

JODY BARNEY



Jody Barney is a Murri –South Sea Islander woman from Urangan (near Hervey Bay) with kinship to central Birri-Gubba mob and the Gurangi people of Barcaldine. For the last 25 years, Jody has been in Victoria where she has developed strong connections with many communities.

She has established these connections due to her extensive work as an Aboriginal Disability Cultural Safety consultant. She attributes these connections to working with families where there are numerous members who have various special needs and supports.

Jody's ability to work with community has seen her access 170 communities across Australia, and many in Victoria, doing the important work of growing the voices of people with disabilities and special needs...

Jody has participated and achieved leadership training from various leadership programs, however her experience in leadership spans across many industries in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous arenas. These combined leadership skills in education, employment, human rights, disability, women, and advocacy have given her a strong sense of leadership, which has only become stronger.

She was the first Deaf Aboriginal woman to present at local, state, national and international levels on the empowerment of Aboriginal people with disabilities, and she was also actively involved in many local, state and commonwealth advisory boards on the rights, dignity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities.

Jody has worked tirelessly on developing her leadership skills by completing her education over this period and realised a long-held dream when she gained her university degree – a Bachelor of Applied Management with the University of Ballarat. Jody has completed her MURRA Indigenous Business Mentoring program at University of Melbourne Business School, her qualifications in Work Health & Safety and Training and Assessing, her current role working with the National Disability Insurance Agency on "Getting it Right" to improve the access and knowledge for people with disabilities in the trail site of Barwon Victoria.

With a combination of academic and workplace skills and training Jody has provided a diversity in her leadership style, providing a variety of methods to improve the participation and leadership of others who are often ignored, or seen as expendable.

In addition to mentoring other Deaf Aboriginal people around the state, Jody provides leadership to local Aboriginal people with disabilities and is also an advocate for the rights of Aboriginal people at all levels in the community, government and community service fields.

Written by Victoria Fellowship in Indigenous Leadership