

MEDIA RELEASE
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Learning on Country Program – National Winner Indigenous Governance Award 2024

The Learning on Country (LoC) Program has been honoured with a prestigious National Indigenous Governance Award for 2024.

Program Steering Committee Co-Chair Cindy Jinmarabynana and Ramingining member Justin Gaykamangu and Program Manager Shane Bailey were in Brisbane last week to proudly accept the award in front of a sold out room of 800 attendees.

Established by Reconciliation Australia, these National awards recognise and celebrate outstanding examples of governance in Indigenous-led organisations and projects. The awards highlight effective governance practices that contribute to the wellbeing and self-determination of Indigenous communities across Australia.

This accolade underscores the commitment that the LoC program has to the primacy of Indigenous ownership and decision making. It also acknowledges the significant impact the LoC Program is having in supporting remote Indigenous student outcomes across the Northern Territory through its two-way learning ‘ground-up’ governance model. Last year, there were more than 2800 Aboriginal middle and secondary students in LoC programs across 17 Top End communities.

Now in its 12th year, the LoC Program continues to grow and strengthen under its all-Aboriginal Steering Committee, with representatives from each of the communities where it operates. Managed by the Northern Land Council in partnership with the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Northern Territory Department of Education, local Ranger groups, and Traditional Owners, the LoC Program is achieving remarkable results in student participation, Aboriginal employment, vocational education and training, and land and sea management.

The Program’s innovative approach of integrating traditional knowledge with contemporary education has earned widespread acclaim. The judges were highly impressed with the LoC Program’s submission and visited the Territory in September to witness the exemplary work being done firsthand.

Quote from Dangadanga (Danny) Garrawurra, Learning on Country Program Steering Committee Co-Chair:

Dhuwal ṅayi dhukarr, Learning on Country-ṅur, marṅgithinyaraw djamarrkuḷiw’ buku rur’yun ga lukunur wāṅaṅur. This two-way pathway, Learning on Country, is for our children and comes from our connection to Country, standing with both feet on the land.

Märrma’ dhukarr djamarrkuḷiw’ nhänharaw ga marṅgithinyaraw ga malthunaraw. Through this pathway, our children are watching, learning and following us.

Yolṅu rirrakay ga dhukarr dhawaṭmaraṅ märrma rom. It is from the voice of Yolṅu that this pathway emerges.

Bukmak manapanamirr märrmaw dhukarrgu. Bringing everyone together along this journey.

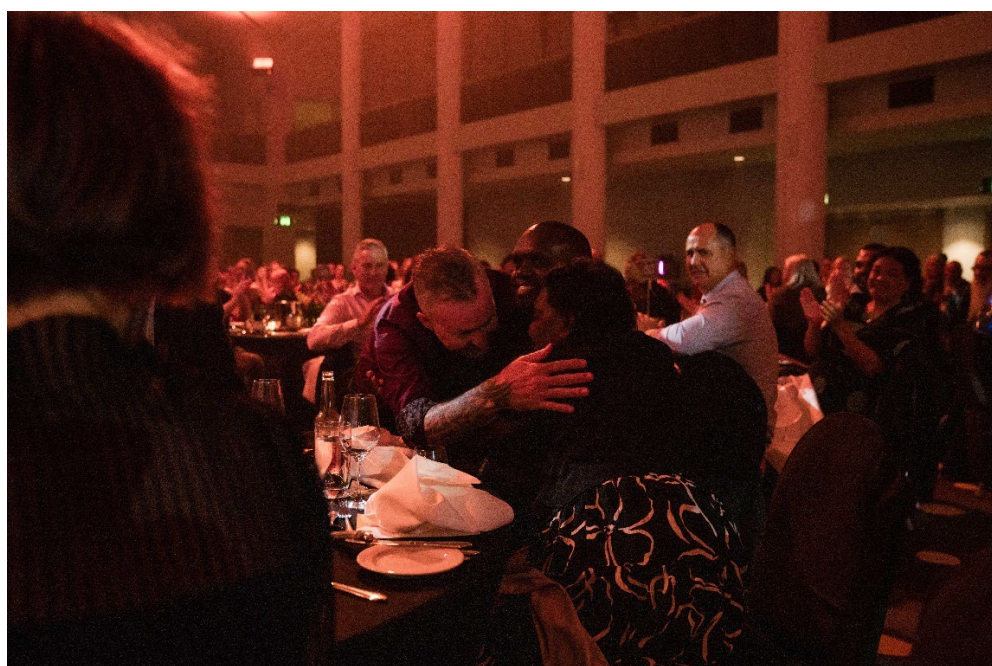
Quote from Matthew Ryan, NLC Chair:

“This recognition speaks to the dedication of everyone who has been involved in the Learning on Country Program. I look forward to seeing this team keep up all their good work empowering Aboriginal students!”

“The success of the LoC Program relies on Indigenous leadership, governance, and community involvement. This means that our people are in charge of running and owning the program, with guidance from the Local LoC Committee and the LoC Steering Committee.”



From left to right: Romlie Mokak, Co-Chair Indigenous Governance Awards Judging Panel; Shane Bailey, Learning on Country Program Manager; Cindy Jinmarabynana, Program Steering Committee Co-Chair, Justin Gaykamangu, Ramingining Steering Committee Member



Learning on Country Program announced as National Winner of the Indigenous Governance Award 2024 at the Indigenous Governance Awards 2024 Gala Dinner in Brisbane



From left to right: Romlie Mokak, Co-Chair Indigenous Governance Awards Judging Panel; Justin Gaykamangu, Learning on Country Program Steering Committee Member; Cindy Jinmarabynana, Steering Committee Co-Chair, Shane Bailey, Program Manager

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