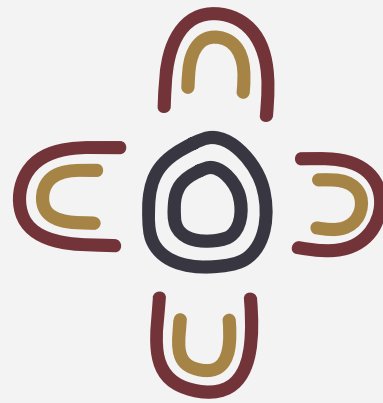


Who Can Take Part?

You may be eligible to participate in *Lotjpadhan* if any of the following apply:

- You are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young person aged between 10 and 24 years.
- You have current or historical connections to Melbourne's Eastern Region (Monash, Knox, Whitehorse, Manningham, Maroondah, and Yarra Ranges)
- You are involved in a situation where there is conflict, harm, or broken relationships—this could be within families, at school, in care, in the justice system or in the broader community.



How to Refer

Lotjpadhan accepts referrals from the justice system, schools, out-of-home care, and from community agencies.

Lotjpadhan also accepts referrals directly from community members.

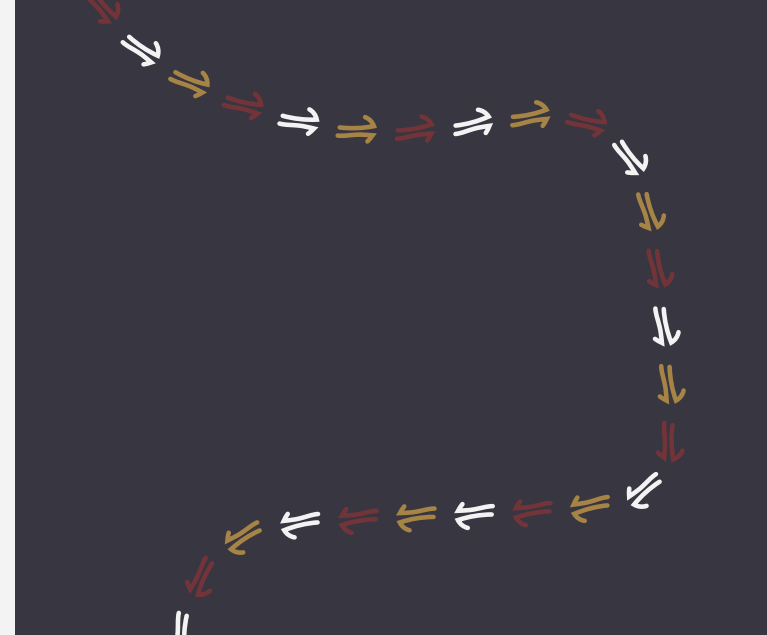
To make a referral or to talk more about how we can help, please contact our Lotjpadhan Aboriginal Community Liaison on:

lotjpadhan@burrumbulmirring.org.au

Lotjpadhan is a partnership between:



Proudly Funded by the Koori Justice Unit and Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner



What is Lotjpadhan?

Lotjpadhan means “Talking Together” in Yorta Yorta. It is a community-led and culturally grounded healing program that brings together individuals, families, and communities through restorative practices and Aboriginal ways of **knowing, doing, and being**.

A key part of the *Lotjpadhan* program is the opportunity to participate in a group conference.

The facilitator helps group conference participants to:

- make sense of their situation, and then
- make an agreement on how they can improve it.

Their agreement can coordinate the efforts of community members and any supporting professionals as they work to address challenges like homelessness, family violence, or substance use.



A group conference can produce better outcomes for Aboriginal young people because it helps all the community members affected by a challenging situation to work together to set relations right and strengthen community ties.

What Does the Group Conference Process Look Like?

When a young person is referred to *Lotjpadhan*, they meet with a trained Restorative Practitioner and a *Lotjpadhan* Practitioner in training (called a *Tunga* Practitioner). Together, they help the young person prepare to share their experiences and participate safely and openly. Practitioners also meet with others involved—such as family members, supporters, and those affected—to explain the process and support them to participate.

The group conference is held in a **yarning circle**, a culturally safe space where each person has the opportunity to speak, listen, and reflect. Through their conversation, the group builds a shared understanding of what has happened, how people have been affected, and what steps they can take to move forward.

Together, they create a plan for healing and change. If additional support is needed, the Practitioners help connect participants to appropriate services or resources.



The Lotjpadhan Way

Lotjpadhan integrates Restorative Practices with Aboriginal ways of **knowing, doing and being** and Aboriginal values of Relationship, Responsibility and Respect.

Lotjpadhan Practitioners partner with Jesuit Social Services to work with community and deliver group conferences. Practitioners have been carefully selected for their understanding of Aboriginal culture, and their skills to manage conflict, repair harm, and promote healing.

