



## SYNOD 2023 REPOR

### BEANANGING KWUURT INSTITUTE

#### MEMBERSHIP

Chair	Katina Law
Member	Lesley Murray
Member	Helen Skiadas
Member	Daen Hannan Murray
Member	Barry Ugle
Member	Jo Abraham
Member	Alison Overeem

#### REPORT

##### A CHRISITAN COMMUNITY FOR EVERYONE”

##### VISION, STRATEGIC DIRECTION & VALUES

Beananging Kwuurt Institute (BKI) is an Indigenous charitable organisation based on the site of the former Sister Kate’s Children’s Home at Queens Park, Perth.

It’s a joint initiative of the Synod of the WA Uniting Church in Australia and the WA Regional Committee of Congress of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), the UCA’s Indigenous Ministry. It was constituted as an instrumentality of the Synod of WA and incorporated by virtue of s28 of the Uniting Church Act, 1976(WA) on September 23, 2007.

“Beananging” is Noongar for the beginning of a new day, the part of the day when the sky begins to come light, but before the sun has risen. “Kwuurt” is Noongar for ‘heart.

Beananging Kwuurt represents 'A new day for Aboriginal people' symbolising the place for healing, caring and nurturing.

### **BKI Purpose, Vision and Values**

**Mission:** To support Aboriginal children, families and communities of WA, at the state, regional and local level, by enhancing our physical, social and spiritual wellbeing through:

- Strengthening of our sense of identity, self-esteem and cultural pride
- Building capacity and quality leadership
- Establish co-ordinated and integrated services
- Form constructive partnerships with public, community and commercial sectors
- Pursue active advocacy and networking

**Vision:** A platform to enhance inclusiveness, equality and participation to empower the Aboriginal people of Western Australia in social, economic and cultural advancement.

**Values:** Be a platform where the rights of Aboriginal people are protected, communities are empowered to determine their own futures, and our cultural identity is valued. The key values are Respect, Stewardship and Healing.

The constitution of BKI requires that all Board members be Indigenous.

### **BKI Strategy**

BKI have identified strategic priorities in three key areas:

**Cultural Landscape** - BKI is committed to creating inclusive, culturally safe and high-quality environments, that share and preserve culture and history through truth telling.

**Remembrance** - BKI values and respects the enduring strengths of Aboriginal people, their identity and connection to country and culture.

**Community Activities** - BKI is committed to working in mutually beneficial and enriching partnerships with our community, our partners and our stakeholders, to develop and maintain enduring products and services for our clients.

## **Alignment with UCWA Strategy**

Of the five key strategic focus areas for the UCWA BKI is advancing the work of the church in the areas of Valuing Diversity, Building Community and Reconciling People.

As the only Indigenous run Agency of the Church BKI has a special mission to serve Aboriginal people. We provide diversity to the work of the Church by providing services which are safe and accessible for Aboriginal people. We are a place where Aboriginal people can feel safe and valued and there are very few of these across the Perth Metropolitan areas. We are also building relationships with the Aboriginal and local communities in which we operate.

BKI is an agent of reconciliation within the Church community and in May 2023 we commenced a special relationship with Trinity Church in the City when the BKI community invited the minister of Trinity Church to hold services at BKI for our BKI community. The Trinity – Beanang Kwuurt Community Fellowship holds a monthly church service at BKI on the last Thursday of every month and all are welcome.

BKI has also reached out to the WA Regional Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and is seeking to build relationships and participate in Congress going forward.

## **Current Services**

BKI currently provides a range of services to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the Perth South area. BKI provides food relief with food provided by Second Bite.

BKI also has an Aboriginal Art Program which has gained significant recognition over the past year. The group has held workshops at the WA Art Gallery and has staged a number of art exhibitions.

We have held Reconciliation Week events for the City of Canning and done a number of workshops with Edith Cowan University.

The Trinity - Beanang Kwuurt Community Fellowship hold a monthly church service on the last Thursday of every month and all are welcome.

## **Partnerships**

BKI has continued to work with another local charity Givlife which provides services to young homeless people from the BKI site one day per week. Carey Training has also held a number of training programs for disadvantaged young people at our site. BKI is also

partnering with Trinity Church in the City for our monthly fellowship. BKI is seeking to participate in WA Congress.

### **Achievements in 2022/23**

- Two new directors appointed, Barry Ugle and Jo Abraham. Former chair Leon Wynne resigned after many years of service.
- Renovations carried out to some buildings on site.
- Art program has grown.
- Joint fellowship with Trinity Church.

### **Key Challenges**

BKI continues to deal with a number of challenges including:

- Lack of security of the site with an ongoing threat of vandalism.
- Lack of access to capital funds to maintain and repair infrastructure and rectify damaged property.
- Limited ongoing funding - Despite spending our limited funds on improvements to existing buildings, BKI has been unable to secure permanent tenants. With no funding available from Synod in 2024 to maintain and operate the property BKI is facing a tenuous future.
- Lack of constitutional change - During the year a committee was formed within the WA UCA to review the BKI Constitution. The committee has been unable to conclude its work due to a lack of engagement by WA Congress.

*Katina Law, Chair*  
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