



# Aboriginal Family Safety Project

Engaging with Communities to Design a Culturally Appropriate  
Family Violence Prevention Program to  
Strengthen Aboriginal Family Safety



Department of Communities  
Department of Primary Industries  
and Regional Development

Supported by the Department of  
Communities and Royalties for Regions

*Relationships Australia*<sup>®</sup>  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





*We would like to  
acknowledge the  
traditional custodians  
of the land on which we  
meet, the Whadjuk  
people, and pay our  
respects to all Elders  
past, present and future.*



# Who we are



**Angela Ryder**

Senior Manager  
Aboriginal Services  
Relationships Australia WA &  
Langford Aboriginal Association



**Leonie Pickett**

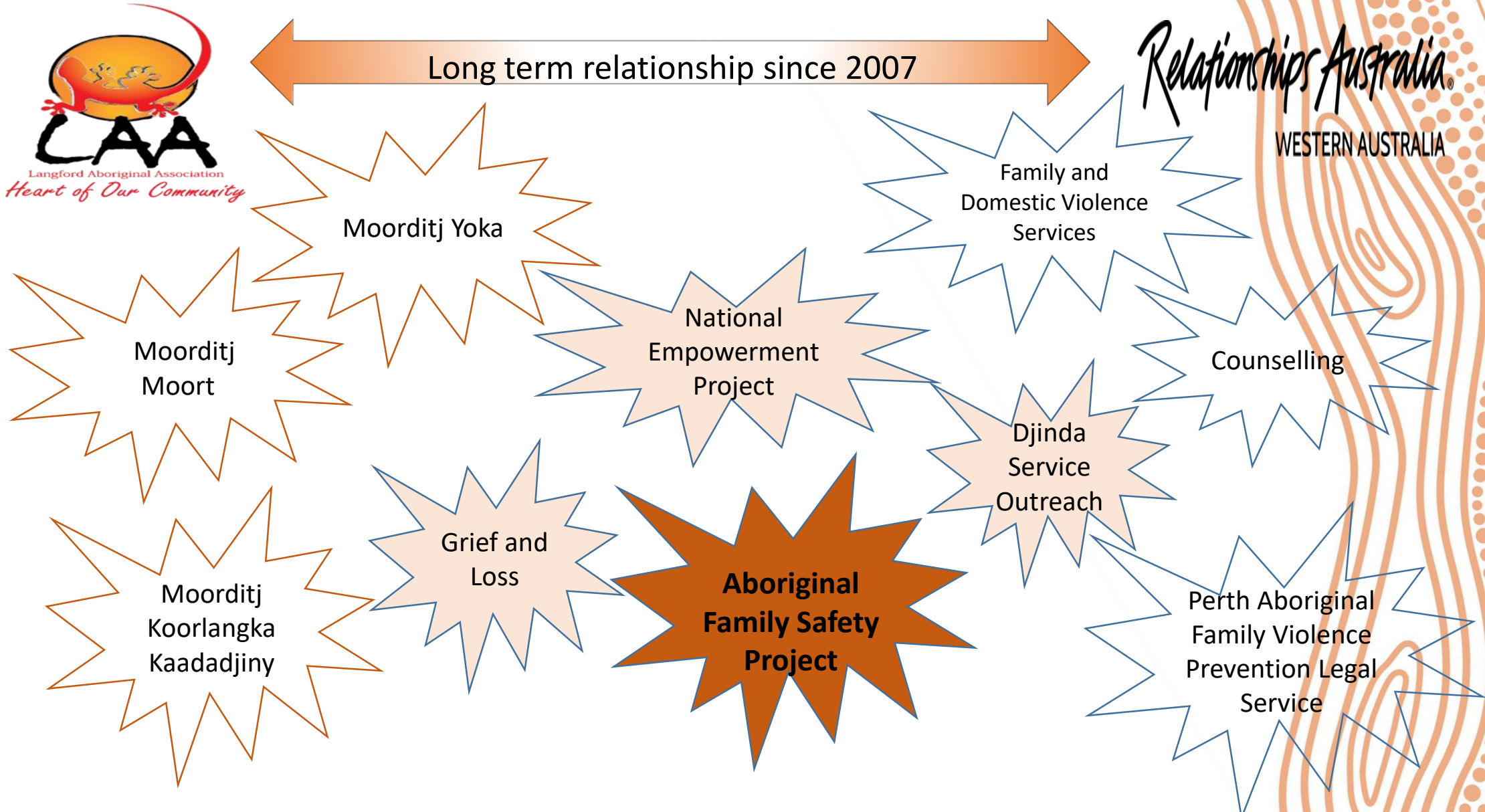
Senior Executive Officer  
Langford Aboriginal Association



**Noelene Iannello**

Senior Manager  
Family & Domestic Violence Services  
Relationships Australia WA

# Setting the scene





# The journey towards the AFSP

## Ethics

## Foundation Elements

- Informed by the National Empowerment Project (NEP)
- NEP delivered by LAA and RAWA since 2017
- NEP consultations highlighted family violence as a significant issue of concern for Aboriginal communities

## Guiding Principles

## Participatory Action Research



# The journey towards the AFSP

## Ethics



- *Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders* (National Health and Medical Research Council).
- Ethics guidelines provide a set of principles to ensure research is safe, respectful, responsible, high quality, of benefit to Aboriginal people and communities and of benefit to research.
- The guidelines define six core values — spirit and integrity, cultural continuity, equity, reciprocity, respect, and responsibility. Applying these values and other ethical principles will ensure that research conducted with or for Aboriginal communities, or their data, is ethically conducted.



# The journey towards the AFSP



The NEP aimed to empower local Aboriginal people and to give them 'voice'.

It was essential that a methodology was used which would allow this to happen.

The key components of Participatory Action Research (PAR) are:

- Participants are viewed as research partners. It views them as being experts in their own cultures.
- Reflective and cyclic. Focuses on developing people's critical awareness and to be self-reflective.
- Concerned with concepts of power and powerless in society. Aims to motivate people to engage in social action.
- Values the opinions and experiences marginalised groups.

Participatory Action Research

# Foundational elements





# Guiding principles



# A commitment

- Stopping Family and Domestic Violence - state government election commitment
- Holistic and multi-faceted approach to break the cycle of violence in WA families and communities
- Culturally appropriate support service for:
  - Aboriginal women; and
  - women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities

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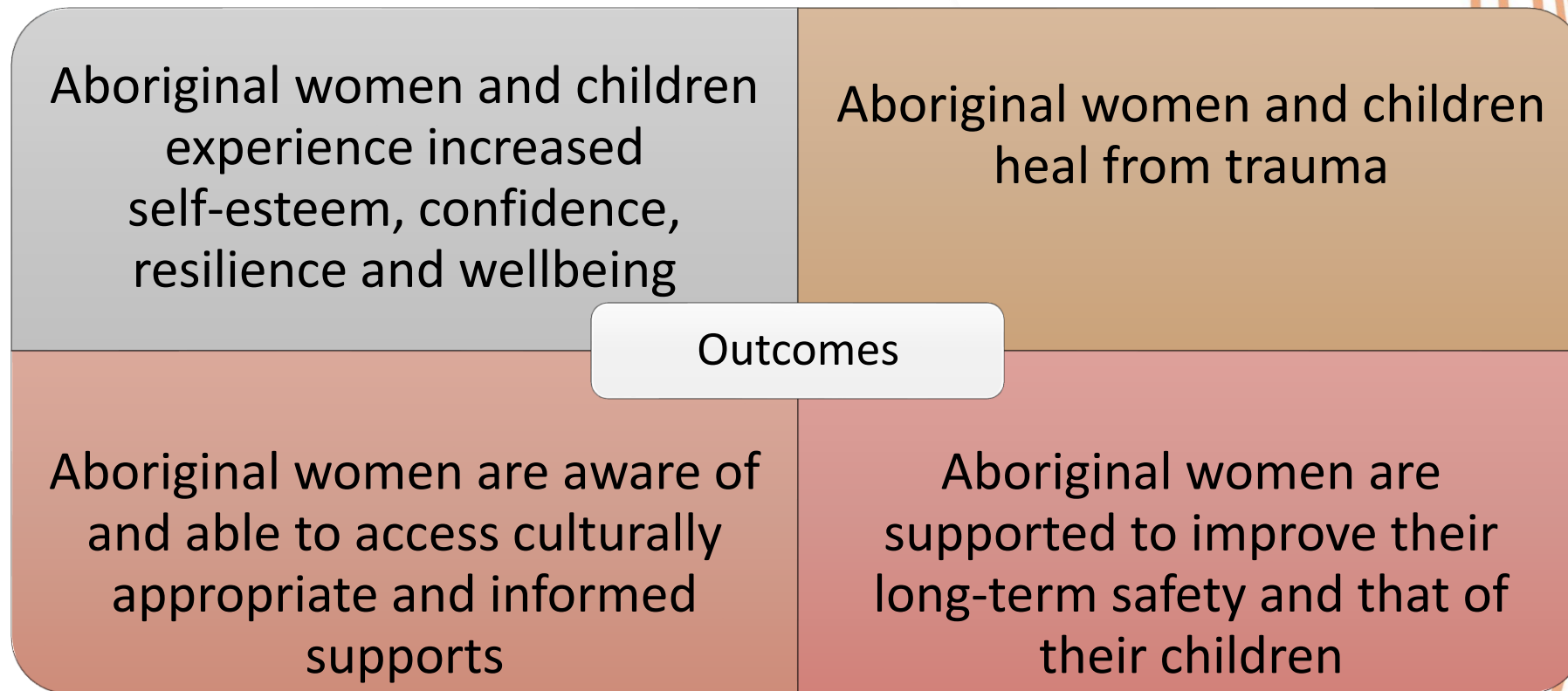
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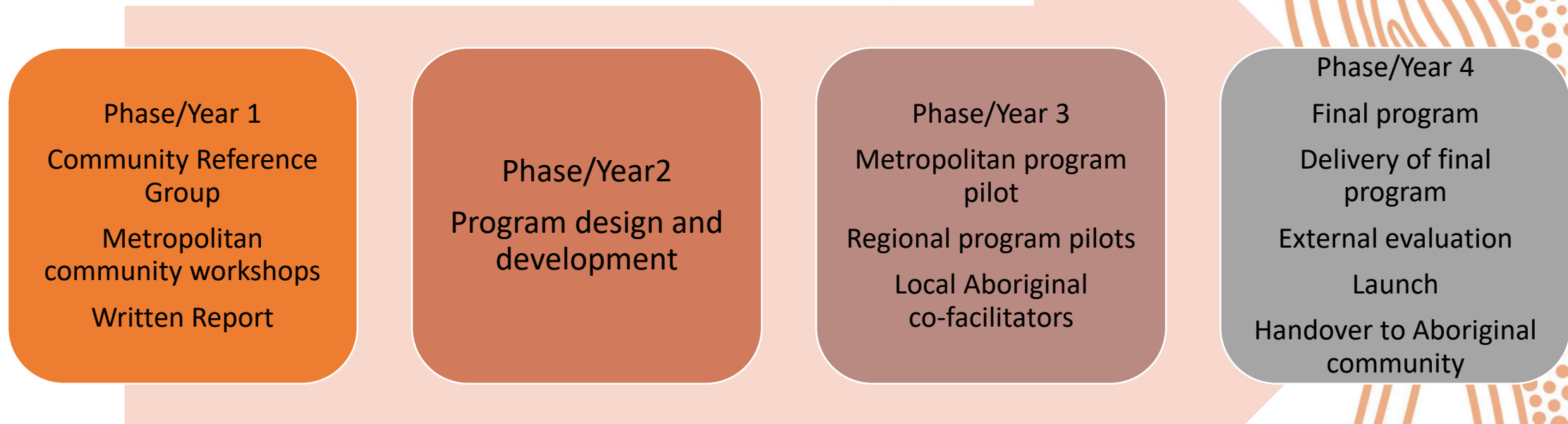


# Walking this path together: Aboriginal Family Safety Project

There is substantial evidence that indicates that Aboriginal women experience significant and specific barriers to reporting family violence and accessing support.



# Aboriginal Family Safety Project





# Aboriginal Family Safety Project

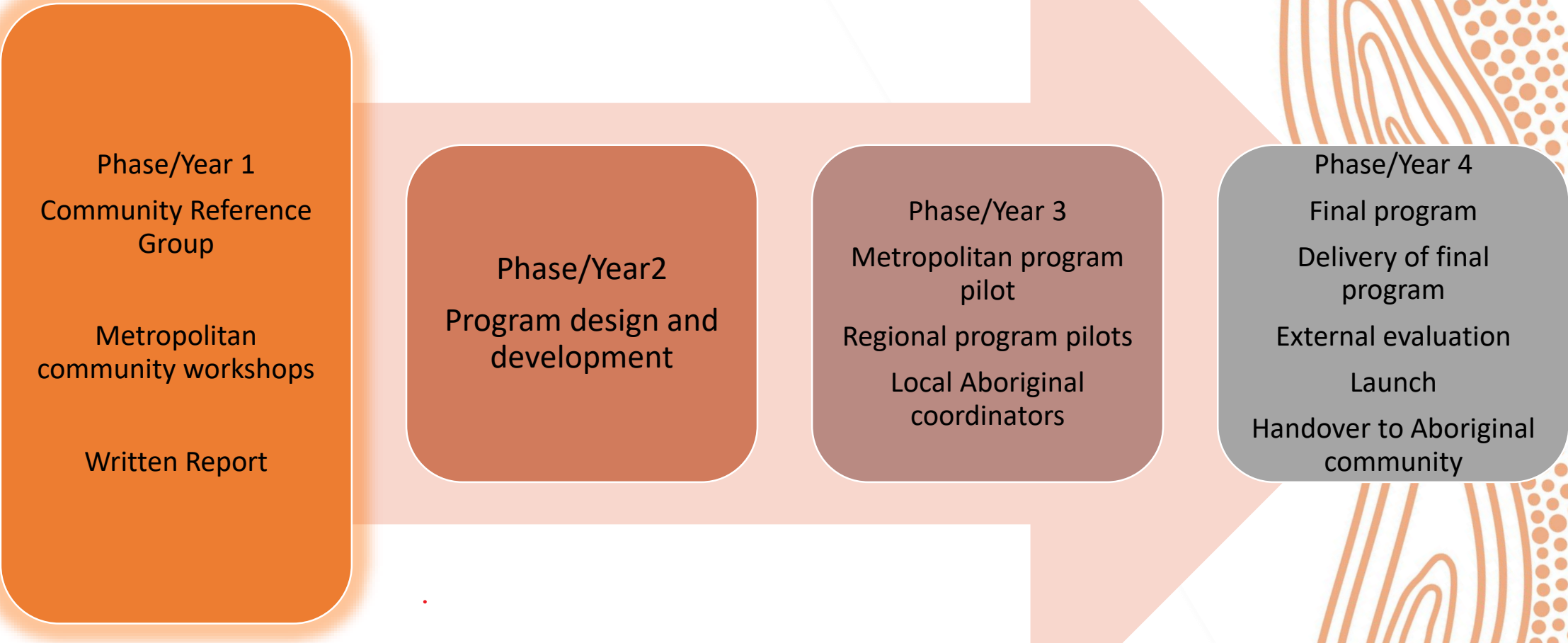
12 consultation workshops across four metropolitan regions (NW, SW, NE, SE).

**potential regional locations** for delivery of the pilot program

Western Australian Regions



# Where are we now



Phase/Year 1  
Community Reference  
Group

Metropolitan  
community workshops

Written Report

Phase/Year2  
Program design and  
development

Phase/Year 3  
Metropolitan program  
pilot

Regional program pilots

Local Aboriginal  
coordinators

Phase/Year 4  
Final program  
Delivery of final  
program

External evaluation

Launch

Handover to Aboriginal  
community



