

Project background

The Pilbara and Kimberley Project started in 2019, and its key aim was to pilot a culturally appropriate, place-based implementation of Be You in schools in these regions.

Be You is the national mental health in education initiative, with the goal that every learning community is positive, inclusive and resilient – a place where every child, young person, educator and family can achieve their best possible mental health. It promotes this through professional learning, resources, tools and actions educators can apply in their learning community.

The Pilbara and Kimberley Project was funded by the Federal Government as part of a raft of suicide prevention programs for young Aboriginal people in these regions.

Be You engaged in meaningful partnerships with local Aboriginal Medical Services and whole-of-school communities in a collaborative design process, which informed and shaped the culturally responsive delivery and implementation of Be You in rural and remote learning environments.

The project service delivery providers included Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services, Puntuturnu Aboriginal Medical Service, Derby Aboriginal Health Service, Yura Yungi Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation, Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation, Mawarnkarra Health Service and Warringari Aboriginal Arts.

These partners worked face-to-face with local schools to implement Be You in a culturally responsive manner. Through extensive community and school engagement, it was found a place-based resource that supports local, Aboriginal perspectives on social and emotional wellbeing would help implement Be You in regional and remote Aboriginal communities.

All the content in this resource has been informed by community members and educators in the Kimberley and Pilbara through a co-designed, two-year process. Stories have been shared by Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers (AIEO) and Aboriginal Teaching Assistants (ATA), educators, Elders, community members, local rangers, natural helpers, family members, social and emotional wellbeing providers, health care workers and chief executive officers.

This eBook has been designed to encourage AIEO and ATA involvement in schools Be You Action Teams, and their active participation in planning and conducting activities informed by a culturally responsive action plan.

We hope this resource is a stepped introduction to Be You, where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal educators are encouraged to explore and engage the significant resources available to them through Be You modules, fact sheets and other resources.

