

## BDAC's Garinga Bupup Program Wins

4 September 2024



Victorian Aboriginal  
Children & Young  
People's Alliance

The Victorian Aboriginal Children & Young People's Alliance (VACYPA) congratulates the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative's (BDAC) – Garinga Bupup Team on winning the prestigious Walda Blow Aboriginal Children and Young People Award at the 2024 Protecting Victoria's Children Awards.

This award recognises contributions of an Aboriginal person, persons or organisations in Victoria to the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people.

The Garinga Bupup program shows safety and wellbeing and the self-determination of mothers and their boorais are forefront in their practice and approach to early intervention. At the heart of the Garinga Bupup program is the principle of choice and empowerment.

The program not only empowers women to make choices aligned with their needs and values, but also equips them to advocate for themselves and their children during interactions with relevant agencies, including Child Protection.

This dedicated program has achieved an impressive 63% diversion rate from Child Protection, by connecting mothers with culturally responsive services. By preventing the need for Child Protection to open cases pre-birth and conducting investigations post-birth, the Garinga Bupup Team has made a profound impact on the lives of these families.

“BDAC's success is a powerful reminder of the positive change that occurs when Aboriginal communities are given the agency to create and lead programs that truly resonate with community's values and needs” says Jason Kanoa, CEO VACYPA.

VACYPA commends the Garinga Bupup Team for their remarkable achievements and reaffirms our commitment to supporting and championing local Aboriginal-led initiatives in our Member organisations.

VACYPA Board and CEO extend our congratulations to other award nominees and winners, including the Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency.

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