

# Why work with Wungening?

**Wungening loosely translated in Noongar language means healing. As an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) operating in the community for 35 years, we understand the challenges faced by Aboriginal children and families. We recognise the historical factors that affect Aboriginal healing, health and wellbeing, and prevent Aboriginal children from thriving.**

As a Community Foster Carer, working with an ACCO enables you to best meet the needs of Aboriginal children in your care. Aboriginal ways of knowing, doing and being, and notions of healing and empowerment are embedded in every aspect of what we do. This way of working will equip you to support the children in your care to develop a strong cultural identity.

Family is the heart of Aboriginal culture, and connection to family is central to healing processes. That's why at Wungening, we focus on ensuring children

develop and maintain meaningful and long-lasting connections with family. This includes the child's Foster Care family because you will always be an important part of that child's family.

As a Community Foster Carer with Wungening, our goal is to work in partnership and walk alongside you, your family and the child in your care.

We know that when you feel supported, it positively impacts everyone. That is why we are committed to ensuring all of our carers feel a part the Wungening community.



**MYTH:** It is too difficult to create a culturally safe environment for an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander child or young person.

**FACT:** A culturally safe environment is one that will enable and encourage an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander child or young person to identify with, and be proud of their culture. By encouraging and supporting the child or young person to explore their culture, this helps create a safe place for them to thrive and grow as a strong and proud Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

**Keeping our kids in care safe and connected  
– to family, community and culture**

To learn more or become a community Foster Carer visit:  
[www.wungeningNBM.com.au](http://www.wungeningNBM.com.au)



# FAQs

## Can you work with an ACCO if you are not and Aboriginal person?

Yes, everyone is welcome at Wungening! We work with people from all walks of life, and proudly so. We recognise that we get better results when we work together.

## Can you care for Aboriginal children if you are not Aboriginal?

Yes! When an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child or young person comes into care, the Government is required to explore culturally safe placements prior to a foster care arrangement being identified. While Aboriginal placements are always prioritised, this is not always possible. We recognise that a safe, stable and caring home is best for a child and/ or young person and support all carers.

## How will an ACCO support the family of the child differently to other agencies?

Wungening knows family is central to Aboriginal culture and identity. Wungening encourages and supports connectedness as central to healing for all children. Being a foster carer, you become part of the child's family and community. Wungening is committed to walking along side the foster and biological family with the child and/or young person at the centre.

## How do ACCOs like Wungening work?

Wungening is a community controlled organisation meaning; we have a majority Aboriginal workforce with over 350 staff across the organisation. Led by our all-Aboriginal board of directors and majority Aboriginal leadership, our organisation is deeply rooted in cultural expertise and wisdom. Wungening is committed to supporting the community and delivers a range of services, therapeutic supports, family services, and accommodation support throughout Perth and the Peel area.

## What do ACCOs do differently?

When working with an ACCO, carers receive support from local Aboriginal staff to maintain a connection to Country, Culture and Community. Wungening values connection, healing and empowerment. Culture is interwoven into everything we do. Committed to community and the well-being of Aboriginal people, this is at the forefront of all of services and interactions with the clients we support.

## Child Protection Acknowledgement

Wungening acknowledges that Child Protection has historically been a hurtful and traumatic experience for many people across our Community. We are proud to be part of the story shifting those experiences.

### General Enquiries

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East Perth WA 6004

### Wungening Head Office:

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East Perth WA 6004

### Mailing address:

PO Box 8105  
PBC, WA 6849

### Follow Us:



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we deliver services to our communities across the Noongar Nation. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present and acknowledge the ancient connection they hold with their Country. We are the proud and strong descendants of the oldest living Culture in the world.

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Aboriginal  
Corporation  
**Ngalla Bidee Mia**