



## KIN, KINSHIP & KITH

Yerrabi Yurwang recognises and supports the general cultural definition of **Kin** and **Kinship** which is culturally defined as: *one's blood family and one's blood relations.*

Yerrabi, Yurwang, our Leadership, Staff, Members and Eminent Aboriginal Persons agree to the following **Kinship** definition that includes alignment with relatives; relations; family; family members; one's own flesh and blood; nearest and dearest; kinsfolk; kinsmen/kinwomen; and traditional Clan groups, and Nations. Consequently, Yerrabi recognises and supports the reference to:

*one's family, Kinship refers to one's blood relations and a person's "next of kin" which relates to a persons' closest family member: spouse, child, parent, or sibling.*

### What does Aboriginal Kinship mean in Our Community:

Aboriginal Kin and Kinship relations reflect a complex and dynamic system that defines where a person fits into their Aboriginal Family and Aboriginal Community. The value of the Aboriginal Kinship system is that it structures: Peoples' relationships, obligations, and behaviours towards each other. Aboriginal Nations, Clan Groups and Families have been disrupted with displacement that has had intergenerational impacts from 'Aboriginal reserves which were created as a political response to the dispossession of Aboriginal People from their homelands'. The impact of the 'Stolen Generations' as described by: The Bringing Them Home report (produced by the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families in 1987), says that "at least 100,000" children were removed from their parents and traditional lands.

Yerrabi recognises the value of Kinship, that an Aboriginal Person could have a number of Mothers, Fathers, Uncles and Aunties from their biological Kin.

Similarly, a person's biological mother's sister would also be considered one's mother, rather than their aunt in the western context, while ones 'first' cousins would be seen as one's siblings in the Aboriginal context.

### What is Aboriginal Kinship care?

In Aboriginal Communities, **Kin** is a blood relative of the Child or Young Person who shares a cultural or familial connection. Being cared for by relatives or Kin also helps children avoid the trauma of being placed in unfamiliar environments. In Kinship practices Yerrabi recognises that **Kinship** Care refers to the care of Children by blood relatives. Close family friends are referred to as **Kith**, which is nonblood relative carers like family friends, neighbours, teachers and significant others who can play an important role when it comes to caring for vulnerable children and young people, keeping them connected to family and familiarity, helping prevent an even greater rise in children entering foster care, residential care, even homelessness.

Yerrabi recognises the value that Kinship and Kith placements have on our programs, and service support. Kinship and Kith are core components of our services.



