



**WARDANDI MIYA-K KAADADJINY ABORIGINAL CORPORATION  
DANCE PROGRAM**

***KENINY DANCE ACADEMY***



## WMKAC INTRODUCTION

Established in 2020, Wardandi Miya-K Kaadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation (WMKAC) is a proud Aboriginal not for profit organisation registered with ORIC. WMKAC aims to revive and maintain the learning among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, through the process of supporting social and economic development.

WMKAC is a community-based organisation with a key focus to re-establish a language hub in the Bunbury area. The aim and objectives of the organisation are to become an Education and Language Hub for the Bunbury area and with dedicated staff aims to work closely with the local Noongar community, key community stakeholders both government and non-government bodies to identify the gaps in the delivery of Noongar languages into their services.

A key priority is to engage, experienced, interested, and qualified individuals willing to work with the organisation and through strategic personal development opportunities support them in acquiring relevant skillsets to become qualified language speakers, linguists, researchers, and facilitators in traditional dance and in the delivery of language and services.

WMKAC acknowledges the importance of our community, Elders and youth and is developing key strategies in the areas of Language workshops and lessons, dance, song and theatre, Welcome to Country, Translations and localised educational resources and strong community partnerships are identified as the key areas requiring commitment and to be development in moving forward.

- **The corporation aims to:**
  - Operate community enterprises and build a strong financial base for community development activities.
- Promote community development by acting as a resource for the community and stakeholders in the areas of education and language development.
- To search for funding opportunities for which WMKAC can apply, including current funding bodies, philanthropic bodies, and mining companies.
- Be open to ongoing support of experts to sit on internal marketing and financial sub-committees. We will seek to partner with organisations such as Southwest Regional Development Commission and the City of Bunbury.
- WMKAC will proudly support education and language development by providing learning opportunities through creating a Southwest Community Language Hub and offering (but not limited to) language, dance, and song workshops.
- Provide a language hub in the Southwest to support the needs of those that are vulnerable when approached by agencies or government to provide evidence to support their language and cultural knowledge in consultancy.

- Our footprint in moving forward is to set realistic objectives and outcomes that can be achieved in accordance with guidelines identified by funding bodies. Key achievements will also be reported to and celebrated with the local community and key stakeholders as considered appropriate.

WMKAC aims to bring language and cultural information and interpretation back to the region.

*“The three principles of linguistic revival and survival:*

*(1) If your language is endangered, Do not allow it to die!*

*(2) If your language died, Stop, revive, survive!*

*(3) If you revive your language, Embrace the hybridity of the emergent language!”*

Reference:

Zuckermann, Ghil'ad and Walsh, Michael 2011. 'Stop, Revive, Survive: Lessons from the Hebrew Revival Applicable to the Reclamation, Maintenance and Empowerment of

Aboriginal Languages and Cultures', *Australian Journal of Linguistics* 31.1: 111-127.

## KENINY DANCE ACADEMY

### Overview:

**Keniny Dance** academy uses local Noongar language based in Wardandi Country in Bunbury what we call Goomburrup with song in the form of Noongar Traditional dance.

### Aims:

- to develop strong leaders in the art of dance with the influence of Noongar language and song.
- to identify strong leaders within the local Bunbury region and to then one day take on the responsibility to teach others and mould young leaders for the future of Wardandi Country.
- to maintain the traditional dances of the Noongar Nation as a legacy for the future.
- to build confidence in dance theatre and create educational and employment pathways.
- to revive local Noongar language of the land.
- To re-establish a strong link with Elders and the younger generation in an intergenerational learning space.

## Background:

**Keniny Dance Academy** is founded by local Noongar Dance Instructor David Dann with 30 years of dance and performance in Noongar Country. David has strong connection to country through his grandmother's side who was his biggest supporter and mentor. Dance



has performed with many dances groups and worked alongside and collaborated with other performers. David's skills and experiences allowed him to teach traditional dance at the local Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School along with other schools in the Southwest. His encouragement and support have made pathways for many young people over the years to create their own dance groups. One group in particular; well-known group in Perth **Koolangka Kreate** started their humble beginnings at Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School led by David. The dance programs will be taught with cultural strategies using the discipline of Noongar Cultural values protocols taught by Noongar Elders and community. The dance students will be asked to

attend and regular dance classes on a weekly basis in a lead up to local opportunities to perform when the opportunity arises in their local community.

## Outcomes:

- Strong leaders
- Confidence and self-esteem to grow with a sense of identity within the community.
- Leaders responsible to run the program and peer tutors
- Confidence to perform on all levels
- Performance opportunities to deliver workshops in school settings
- Performance opportunities within the wider community; festivals etc...
- Planning and organisation skills- ongoing development with support of **Keniny Dance Academy** and **WMKAC** and local Elders
- Basic language skills in Noongar – greeting, song and the development of new dances and songs.





Performance: Breakaway Aboriginal Corporation Family Day 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021





Bunbury Multicultural Festival  
19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

