

Aboriginal Learning on Country – connecting to land and more

The Project

Confidence. Ambition. Employment. Skills. Physical and mental health. Cultural connection. These are just some of the things that Aboriginal Learning on Country (ALOC) participants have reported gaining through the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB) NRM Board's natural resources management training and employment program.

The program, which began in 2008 at Calperum Station in the Riverland, has enabled over 70 Aboriginal community members to gain employment and qualifications in caring for Country, with many continuing on in successful careers and small business.

Participants have undertaken a range of on-ground works including pest plant and animal control, revegetation and nursery management, fencing, wetland management and threatened species surveys and monitoring.



Healthy relationships and outcomes

ALOC participants have commented that they have increased their connection to Country and gained a range of practical skills and qualifications that enable them to undertake specialised work. They have also brought together science and traditional knowledge, and become role models for young Aboriginal people. They are proud of themselves.

"We've got our knowledge that's been passed on from our elders...and to be able to combine that with the knowledge that I've gained from doing my training and doing conservation and land management...and you combine those two together and you've got something really special!"

Leon Dodd

Conservation Officer, Monarto Zoo, with Zoos SA



Partners

Gerard Community Council, Zoos SA, Ngopamuldi Aboriginal Corporation, Isaac Lindsay film maker and the SAMDB Natural Resources Management Board.

Where to from here

Continued support for the program will see new rangers trained, gaining skills and taking on new opportunities for employment in NRM.

"It's really the starting point that sort of jump started everything (for me)"

Kevin Kropinyeri

Coordinator, Raukkan Working on Country Program, Ngopamuldi Aboriginal Corporation



More information

For more information, contact Jem Tesoriero, Team Leader NRM Communities, Natural Resources SAMDB on 8532 9100 or jem.tesoriero@sa.gov.au, or check out the **ALOC video by Isaac Lindsay**.