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**Bankstown  
Community  
Resource  
Group Inc**





# Our Journey, My Story



# Presentation Overview

- ❖ Who is BCRG?
- ❖ Aims & Objectives of the Program
- ❖ Evidence base
- ❖ Activities within the program
- ❖ DVD
- ❖ Outcomes
- ❖ Transferability
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# BCRG Inc Background



The Bankstown Community Resource Group Inc. is a non-profit, community managed organisation established in 1984.

- implement capacity building programs
- advocacy to improve outcomes for families and overall community service delivery

BCRG has a long track record of working with the local Aboriginal community.

BCRG successfully implemented early childhood learning program funded by the Department of Community Services (Metro South West) through the Aboriginal Child Youth and Family Strategy (ACYFS) 2006/7, 2007/8

# Overview Our Journey, My Story

Target group: Aboriginal families with children aged 0-5years living in South West Sydney

Aims: increase understanding and knowledge of family ties and Aboriginal culture through story telling

Objectives:

- To enhance the connections of Aboriginal young children with their family's journey of where they came from to where they live now;
- To encourage parent involvement in children's early learning experiences;
- To provide a literacy link between early childhood services and Aboriginal families

# Evidence Base Our Journey, My Story

- Storytelling is an integral part of life for Indigenous Australians
- Elders pass on knowledge by talking with younger people/children through storytelling, songs, dance and art
- Parental involvement in their child's literacy practices is a more powerful force than other family background variables such as social class, family size and level of parental education (Gest et al. 2004)
- Indigenous children's literacy knowledge, skills and understandings are seldom recognised and affirmed in school settings (Williams-Kennedy. 2004)
- Early Childhood services have rarely enquired into or used children's language and home and community literacy learning as a basis for planning and programming.
- The cultural, language and literacy practices of children's homes and communities need to be understood by early childhood educators and to be considered in order to expand the relationships between families and services (DECS – SA 1997)

# Activities Our Journey, My Story

- Developing individual “Dilly Bags”
- Developing culturally and age appropriate individual literacy resources
- Engage Elders to share stories with children and their families
- Providing Aboriginal children with early literacy experiences
- Capture family-child-Elder interactions through photos and video and produce a DVD
- Visit child care centres/playgroups to share Dilly Bags





# Outcomes Our Journey, My Story

**All** families reported using the resources from the project at home

## Resources that have been used at home?

- Puppets and the story,
- Family story scrapbooks,
- Totem books,
- DVDs of dreaming stories,

## Cultural Learnings

- “a lot on family history and where we come from and what things mean”;
- “learning with children and helping them understand about totems, respect and dreaming stories”
- “our totems and tribes and about each other’s culture”

# Budget Our Journey, My Story

| Item   | Funding        |
|--|----------------|
| Salaries<br>Early Childhood Worker (7hrs per wk)<br>Aboriginal Cultural Worker (10hrs per wk)<br>Salary for 11 weeks | 4464.00        |
| Program Costs<br>Telephone, stationary, postage, promotion,<br>photocopying, bookkeeping, audit                      | 900.00         |
| Materials to make literacy resources<br>Incl: Books, DVDs, Felt boards for 10 children                               | 1000.00        |
| Catering for 10 weeks  | 500.00         |
| Project Launch   | 500.00         |
| Production of DVD  | 2200.00        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>9564.00</b> |

# Transferability Our Journey, My Story

Our Journey My Story **is transferable** with other communities.

## Essential Ingredients to Success:

- Organisation connection to the families and wider Aboriginal community;
- Involve the wider community
- Develop a project implementation plan with **Flexibility**
- Have a good facilitator to keep the family focused and motivated – always asked families what they want and implement to the best of your ability
- Give families and opportunity to learn from one another
- Celebrate achievements
- Keep the literacy Dilly bag resources on-site until completion
- Remind families of their homework – photos, speak to Aunty Mary....