



MIRIMA DAWANG  
WOORLAB-GERRING  
LANGUAGE AND  
CULTURE CENTRE

# MIRIMA DAWANG WOORLAB-GERRING

## MIRIMA PLACE FOR TALKING

Preserving our language, building our future.

### LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Raise the profile of Miriwoong language and culture in the local community and connect Miriwoong people to their heritage.

Ongoing development of **Miriwoong words** for modern use

**12** bilingual books with audio support published

Weekly Miriwoong radio segments aired on **Waringarri Radio**



Cultural Awareness Training



Cultural events: Welcome to Country and Mirima Dancers

“Speaking Miriwoong makes me feel proud. You know where you stand, where you come from. It’s your identity.”

Jimmy Paddy, MDWg Language Worker

### EDUCATION

Create a safe, inclusive and engaging learning environment for Indigenous families to prepare children for life and employment.

**400** children reached through **Miriwoong Language Nest** sessions per week

“The Language Nest allows cross cultural connection. In the years where Miriwoong is taught, we see kids with their arms around each other, going on play dates. In the high school years where Language Nest is not on, the relationships are not as strong.”

Kate Wilson, Principal, Kununurra District High School

“Learning about the work of MDWg and the quest to preserve Miriwoong language is hugely inspiring. Seeing so many deeply committed to making it a reality is uplifting.”

Rupert and Annabel Myer, Aranday Foundation

### INNOVATION

Embrace new technology to document, teach and share the Miriwoong language.

Online learning materials to support **Community Language Class**

Miriwoong Language App has over **1,215** downloads



“Having the audio pen to support our children’s books is a good step for the preservation of the language. It’s more fun and interesting for them to hear one of our local voices.”

Glennis Galbat-Newry, author and MDWg Language Worker

### VISION

Together, we come to this place to keep Miriwoong alive by capturing, sharing and nurturing our language and culture.

“Why save Miriwoong? It’s a big thing to save your language. It’s how we understand each other. It’s how we save our country.”

Sylvia Simon, MDWg Language Worker

Together, we build a strong, proud and respectful community where our people have a sense of who they are and the land to which they belong.

### COLLABORATION

Foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for people to talk about language and culture, and work in harmony with other local organisations.

“With secondees from corporate and government partners supporting MDWg on its journey to preserve Miriwoong language and culture, the Jawun model has been able to deliver the power of cross sector collaboration.”

Karyn Baylis, CEO, Jawun

We partner with:

- Local Aboriginal Organisations
- Member of Empowered Communities East Kimberley
- State and Federal Government agencies
- Universities including Macquarie University and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Jawun



### PRESERVATION

Keep the Miriwoong language alive for future generations and revitalise it for modern day use.

- Bi-weekly sessions with **Miriwoong Elders** to understand and interpret language and to pass on Miriwoong to younger language workers through conversation
- Ongoing program of **language documentation** and archiving using voice and video recordings



“Miriwoong is classified as a critically endangered language. There are only a limited number of Elders who are fluent in Miriwoong language and are in a position to share their vast and precious knowledge on traditional ways of life, including language, dance, traditional skills and ancient stories.”

Dr Knut J. Olawsky, MDWg Manager and Senior Linguist

### OPPORTUNITY AND EMPOWERMENT

Provide Miriwoong people with opportunities to engage in meaningful, stable employment, develop new skills and achieve training qualifications.

“For the future, I want to see more young Miriwoong people learning their language. I want to be a great leader. I want to be a person to stand strong to help my people.”

Rozanne Bilminga, Language Engagement Officer (Language Nest Team); Chairperson MDWg



local Indigenous MDWg staff



MDWg employees completed their **Certificate III** in **Aboriginal Languages for Communities and Workplaces**

One MDWg employee currently enrolled in the **Aboriginal Languages Teacher Training** course, provided by the WA Department of Education



Indigenous Board of Directors



“Us Language Workers make decisions. We are always craving more language, not just waiting to be told what to do.”

Bryan Gallagher, MDWg Language Worker

“The best thing about working at the language centre is that I am always learning more. I have got computer skills and photography skills and I’ve learnt to present on the radio.”

Jimmy Paddy, MDWg Language Worker