



# Art Centres Supporting Our Elders

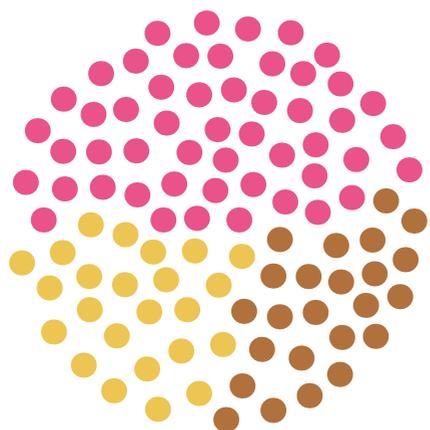
A Good News Story



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*Bringing research to life*

## This research explored the ways art centres support older people in their communities



**99** people participated in interviews

- **51%** were artists
- **25%** were art centre staff
- **24%** were aged care staff

A survey was distributed to the 90 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled art centres.



Using a participatory approach, researchers sat with, listened to, and learnt from everyone involved in the study.

## The research identified

**Older people and Elders are central to their art centres. Art centres:**

- Keep culture, Country, language, and kin, strong and connected
- Are safe spaces; foster a sense of belonging
- Encourage intergenerational teaching and learning
- Provide direct care
- Collaborate with local aged care providers.

## Why this evidence is important

- Art centres are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations
- They embed the cultural determinants of health in their model of care
- They welcome potential partnerships with aged care providers.



## What are the opportunities

**The final recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety include:**

- Maximising opportunities for people to remain on, and maintain a connection with their Country and communities.
- Aged Care Providers to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Controlled organisations to deliver appropriate care.

Recognising and resourcing partnerships between art centres and aged care providers nurtures the health, wellbeing and vital role of Elders and older people, who are the knowledge keepers and knowledge sharers within their communities.

**This evidence base provides government with a readymade and timely opportunity to address the Royal Commission's recommendations.**



# Find out more – watch the film

This story is an invitation to listen to Elders artists and staff from three Aboriginal community-controlled art centres, as they share the vital role they play in keeping older people strong and connected. Elders are the backbone of the art centres and play a critical role in maintaining intergenerational connection.



[www.nari.net.au/supporting-our-elders](http://www.nari.net.au/supporting-our-elders)

## Research partners



2017-2021

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Page 1 – Eunice Napanangka Jack and Albie Jack, Ikuntji Artists, Haasts Bluff. 2021. Image by Chrischona Schmidt. Page 2 – Penny K Lyons and Lynley Nargoodah, Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency, Fitzroy Crossing. 2019. Image by Paulene Mackell. Page 3 – Tjukapati James, Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council, Kaltukatjara. 2021. Image by Emma Franklin. Page 4 (top image) – Roseranna Larry, Ikuntji Artists, Haasts Bluff. 2019. Image by CAAMA. Page 4 (R side image) – Margaret Smith, Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council, Alice Springs. 2019. Image by CAAMA.