

## About Gunditjmarra

Gunditjmarra Aboriginal Cooperative Ltd is an independent community based not for profit Aboriginal Community Controlled Organization located in Southwest Victoria.

Gunditjmarra provides culturally safe, strength based, social, health and wellbeing programs and services at all life stages- from cradle to grave.

At Gunditjmarra we are committed to:

- ✓ Provide intensive support to clients, carers and families
- ✓ Client centered approach in all interactions
- ✓ Be active and strong advocates on behalf of clients and families
- ✓ Have culture at the centre of everything that we do
- ✓ Link community members in with wrap around service support.



GUNDITJMARA IS A CHILD SAFE ORGANISATION AND IS COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE.

### GUNDITJMARA PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR CLIENTS EXPERIENCING AND OR NEEDING ASSISTANCE WITH:

- Family Violence
- Health via the Gunditjmarra Health Service
- Homelessness
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing
- Family Support Advocacy
- Justice system
- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Leaving Care transition
- Playgroup (Kooramook)
- Maternal and Child Health
- In Home Care Support
- Social Engagement Activities



**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ABORIGINAL TENANCIES  
AT RISK (ATAR)**

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# ABORIGINAL TENANCIES AT RISK (ATAR)

**The ATAR program helps Aboriginal people to keep and maintain their rented properties. Maintaining stable housing has been shown to have many benefits to people such as a sense of security, providing stability, and instilling a sense of having a home.**

We assist people leasing properties from DHHS public and transitional housing, Aboriginal Housing Victoria, and social housing providers. Tenants leasing properties from the private market can also be supported through ATAR brokerage funds.

The ATAR program helps Indigenous households to work out problems that may place their tenancy at risk. These problems could relate to keeping

the property clean and tidy, disagreements between household members or with neighbours, and breach notifications. Gunditjmarra delivers this high quality, culturally appropriate tenancy support service to Aboriginal people across the Barwon South-West Region.

## Aims and Objectives

- To reduce the eviction rate of Aboriginal clients
- Ensure access and advocacy to relevant services
- Support clients who are at risk of losing their tenancy

## Types of Support

We do this by assisting the Indigenous community to make informed choices regarding their tenancy with:

- ✓ Short term case management
- ✓ Support with housing applications and accessing housing
- ✓ Help with maintenance issues and keeping a property tidy
- ✓ Facilitate referrals, for example homelessness service
- ✓ Support with Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) matters
- ✓ Help accessing information on housing, legal advice, income support, financial counselling, and other individual services as required

Referral pathway – please call 5559 1234 and ask to speak to the ATAR worker.  
Alternatively pop into the office at 135 Kepler Street Warrnambool to have a Yarn on how we can best support you.

**IF THERE ARE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS FOR A PERSON'S LIFE OR SAFETY, OR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED, 000 SHOULD BE CALLED.**

**If children are at significant and immediate risk of harm, contact the After-Hours Child Protection Emergency Service 13 12 78 (staffed 5pm-9am).**

**Statewide family violence 24/7 crisis service** – safe steps Family Violence Response Centre. Call: 1800 015 188. Available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

**Sexual assault support** – Sexual Assault Crisis Line (SACL) Call: 1800 806 292

**For perpetrators** – Men's Referral Service (MRS) Helpline. Call: 1300 766 491 (available 9am - 9pm Monday-Friday).

**For female victim survivors** – Victim Support Agency (VSA) Victims of Crime Helpline Call: 1800 819 817 or Text: 0427 767 891. Available 8am – 11pm, 7 days a week.

**For LGBTI victim survivors** – Switchboard (QLife Counselling and Referral service). Call 1800 184 527. Available 3pm – midnight, 7 days a week.

**Telephone Counselling** – 1800RESPECT. Call: 1800 737 732. Available 24hrs, 7 days a week.

**Djirra** – Aboriginal Family Violence and Legal service. Free call 1800 105 303

**West Division Intake** – Rural and Regional only 1800 075 599. Business hours: 8:45am – 5pm

Outside of business hours if you want to have a yarn, contact Yarning Safe n Strong 1800 959 563. It is a 24/7 free and confidential phone crisis line for Aboriginal people and families who need to have a yarn with someone about their wellbeing.

