2023, Kings Narrative were advised that they had successfully secured a \$1.6 million grant from the Paul Ramsay Foundation. The funding will be used to expand Kings Narrative's services, including the establishment of Barber Blak Kings and the creation of a six-week training and development program on barbering. This is an amazing outcome for Kings Narrative and a testament to their clear vision, strong work ethic, and desire to achieve change.

**"WITH THIS HUGE AMOUNT OF FUNDING WE ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPERATION OF KINGS NARRATIVE AND THE SERVICE WE PROVIDE. ALONG WITH EMPLOYING MORE ABORIGINAL MEN. WE ARE FULLY BOOKED UNTIL 2024 WHICH IS INCREDIBLE."**

- Jess, Business Manager, Kings Narrative.

Kings Narrative are continuing to kick goals and recently won two 2022 Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network awards: Blak Male Business owner of the year & Best Blak start-up Business of the year! We look forward to seeing what the future holds for them!

**"WITHOUT COMMUNITY FIRST DEVELOPMENT WE WOULD HAVE NEVER FOUND KATHERINE AND SHE'S BEEN A GAME CHANGER FOR US. ALEX IS SO EASY TO DEAL WITH, IF ANY CHANGES HAPPEN WE JUST CALL AND WORK IT OUT."**

- Jess, Business Manager, Kings Narrative.



Camp Kitchen at Black Tank.