Acknowledgement of Country

Djirra acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional owners on whose lands we are fortunate to live and work.

We pay our respects to those Elders, past and present and all Aboriginal people here today.



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Sharing stories, finding solutions



Sharing stories, finding solutions

Walking alongside each other at the pace of trus
how evaluation is only the destination

About Djirra

Djirra is the Woiwurrung word for the reed used by Wurundjeri women for basket weaving.





Djirra is a culturally safe place where culture is shared and celebrated, and practical support is available.

We provide holistic and culturally safe support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children across Victoria, including:

- cultural and wellbeing workshops
- specialist family violence case management and counselling
- alcohol and other drug (AOD) case management
- legal services



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Djirra's Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD)



Established in July 2020

AOD program grows with more staff being recruited in 2022

Accredited for QIC Health, Community Services Standards, and Department of Health mandated clients in 2024

AOD program expands to include Prison Support Program in 2024

Program Design project begins in 2025

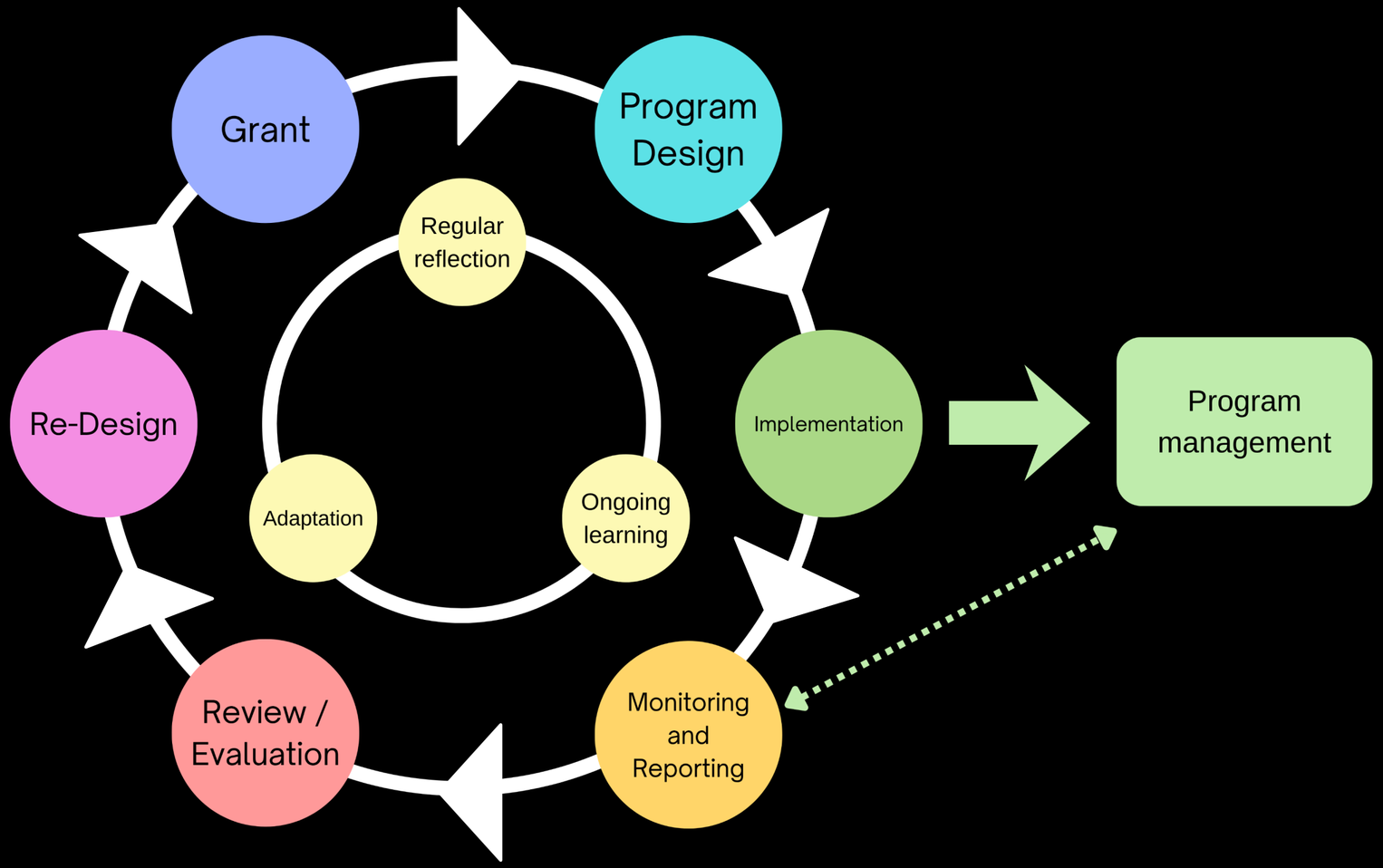
Delivered 1 year paid traineeship in 2025

Program Design inc. SoC and MEL Framework is implemented in January 2026

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Our approach



Program management

Evidence Base feeds back to:

- **Strategy**
- **Programs / Practice**
- **Policy and advocacy**
- **Community**
- **Funders**
- **Djirra's Vision:**

"All Aboriginal women and their children are strong, safe health and resilient in our culture and lives"

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Our first learning:

The Power of Relationships

Benefits:

- Foster program ownership
- Shared understanding of existing data infrastructure
- Shared understanding of program context, practice, and audiences
- Products reflect those doing the work, the communities they serve
- Program design is fit for purpose and people
- By Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people

How we built strong relationships:

- Internally positioned DM EL staff
- Entirely participatory process
- Setting expectations for roles and responsibilities, and future products



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Our second learning:

Walking at the Pace of Trust

How we walked at the “Pace of Trust”:

- DMEL staff guided the process, led by AOD staff’s expertise
- Built capacity and independence in AOD staff to continue the work
- We didn’t rush – we took our time

Benefits:

- Two-way learning
- Program staff are more empowered
- Allowed time to pivot and adapt
- Allowed time to unearth unexpected factors, consequences
- More robust MEL framework



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Our third learning:

The Process Becomes an Outcome

The benefits we saw:

- Program visibility increased internally
- Grant process became more proactive and efficient
- Increasing funding opportunities
- Two-way learning

What about the process contributed to outcomes?

- Cultural governance
- Program model recorded
- MEL Framework defined from the outset
- Participatory approach



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Our Program, Our Community, Our Knowledge

- From the point of program design, embed evaluation and points of reflection and adaptation
- Centre collaboration and program expertise
- Take time to allow for unexpected factors and consequences to surface and explore them
- Reflect on the journey and evaluate what's happened along the way







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Thank you!
Are there any questions?







Contact:
support@djirra.org.au
1800 105 303

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