Indigenous people are warned that some images contained in this report may offend. DIMS has carefully selected the photos included in this publication and taken all reasonable measures to ensure that the report does not contain photos of those deceased. We thank you for your understanding with this sensitive matter.
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Management Committee

Chairperson: Jason Bonson
Vice Chairperson: Shane Motlap
Treasure: John Ah Mat
Secretary: Patrick Thomas
Committee Members: Steven-Torres-Carne, Stephan Hagan, Anthony Castro, David Parfitt, Chris Nelson, Thomas Lammon.

Management Committee Meetings 2017-2018

The DIMS Management Committee has met four times this financial year as follows.
1st Management Committee Meetings 21-07-2017
2nd Management Committee Meetings 02-11-2017
3rd Management Committee Meetings 02-03-2018
4th Management Committee Meetings 20-06-2018
Message from our Chairperson

In my first year as chairman I have the privilege to write on the activities of the association for 2017-2018. Your board has worked hard across this reporting period. I would like to acknowledge board members, DIMS staff and staff at DAIWS lead by Regina Bennett and thank them for their ongoing support, patience and understanding the future vision of DIMS.

Our DIMS team led by Michael Torres, Joey Bonson and Warren Smith have delivered exemplary results. The work we’ve done this year made possible from a collective effort between DIMS staff the Executive Committee, community members and partner stakeholders from within the Darwin Men’s Inter Agency Network forum.

Our membership has grown and as most members would be aware we were able to secure a significant funding amount from the Healing Foundation. This funding allowed us to pursue a number of goals to help promote the service support the exciting work done by the project manager and strong men’s project officer. One goal has been to employ more staff and provide professional development opportunities for staff in particular mental health first aid training.

With our collective efforts focused on long terms goals and real outcomes, we will continue to listen to our men, increase awareness, support all men and their families to live in a safe community and advocate for all men to have better health outcomes and play their rightful role as fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers.

Jason Bonson
There has been great achievement for Darwin Indigenous Men’s Service (DIMS) in the last twelve months. The Indigenous Men’s Service has moved from strength to strength and relocated from DAIWS Berrimah premises to Coconut Grove in July 2017, after becoming incorporated as Darwin Indigenous Men’s Service Inc, on the 16th June 2017.

The Indigenous Men’s Service started as a project with Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women’s Shelter (DAIWS) in 2005. DAIWS has supported and continues to support the men’s service and provide auspices services until DIMS becomes fully independent from DAIWS. I thank Regina Bennett General Manager of DAIWS for providing her support, vision and innovation in assisting the development of our men’s service.

I thank our Management Committee for their experience, expertise and dedication for developing a professional Indigenous men’s service in Darwin. For participating in our men’s reference group and planning workshops to produce DIMS Business Case, Program Logic and Constitution to get us where we are today.

I thank our members and network participants for their contribution and feedback in DIMS Workshops to produce our Business Case, Program Logic and give ongoing support. The Strong Men’s Strong Community’s Project and Indigenous Family Violence Prevention and Healing Project are funded by the Commonwealth Government for another two years. We received
seed funding from The Healing Foundation for our Indigenous Men’s Healing Project which has been very helpful in expanding our services with a third worker. DIMS has produced its Strategic Plan, new logo, flyers, business cards and work T-shirts this year. A special thanks to Joe Fitz for designing DIMS logo.

We continue to work with community partners and network with government and non-government agencies. DIMS continues to facilitate men’s groups and provide support services to clients at CAAPS and FORWAARD. DIMS has worked closely with the Healing Foundation in piloting projects and sharing information regarding Indigenous trauma and healing.

DIMS attends the Darwin Men’s Interagency Network meetings and has held several meetings on our premises to discuss men’s issues and share information. DIMS has attended the local Domestic / Family Violence Network meetings and Conference in Darwin discussing men’s issues and gaps in services.

Our achievements are made possible by our dedicated staff, Joey Bonson Strong Men Strong Communities Project Officer and Warren Smith Program Facilitator Indigenous Men’s Healing Program.

DIMS Management Committee strong governance and policy direction. We have a great team of Indigenous men that are strong in maintaining quality for our organisation, clients and stakeholders.

Michael Torres
Our vision

Is to build strong, healthy, independent men.

Our Purpose

To build strong and healthy men in body, mind, spirit, culture, and socially to support strong and healthy families.

Our Values

Acting with honour, integrity and behaving with dignity, humility and caring, sharing and respecting ourselves, each other, our men, women, children, families, culture, country, waters and community, and those we work in partnership with to achieve our Vision.
**Goals**

To provide a safe place where men can seek support to deal with or heal from issues such as grief, loss and trauma.

To provide mentoring, support, case management and outreach services for men that may assist to strengthen their wellbeing and independence.

To provide mentoring, counselling and education programs for men.

To provide therapeutic and educative groups for men to address family and relationship issues, including family and domestic violence, conflict resolution and fatherhood.

To provide healing and cultural activities to improve men's wellbeing.

**AIM**

Men sharing knowledge to help each other build strong, healthy, independent men. To provide a safe and supportive service for males to heal and develop positive relationship skills, where they are encouraged to embrace changes that work towards building strong, healthy relationships, families and communities.
Our STAFF

From Left: Warren Smith, Michael Torres and Joey Bonson.
Programs and Services

Indigenous Family Violence Prevention and healing program

Michael Torres (Manager/Mentor) manages DIMS projects and provides individual mentoring, general counselling, family violence education, relationships education, art, music, and healing activities for Indigenous men. Receive and make referrals. Networking and building partnerships with other agencies.
Indigenous Men’s Healing Program

Warren Smith (Program Facilitator) research, design and deliver programs and provides mentoring, men’s groups, yarning circles, cultural and healing activities, art and woodcraft. Receive and make referrals. Network with other agencies.
Strong Men
Strong Communities
Program

Joey Bonson (Project Officer) provide general support, mentoring, case-management, leadership, cultural and healing workshop camps and activities to Indigenous men living in Darwin and town communities. Receive and make referrals. Network with town communities and other agencies.
Men’s Interagency Meetings

Men from Government and Non-government agencies meet bi-monthly to discuss men’s issues and share information regarding programs and services for males.
Men’s interagency meeting: Discuss men’s issues, gaps in services and providing regular feedback.
DIMS Strategic Planning Workshop at Crab Claw Resort

Management Committee members, DIMS member’s and Staff developing our strategic plan.
Leadership and Healing Workshop

Men from Acacia, Armagal and Bagot Community attend the Strong Men Strong Community Leadership and Healing Program at Crab Claw Resort. DIMS partnership with Iron Bark Employment Service. Iron Bark shared information regarding employment, education and training.

John Ah Mat from NT Health AOD Team facilitated workshops regarding alcohol, cannabis, Ice and tobacco education. DIMS staff discussed men's health, leadership and healing for Indigenous men.
Cultural Healing Activities

We provide a variety of healing activities. Elders and mentors teach young men how to make spears for hunting and fishing. Mentors take clients on outing to the beach and creeks spear fishing and gathering bush tucker. Teach traditional cooking in a fire place. Connecting to country and storytelling to strengthen spirit and cultural identity.
Indigenous cultural healing:
Using culture as treatment for healing. The Indigenous mentor facilitates a client’s cultural knowledge for healing. Clients play digeridoo or clap sticks for traditional songs that connect them to country and song lines, which have cultural significance. These activities help clients to destress, encourage positive emotions, improve self-worth, enhance cultural identity and strengthens their mind, body, spirit.
Art activities such as making traditional tools, drawing, painting and woodwork are very therapeutic for participants. Clients use art to express themselves culturally and spiritually. Healing begins as clients draw and tell stories of their life. They tell cultural stories and draw animals that are important to them and their clan. Drawing and storytelling assist participants to destress, strengthen cultural identity, values and increase self-esteem.

Healing activities include, yarning and storytelling, songs, playing guitar, drawing, painting, traditional tool making, woodwork, bush walking, fishing, gathering bush tucker and camps help participants connect to country, improve self-worth and identity. These activities help clients to relax, settle emotions and de-stress.
Healing Activities

Wood Craft Therapy is healing through woodwork activities. Making traditional tools and artefacts such as spears, woomeras and wooden animals. The wood craft therapy is very therapeutic for clients as they can design, make and paint the artefacts. Throughout this process clients are thinking of their traditional stories, country, family, children and ceremonies etc. After the activity the client feels happy and a sense of achievement. Their cultural identity and self-worth is enhanced. The wood craft therapy strengthens their culture, mind, body and spirit.

Men’s Group Yarning Circle:

In this activity participants take it in turns talking and listening to each other. They share stories, knowledge and bond with other men. Participants speak on topics culture, hunting, fishing, family and relationships, employment and training, health and healing etc. Yarning circles improve confidence and help men heal by talking about their problems and concerns. This process can be very therapeutic for the participants as it allows them to speak freely and off load instead of keeping issues bottled up inside. Participants can engage in our individual counselling and mentoring service.
Indigenous man from a remote Arnhem Land community strong in culture. Participates in DIMS programs and activities sharing knowledge and making traditional tools. Cultural activities helps maintain good mental health and keeps him connected to country and culture.
Partnerships

DIMS works in partnership with CAAPS and FORWAARD to provide services to their clients such as weekly men’s groups, yarning circles, education programs, cultural healing activities, and individual counselling - mentoring to improve their emotional, social and cultural wellbeing.

DIMS works in partnership with the Healing Foundation on many of our projects. The Healing Foundation has provided support to DIMS to develop our Business Case, Program Logic and seed funding for our Indigenous Men’s Healing Program. DIMS share information with the Healing Foundation regarding Indigenous men’s issues, healing and cultural healing.

Financial Summary

The DIMS Management Committee would like to thank the following agencies and organisations for their financial support during 2017-2018 financial year.

Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet (PMC).

Healing Foundation

DIMS is incorporated under the NT Associations Act and is required to produce an audited balance sheet each financial year. Darwin Aboriginal & Islander Women’s Shelter (DAIWS) provides auspices services for DIMS and audit for each financial year. The men’s programs financial sheets are shown in the DAIWS Audit report 2018. See DAIWS Audit report for the above information.
Logo design
by Joe Fitz

The meaning of the logo is Indigenous men sitting in a yarning circle at sunset near the sea sharing stories and experiences, healing their mind, body and spirit. The sea and pandanus palms represents salt water people. I thank Joe Fitz for designing DIMS logo. He is a local Indigenous man with great skills in art and graphic design.