

Talking points for work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lived experience advocates

Emerging Minds develops resources to help workers to support children's social and emotional wellbeing. These include podcasts, videos, written resources and online courses. You can take a look at some of these resources on our website at emergingminds.com.au.

First up

Before we start working together, remember our other document – *Working with Emerging Minds as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lived experience advocate* – (ask Rosie Schellen or Bec Edser for a copy if you don't have one), and talk through supports and looking after yourself.

- For any work we do together, we will give you some background information beforehand. This might be some questions or talking points to help you to get ready and start thinking about what you can bring to the project, and what you would like to get out of taking part.
- It can be good to talk through the things that you feel might be OK to share, and things that might be best kept private.
- Are there any cultural considerations or supports that Emerging Minds needs to think about when we are working with you?
- A drink and some food will be provided: is there anything you can't or don't eat?



- What is the easiest way for you to get to and from the meeting place, and what will we need to set-up ahead of time to help you get there? This might be things like payment for fuel costs and parking, taxi vouchers, or covering childcare arrangements. Also note that:
 - if we give you a Cabcharge to get to and from where we are meeting, it can only be used for this purpose; and
 - we can arrange payments ahead of time to cover childcare or fuel, but we need to do this at least 14 days before the meeting.
- How much time will be needed, including time travelling to the meeting? Make sure there's enough time so there's no need to rush.
- Come as yourself – wear whatever you feel most comfortable wearing.
- You can bring a support person with you if you would like.
- Will we need an interpreter?
- How do you prefer to communicate with Emerging Minds while we are working together: text message, email, phone call, video call or face-to-face?
- We will always pay you for your time and contribution.



While we're working together

Feeling comfortable

You are helping Emerging Minds with their work, and we hope you will get something out of this working relationship, too. Whether it's acknowledging the Country we're working on, thinking about where we are going to meet, considering how many breaks you need throughout the meeting, or thinking about how a room or space is set-up, it's Emerging Minds' job to help you to feel comfortable and culturally-safe when you're working with us.

- If any of the processes Emerging Minds uses are unfamiliar, uncomfortable or don't make sense to you, it's our job to help you understand what we will be doing and to make sure that it's a good experience for you.
- It is OK if you need to have your phone with you, so family can contact you while we are working together.
- We will try to make sure there's enough breaks for phone calls, toilet visits, food and drink, or to step outside for a bit – but if you need to take a break at any time, please let us know.
- We will always try to take the time that's needed for you to feel listened-to and understood when you are working on our projects.
- We don't expect you to share anything that you are not comfortable with, and we recognise that you may have cultural boundaries that you need to respect.
- Your confidentiality is important: we can discuss whether or not you want people to know that you have worked on a project.
- Different emotions and memories can be triggered when we're doing this work. Be kind to yourself and know that you can stop at any time, ask for support if you need it, or find a place that helps you feel grounded and safe.
- It is more important for Emerging Minds to take care of your needs before the needs of the project – we want you to feel heard and valued!

Administration

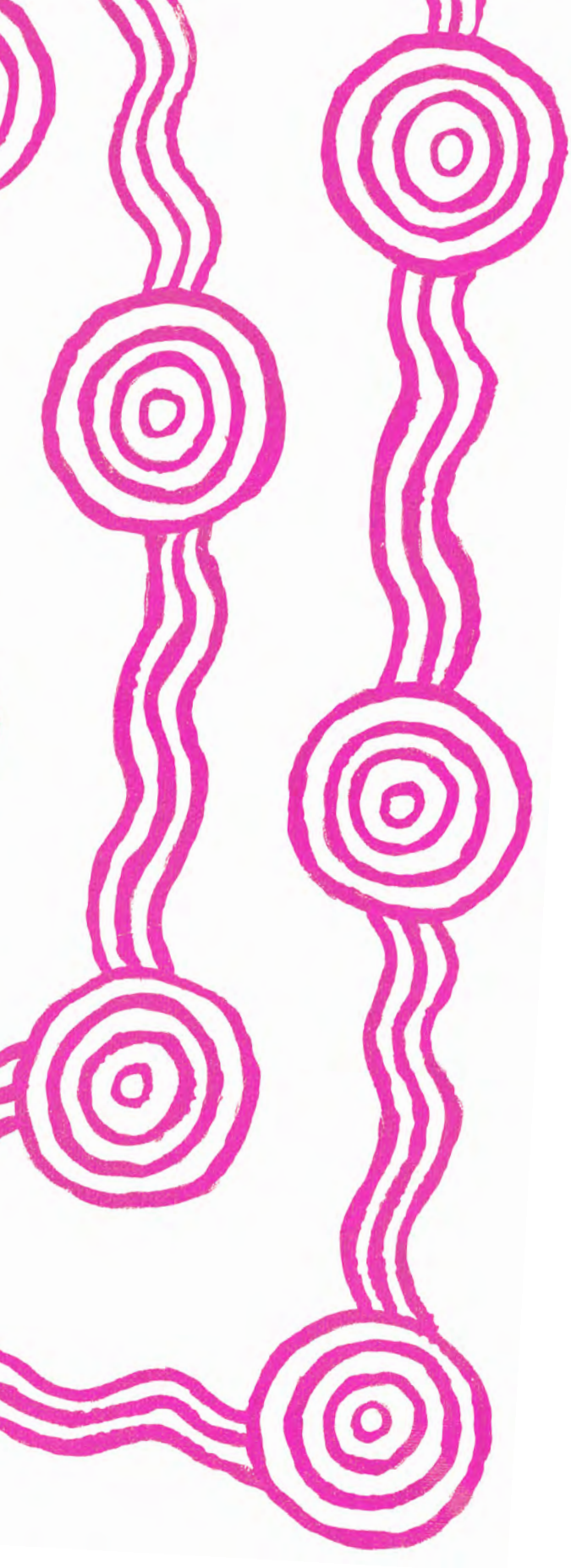
- Generally you will be paid within 14 days of working with us.
- Emerging Minds will sometimes need to complete paperwork with you for our records and processes. Forms we use might include remuneration and reimbursement forms, consent forms, or evaluations. We can help you understand and feel comfortable with what these forms are for, and we can also help you to fill these out if you would like.
- It's helpful for Emerging Minds to get feedback from the people we work with so we can keep getting better at what we do. We might ask you about your experience of working with us: we want to know what worked well, but also if there was anything you would want us to do differently next time. If you would prefer to write any feedback down, we can give you a form to return confidentially.

Recording video and audio

There are lots of things to think about when you are being filmed or recorded that Emerging Minds staff can talk through with you.

- Emerging Minds always uses professional camera people and video editors when we are filming or recording.
- We sometimes need to fill out forms to say it's OK for Emerging Minds to record sound or video to use in resources. If kids are being filmed or recorded, an adult who cares for them needs to fill out their form to say this is OK.
- Are there any cultural protocols that Emerging Minds needs to be aware of when filming or recording for this project?
- You can always say, 'No' to questions, or ask to stop recording at any time if you feel uncomfortable.
- It is OK if you want to have another go at saying something. What you've recorded can always be edited later on.
- It's important for Emerging Minds to understand if there is anything that you don't want used after you have been filmed or recorded, or if the recording should only be used in a certain context.





Later on

- It's our job to check-in with you after we have worked together, to make sure that you are feeling good about being involved.
- Emerging Minds have a list of things that you might find helpful as ideas or reminders for how you can look after yourself while you are doing this work: see our *Working with Emerging Minds as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lived experience advocate* document.
- We will also get back in contact with you to run drafts of work by you, and to show you the finished version of the work you have been involved with.
- There are people who you can yarn with before, during and after you are doing this work. At Emerging Minds you can talk with Rosie Schellen (0439 433 522) and Bec Edser (0438 163 287), or if you can't reach them you can call their manager Dan Moss (0438 387 431).



Artwork by Josie-Anne Wilson – Ngarrindjeri

'It's my story about the many years of struggles our people have overcome to maintain strong family connections of togetherness.'