**Finding ground to build a better way together – The benefits of partnership**

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**Solid Steps** – A joint program for alcohol and other drugs (AOD) rehabilitation run by Palmerston and Wungening for male prisoners at Casuarina Prison

In response to a request from the Department of Justice, Palmerston and Wungening formed a partnership to develop a culturally appropriate program. The combined strength and experience of both organisations can be found in the design and delivery of the Solid Steps program.

Solid Steps is a modified therapeutic community. The Solid Steps program follows a structure that links the participants’ journey to the Noongyar seasons – Djilba, the season of conception, is orientation, Kambarang, the season of early growth, becomes Stage 1, and eventually Djeran, the season of maturity, becomes the final stage of transition from the program.

Core to the program is group work known as Yarns. Maarman Yarns are men’s groups talking about their experiences of culture – their own culture, that of their role in their family, the culture of their parents. Connection to culture is a core component of the program and arguably relevant to all participants and their heritage. Cultural events including music and dancing are regularly included in the program.

The Solid Steps team are a combination of Wungening and Palmerston staff who work closely together to deliver a new approach to AOD rehabilitation within a maximum security prison.