



Teaching Artist Statement

Olman Walley



Who am I?

My name is **Olman Walley** and I am a Wilman, Balardong, Binjareb, Whadjuk Nyoongar.

I was raised in the Wilman (Wheatbelt) region and was taught Nyoongar culture by my family and Elders.

My Nyoongar name is Chitty Chitty (Willy Wagtail). Chitty Chitty is my family name.

I am a Traditional Custodian because I have a direct family connection to this place.

I am proud to share my culture. I love to share our stories, history, music, dance and knowledge of our wonderful ancient culture.

How do you become an elder?

My father is an Elder. Sometimes it's the eldest in a family, or when you have reached a certain age, when you have lived your life and are ready to take the responsibility and have the integrity to be an Elder.

As an Elder you live healthy, respecting the six seasons which connects to Country.

Being a Traditional Custodian

As a Traditional Custodian I have a responsibility to care for my Country. I have a direct connection to this land. I have the responsibility to be a caretaker of the land for many generations.



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Country

Nyoongar culture means family traditions and not just people. The land, food, waterways - all are important.

Music

In the video I sing a traditional family song and play the tuk bookarlin (tapping sticks). The song is a family song, only passed down to certain people of my family.

I also play the yidaki. The yidaki is not from this area. I learned to play it through practise and from my family.

Language

Our language is an oral language. It is not a written language. There are multiple dialects which affects the spelling of words. For example, the word Nyoongar can be spelled Nyungar, Noongar, Nyoongah or Nyungah.

Clothing

I am wearing a traditional cloak called a booka. It's made from yonga (kangaroo).

As a custodian of the land it signifies my connection to boodja (Country).

Boodja is everything to a Nyoongar person.

