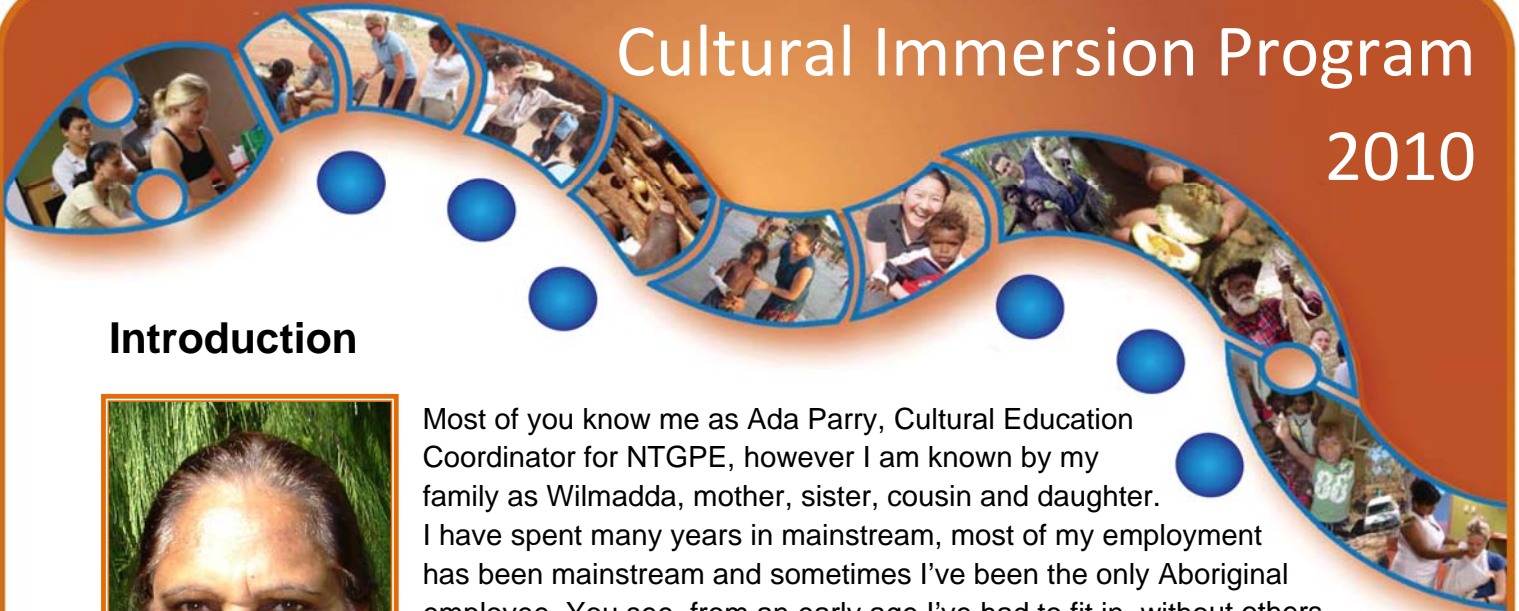


Cultural Immersion Program

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Introduction



Most of you know me as Ada Parry, Cultural Education Coordinator for NTGPE, however I am known by my family as Wilmadda, mother, sister, cousin and daughter. I have spent many years in mainstream, most of my employment has been mainstream and sometimes I've been the only Aboriginal employee. You see, from an early age I've had to fit in, without others giving it a second thought. That has its advantages and disadvantages. Over the years, I have shared the knowledge I have of my culture, with many people. Some wanting to know, others, well it was a bit of camping and tasting bush tucker. During this time, I have made good non-Aboriginal friends, who have shared their knowledge with me, little things for them are huge for me, which I struggle with all the time.

My choosing to live mainstream came from my parents, learning to live both ways but never forgetting who I am and where my heart is.

We have all had the opportunity to participate in Professional Development. Now thanks to Michael and Hung I have the opportunity to invite you to spend five days with me and my family on our country, so we in turn can show you our home and share our knowledge with you.

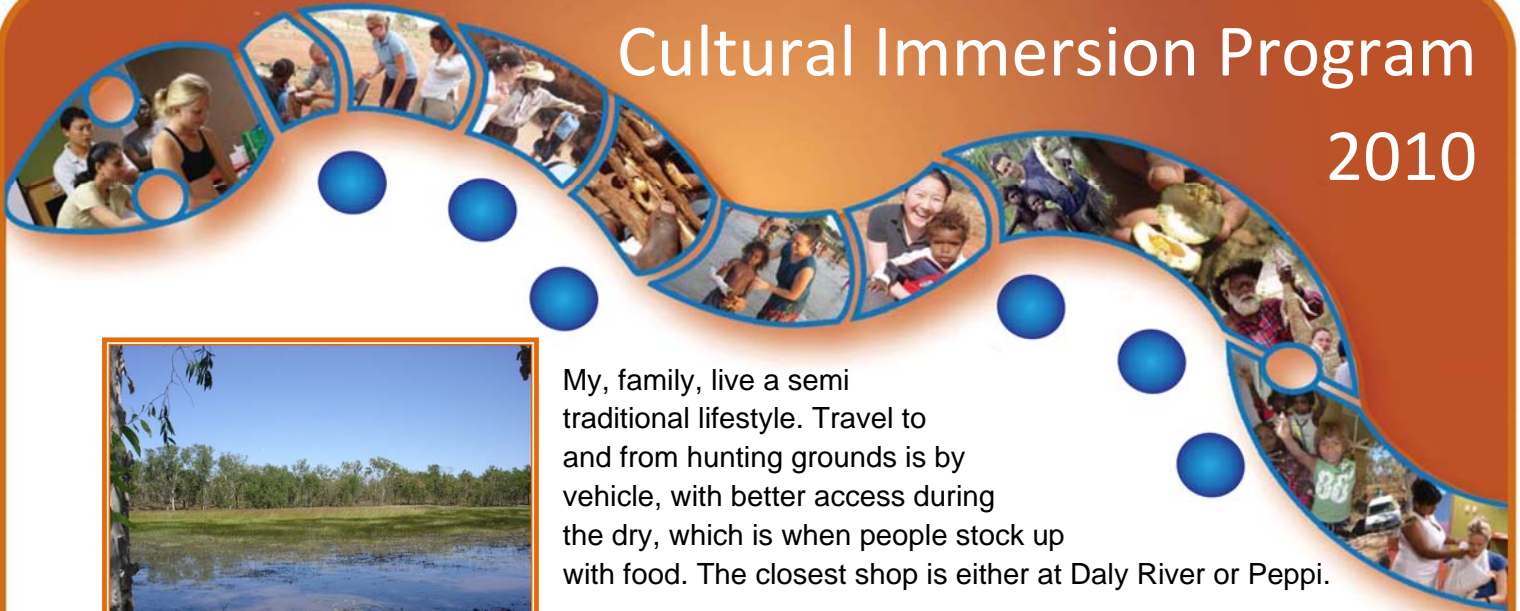
Background

My homeland is Woodygupildiyerr (Woody), which is a six hour drive south-west of Darwin. The community is made up of immediate and other family. There is a Catholic school and an office to coordinate some of the outstations in our area. The clinic is visited fortnightly by a nurse from Palumpa and every six weeks by a DMO from Darwin. There is no health worker. If there is an emergency people call the DMO for advice or go to Daly River or Peppimenarti (Peppi) - the nearest centres with nurses and Aboriginal health workers.

In the wet there are fewer visits due to the airstrip being cut. Peppi can sometimes be reached during the wet, but mostly the community is cut off for two or three months. Murin Air services the Daly River region and has a twice weekly mail run to Woody.

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My, family, live a semi traditional lifestyle. Travel to and from hunting grounds is by vehicle, with better access during the dry, which is when people stock up with food. The closest shop is either at Daly River or Peppi.

My family are happy for six people to come to our homelands in the dry season for five days.

Like other homelands and Aboriginal people, we have significant land marks and activities that we are able to show visitors. Permission has been granted and if we need to go onto other peoples' land, permission will be sought.

Ada Parry
Cultural Education Coordinator



Aims of the program:

- To learn about contemporary Marrathiel lifestyle in remote Australia;
- To enable participants to question, discuss and share ideas and thoughts about cultural awareness issues in a safe and friendly environment;
- To experience Marrathiel land, culture and traditional knowledge of their country;
- To enable participants to experience the beauty and challenges of living in remote outstation (Woodygupildiyerre) Marrathiel people call "my country"; and
- To develop understanding, skills, networks and knowledge relevant to working with Aboriginal people in general and those in remote areas in particular.

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Who should register?

This camp is open to health professionals, educators, trainers and administrative staff who work in an Indigenous cross-cultural context. Preference will be given to NTGPE staff, program participants and people who have key relationships with NTGPE programs and activities.

We encourage you to enquire and register early to secure your place in this unique program. There are only six places available in 2010.

How do I register my interest?

Interested health professionals, NTGPE employees and stakeholders can register their interest by contacting Belle Allison, Personal Assistant: belle.allison@ntgpe.org or 08 8946 6958.

What is expected of successful registrants?

It is expected that successful registrants will attend all meeting dates as well as the camp.

Registrants can negotiate participation in activities at the camp based on personal issues (e.g. fitness).

Registrants will need to write a reflective piece of their experience of the camp. This piece is part of the learning and evaluation of the camp.

What registrants can expect from the program?

We will:

- Provide a cultural and socially safe environment for learning and engaging with the group and that is not intimidating or demeaning of their viewpoint, culture and/or social standing;
- Provide a physically safe environment that is as comfortable as possible, that is not threatening to physical well-being and that meets individual needs; and
- Deliver an engaging, fun and thought provoking program that meets the program's objectives.

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Camping facilities:

The camp facilities will have:

- A shed for sleeping;
- Outside shower and toilets;
- Camp area (lawn - optional); and
- Cooking area (camp fire).

The general itinerary is for us to travel by 4WD on Day 1 to Daly River. There will be a briefing and orientation. Welcome to Country will be performed at Woodygupildiyerre, where we will set up camp. Days 2 to 4 will include various activities (see itinerary). We will pack up and leave camp for home on Day 5.



Important Dates:

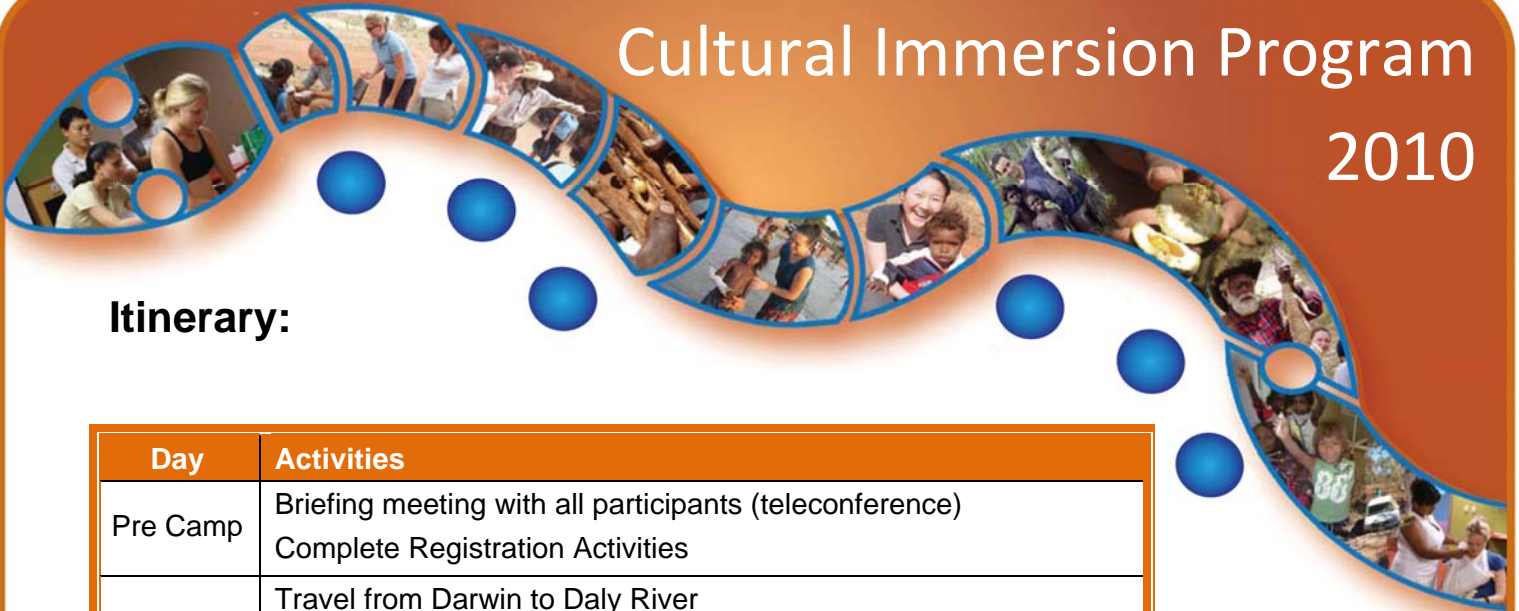
Briefing meeting: to be confirmed

Program dates: 5th to 9th July 2010

Debriefing meeting: to be confirmed

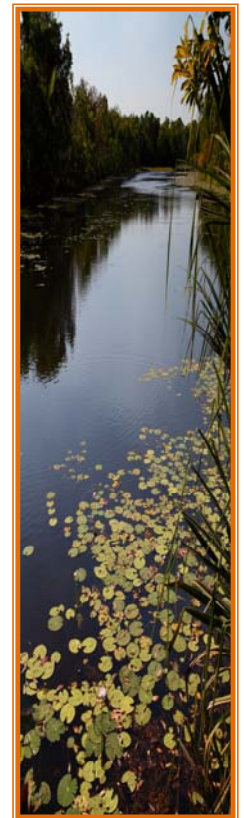
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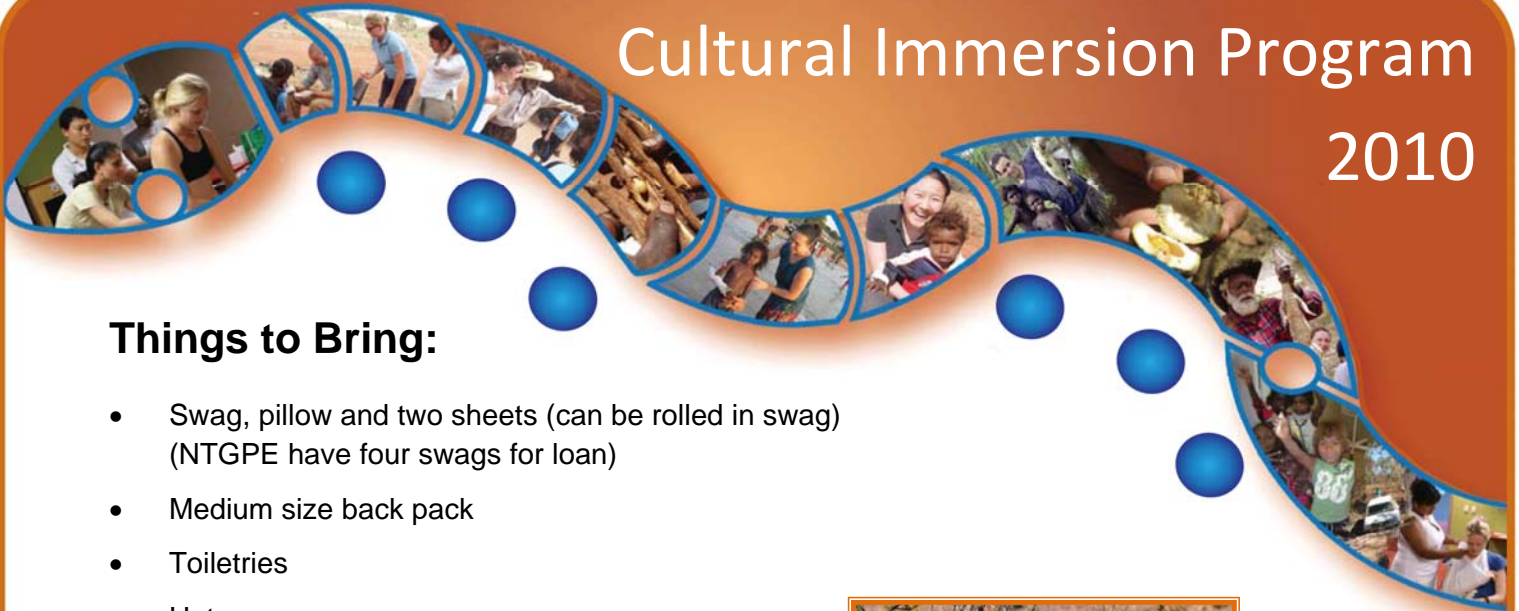
Itinerary:

Day	Activities
Pre Camp	Briefing meeting with all participants (teleconference) Complete Registration Activities
1	Travel from Darwin to Daly River <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Briefing and orientation Travel from Daly River to Woodygupildiyerre <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to Country• Set up camp and rope making
2 - 4	Visit community, and proceed to Woody billabong and surrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bush medicine• Bush foods• Visit significant sites• Family stories• Ancestral stories• Discussion of social and health services• Discussion of social and environmental determinants of health• Writing a reflective piece on your experiences on the Cultural Immersion Camp• Bush tucker and medicine• Fishing and hunting• Visit Magilindi outstation
5	Pack up camp Debriefing Travel to Darwin
Post Camp	Complete reflective writing piece Debriefing meeting



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Things to Bring:

- Swag, pillow and two sheets (can be rolled in swag) (NTGPE have four swags for loan)
- Medium size back pack
- Toiletries
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Walking shoes
- Long pants/track pants (for nights)
- Long sleeve shirt (for nights)
- Water bottle (optional)
- Mosquito repellent
- Camera/movie
- Three loose fitting t-shirts
- Three loose long shorts/skirts



Reflective activity

As part of your agreement to undergo this activity, you are required to complete a reflective writing exercise. It is in 3 parts:

1. Your current understanding of Aboriginal culture?
2. Your experiences after cultural immersion?
3. What implications has the experience had on your understanding of Aboriginal culture and your work with Aboriginal people?