

## \*KINSHIP & FAMILY\*

As a grandmother/Carer to grandchildren, kinship and family are very important as it determines the relationship and roles, plus responsibilities of each member. It also reflects on cultural values, family ties, blood relations and extended family. They are my family's boundaries/rules and everyone follows in these principles.

As an Aboriginal woman and grandmother, I feel a strong Aboriginal Spirituality and my identity is the core of who I am.


So I identify myself as a Noongar woman born in Subiaco, Western Australia but have lived and raised my four children in the Southern region for the last 28 years in South Australia and my children identify as being Noongar/Kurna. I have family links to West Coast/Streaky Bay, Wirangu.

### Painting details

During the sessions I listened to Colby Pearce but was distracted by my artistic urge to draw pictures & symbols of what I translated by spoken words by Colby. I wanted to remember important statements & facts that I heard; I needed to put this into painting to promote & educate other members of my community/carers.

- I noticed Colby used a tree often in his sessions and wanted to use a tree for sacred life, youthfulness & rebirth, protection from spiritual harm, good health and positive energy.
- Tree also represents growth and strength.
- Right corner is the symbol for star/sun but I have used this to represent
  - Kinship Care/ Workers
  - Therapeutic Enrichment, Secure Start – Colby
  - Connected Foster Care
  - Carers/Grandparents/Foster/Kinship
  - Aunties, Uncles and cousins.
- Left corner symbolises the many mixed emotions & struggles carers/grandparents deal with as it's vital to trust & work with your Kinship Care Worker for support and even emotional sound advice.
- Having my Kinship Care Worker Steve Atkins tells me not to be so hard on myself, or that I'm doing everything plus more – words of encouragement & support to validate my purpose/ride.
- Hand prints of child and adult

- Teaching, protection, guidance & security, connection and acceptance.


• This symbolises the adult and child together 


• Middle of tree symbols - Meeting place at the Woodcroft Community Centre



• Resting Place – Educating family and Community passing on knowledge gained through Secure Start.



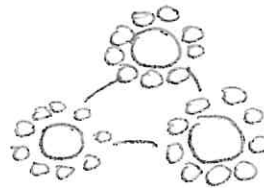
• Round table where participants sit around open area. 

• Woman 

Participants in attendance

Men 

• Different mob but all have the same agenda



• Top and bottom leaves – making changes, having routine & setting boundaries.

• Three figures in painting

Toddler with teddy seeking security/attention by primary carer, pre-teen standing close by needing reassurance but wants the independence. Both children wanting to be apart and have connection with carer/kinship/grandparent.

-Carer is meeting young child and pre-teen needs, ensuring needs are being met, carer attentive to assist/teach child/children to regulate moods but also maintaining their own moods/behaviour to give positive reaction of child's needs.

-Carer being consistent with routine and action, know your objective, do one thing at a time to prevent overload & burning out; great time to talk to Kinship Care Worker.

• No shame to seek professional support, acknowledge & accept many carer's struggles and best support is from Psychologist. Healthy mind is a happy carer and this makes happy children.

Many carer's are exposed to back ground info on children and can be traumatised, we need to remember vicarious traumatization is real & exists among carers.

Rose Ward (Artist)

