

Remain CALM
And
Cross the Bridge



The AMC CALM program

Culture
And
Land
Management



480 detainees

99 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees

Over 20.62% of the prison population

As at 11/9/17



It is projected by ABS that the indigenous population of the ACT will be 7,338 in 2017.

This represents approximately 1.1% of the total population of the ACT.

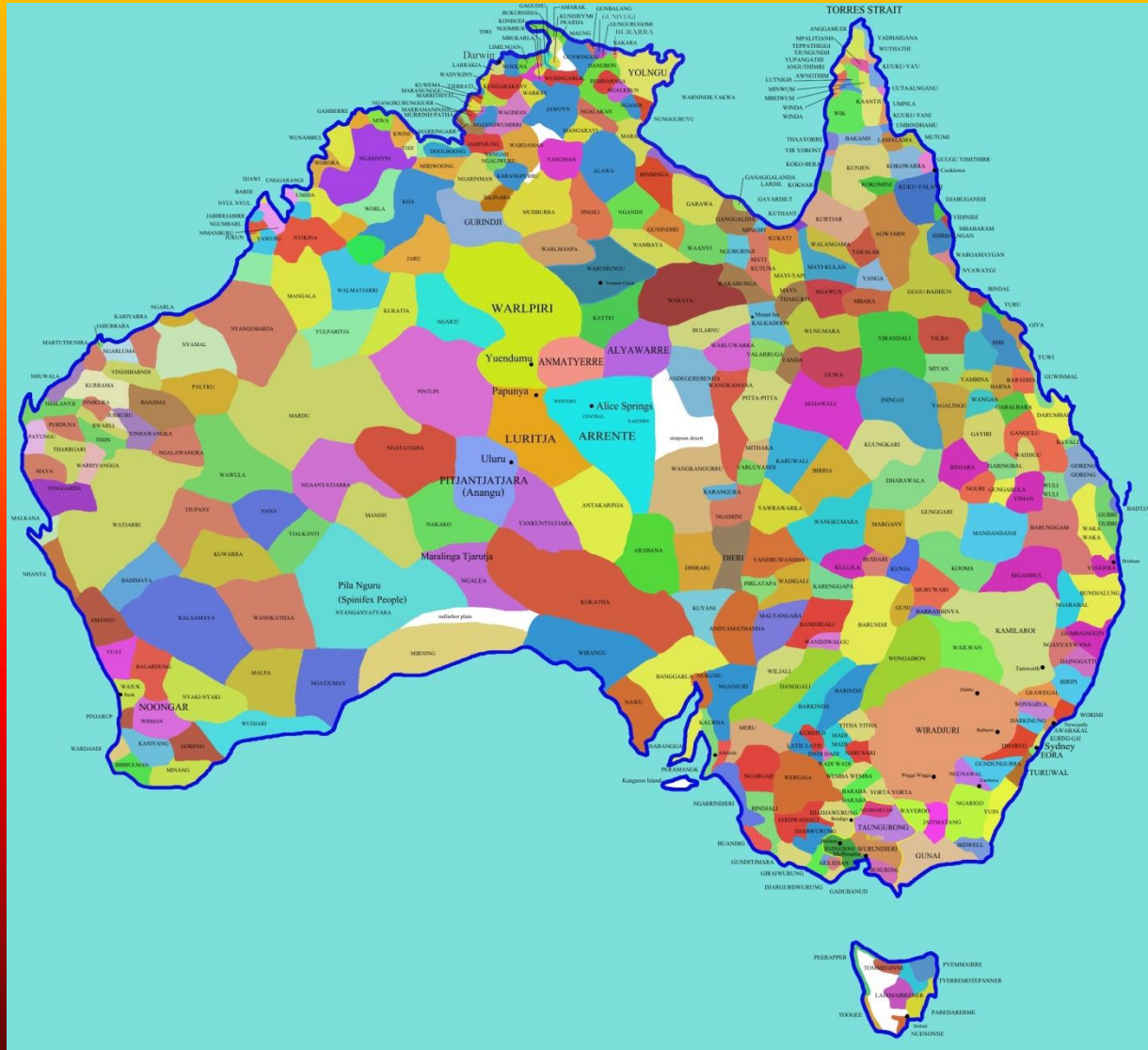


20.62% of the AMC
population from 1.1% of
the total ACT population.

This over representation of indigenous people in custody needs to be addressed.

We at the AMC believe that we may have found one way.

There are over 500 different aboriginal nations across Australia.



The CALM Program



In 2014, the AMC commenced a course of full time education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees.



Detainee numbers for the overall CALM Program is limited to thirty males, equally divided amongst the three security classifications (Mainstream, Protection and Strict Protection) and up to ten women.
(40 in total)

Detainees are able to apply for a “place” in the course. If successful participation is over a 5 day week



Currently 12 on the wait list

Certificate II in Foundation Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways

Horticulture,
Construction and Land
Management Electives



Average Age of detainees
enrolled in CALM is 35

Youngest detainee is 20
whilst the eldest
detainee is 47

Average ACSF of the
group is 1.5

15 detainees in the groups have
an average ACSF of 1 or less

Only 4 detainees have an
average ACSF of 2.5

Wangkumara

Kamilaroi

Yorta Yorta

Punthumara

Noongar

Yuin

Wadi Wadi

Barkindji

Wailwan

Wiradjuri

Ngunnawal

Ngambri

Bundjalung

Aspects included in the CALM Program



Traditional Languages

A dedicated expert in Eastern Australian Aboriginal languages donates his time to come into the AMC complex to teach specific languages to CALM participants.

Words as well as language context is taught and enjoyed by participants

Weaving

A skilled and knowledgeable aboriginal weaver spends time with the CALM program participants, teaching them traditional weaving methods.

Small baskets, bracelets and small mats have been woven as well as goanna and turtle sculptures.

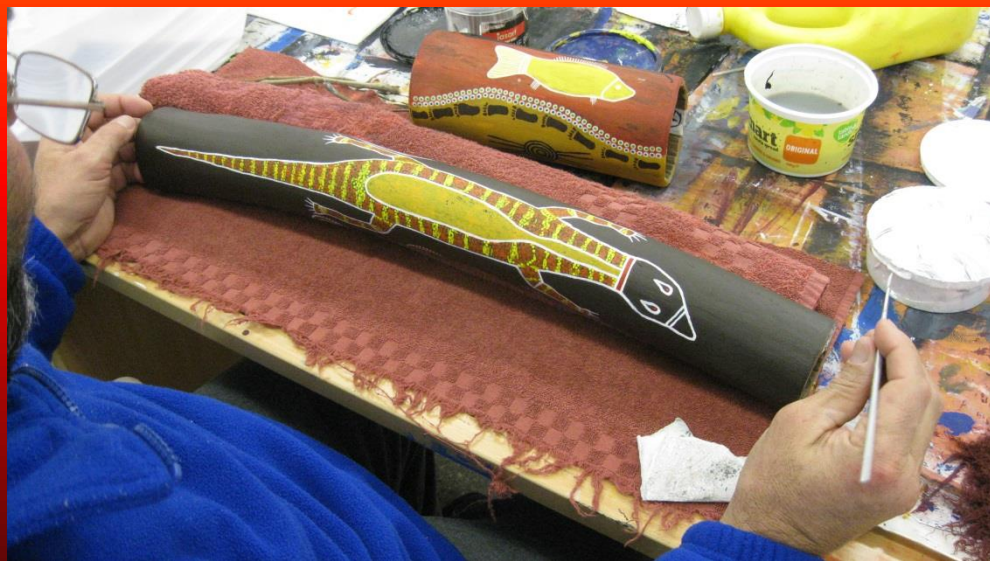
Conservation and Land Management

Knowledgeable and experienced
aboriginal men and women impart their
knowledge on land conservation,
sustainability and looking after country
An understanding of the controlled use of
fire is passed on to participants so they
have a better understanding of why this
has been done for tens of thousands of
years

Cultural Art

Detainees are encouraged to express their knowledge and awareness of culture and tradition through painting, sculpture and wood burning





Cultural Dance and Music

Detainees are urged and supported to communicate their understanding and perception of culture and tradition through Dance and Music

Understanding and appreciating Kinship

Detainees are given an insight to the interconnecting relationship between kin, totems, skin types, plants, animals, dreaming, seasons, family structure, nature, spirituality, stars, earth.

Construction

As part of the CALM program the participants gain knowledge, experience and understanding of basic construction techniques.

Construction of a shade house, garden beds, seating and a yarning area.



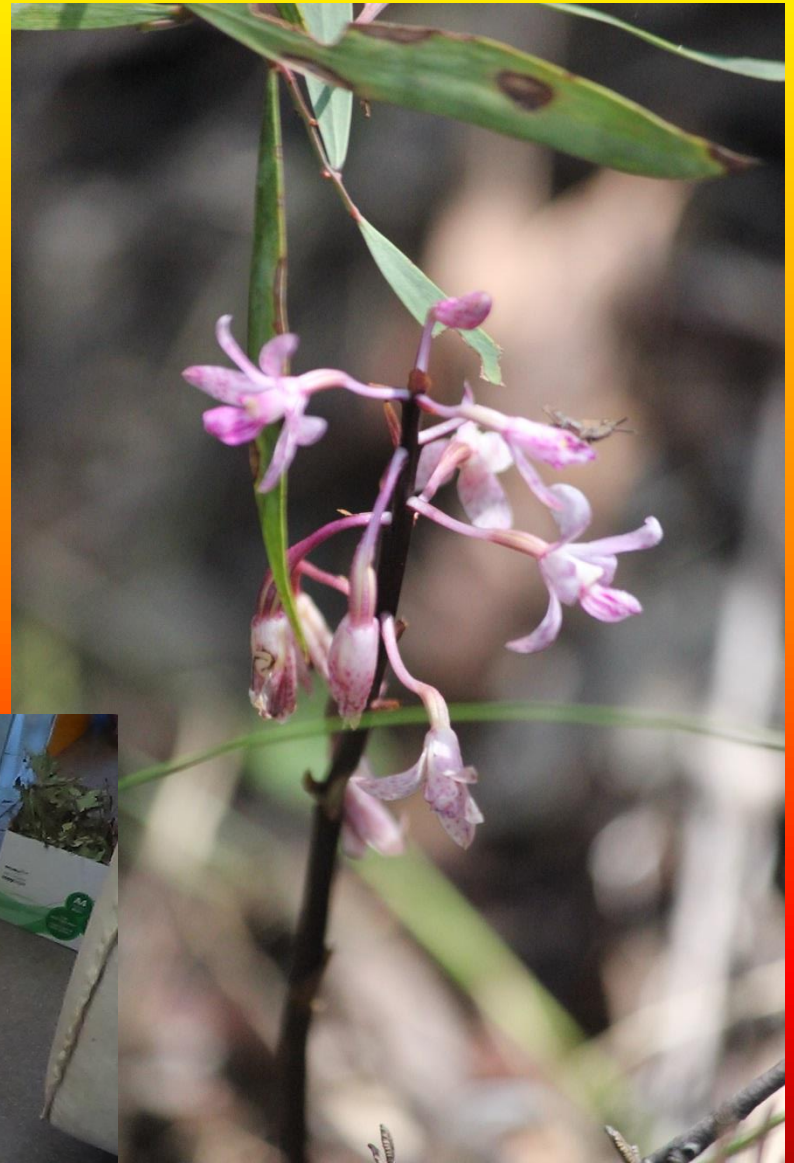
Horticulture

CALM participants also spend time in the horticulture area. Plants are grown from seed and cuttings

Native and Exotic Plants, Vegetables and Fruit

Gardens are designed and maintained, both practical and ornamental gardens

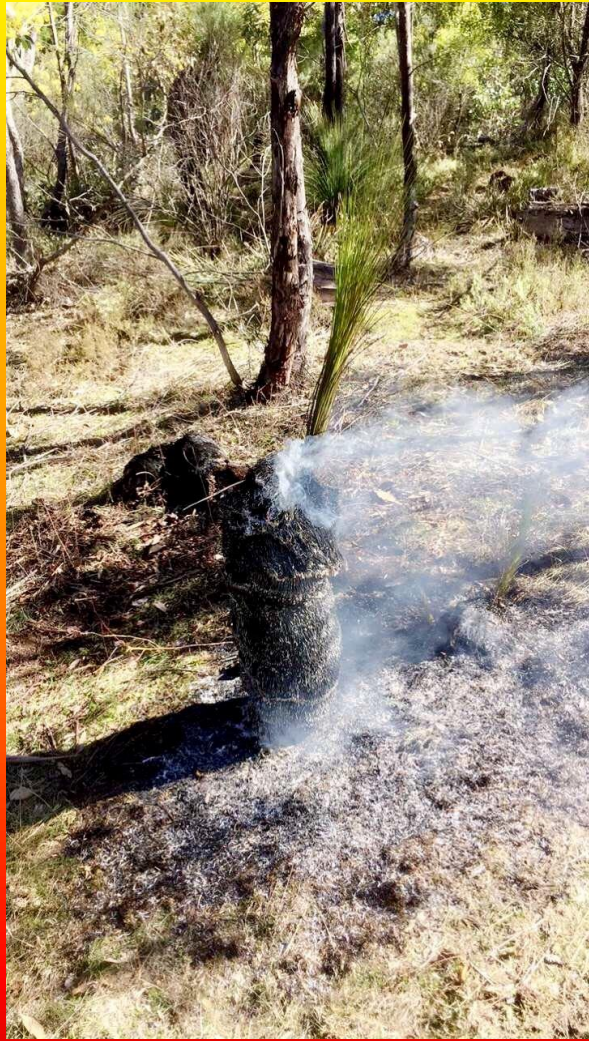




Excursions

A number of excursions have taken place. This is where I take detainees from the Transitional Release Cottage (TRC) into the bush for the day to maintain cultural places, collect seed/plants, learn about culture.







Family History

Participants are from a range of different tribes. Regrettably not all of the detainees are exactly sure of where they are from and who is their mob. This is where the family history comes into the mix

With one detainee we have gone back to a birth that was recorded in 1789 and we know the name of the mother

Awards

I was awarded the 2016 Canberra NAIDOC Award for Non-Indigenous persons contribution to the Community.

The CALM program was awarded the 2017 Canberra NAIDOC Award for “Caring for Country” with the work that we undertake.

Labyrinth and gardens created by CALM participants



Check it out on Google Earth

AMC CALM Program

Endeavouring to get
Bushrangers to cross
the bridge and become

Bush Rangers

BLACK WOMAN

Black Woman, black woman,

My mother, the Earth;

Soul of my substance,

The rich black dirt.

Coloured blood red, by a black man's blood

Sealed for eternity by your endless love;

You gave birth to me just yesterday –

What makes you think I've drifted away?

I'm young and I'm vital

I'm black and I'm free;

If I've hurt you I'm sorry

I'm just being me.

For you are forever

My mother, the Earth;

Soul of my substance

The rich black dirt.