



Kimberley Land Council

MEDIA STATEMENT

February 07, 2019

Statement from Kimberley Land Council CEO Nolan Hunter:

Today the WA State Coroner released her findings, as well as 42 recommendations, in relation to the deaths of 13 Kimberley young people.

The KLC welcomes the Coroner's recommendations in support of cultural healing, connection to country, and culturally centred and regionally-led solutions.

Programs, such as the Yiriman Project (Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre), as well as the Indigenous ranger program, are proven in their ability to transform young people's internal wellbeing through connection to country and culture.

The Coroner has clearly identified "self-determination" and "empowerment" as key to any effective response – principles Kimberley people have been calling for consistently for decades.

While we are hopeful that today's findings will be a line in the sand, we know this inquest follows many other reports, reviews and recommendations.

We must focus on outcomes, rather than output, on collaboration, rather than separation, and a whole of community approach. This is a Kimberley issue that requires all Kimberley organisations to play a part in their respective fields.

We offer our condolences and support to the many families and community members impacted by today's coronial inquest and the ongoing suicide crisis within our region.