



What does healing look like for you?

gabugu djaan (boys to men) program



Central Queensland Indigenous Development (CQID) delivers the **gabugu djaan** program which means boys to men in Butchulla language. This program provides the opportunity for young boys aged 10 – 17 years old, at risk of getting into trouble or disengaging with school, family and community, to come together on a weekly basis. The **gabugu djaan** program helps to build their confidence with positive male role models guiding them through a program that gives them a stronger sense of identity, culture, respect and belonging, while building trust, communication skills and improving wellbeing.

“We see young men come in to the program and they won’t look at you or even talk with you for the first couple of weeks, but by the end of the 8 week program they are brimming and full of confidence. I had one mum say that “Thursdays are his happy days” and he is in a good mood and enthusiastic when he comes home from the program.

We see boys that went to same school and did not know each other and then became friends. Another two of the boys are good friends and spent every day of the Christmas school holidays at the Hervey Bay PCYC and other boys engaged in the ICSRO holiday programs.

It makes such a difference giving them hope and helping them to understand that just because they have come from a disadvantaged background, doesn’t mean that they still can’t achieve many things. We encourage them to believe they can do anything.”

James Briggs
Family Wellbeing Case Worker
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