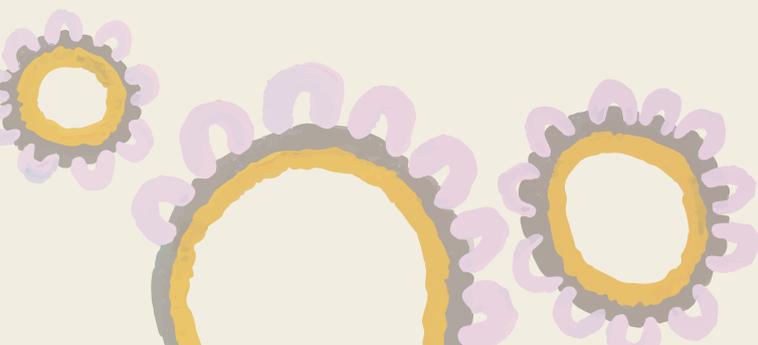
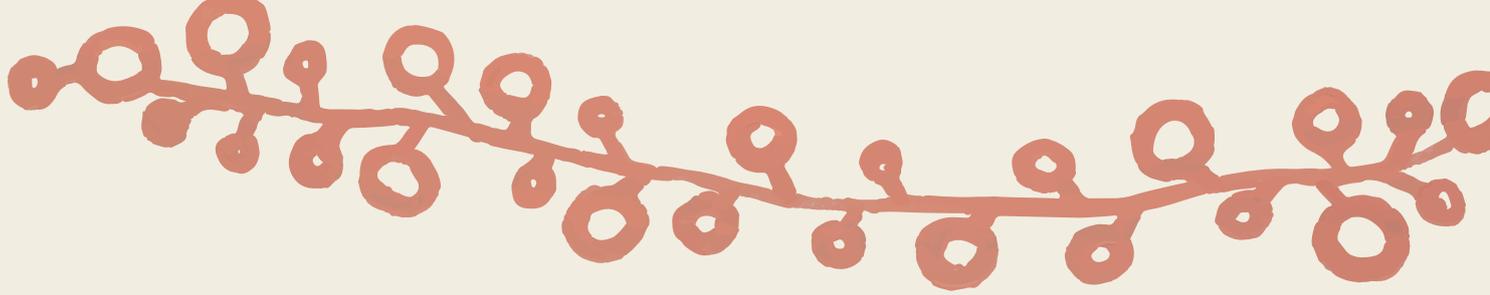


EMPOWERED COMMUNITY SERVICES

RAP ARTWORK

JASMINE CRACIUN





This artwork was such an incredibly pleasurable piece to work on as I found the people I met through Empowered Community Services had really wonderful goals they wanted to reach through the creation of their RAP. I found Empowered's RAP to be one of the most genuine heartfelt RAP documents I have had the honour of reading and I'm so glad that I got to be a part of their process - Well done.

Through the creation of this work I hoped to represent all the wonderful aspects and goals discussed within the Empowered RAP. The colour palette was based off the colours used by Empowered Community services marketing and branding. I feel the colour palette was also influenced by the interactions I had with the employees at Empowered and while visiting the sewing group. The blue and pastel tones to me translate a sense of calm, belonging, acceptance which is the personal experience I had while being introduced and shown around the Empowered Community Services HQ.

The two big symbols at the top of the artwork are the Aboriginal traditional symbols for people. These are the biggest feature of the artwork as I wanted to show that Empowered is a community and people based service. I wanted to show the two people in different colours portraying empowered as the blue and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, community and organisations in pink. They are facing each other to share and disperse cultural knowledge to make Empowered a stronger and better service to Aboriginal people and the local community as a whole. This is visualised in the surrounding yellow "blobs" connected by lines, These blobs of knowledge and culture help support both Empowered Community Services and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through a shared understanding and cultural collaboration.

To the right of these symbols are circles with the same people symbols gathered in a group. These represent Empowered Community Services supporting and helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to connect with the NDIS and get the support they need. I wanted this part of the work to feel like the people were a strong united group there to help one another. I hoped that painting a big group of people accessing this kind of support would be representative of the work Empowered is trying to do to break down stigmas about mental health and disability support within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Hopefully a large group of people gives the idea of this not being something you have to work through on your own and the way that Empowered and the NDIS can support and help you through struggles you may be dealing with. I also feel these circles of people together are a good representation of the group activities run by Empowered and the sense of community gained from those activities and group meetings.

The row of circles wrapping below the large people symbols represent Empowered community Services promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment within their company. This row of circles aim to portray Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at all levels of the company including those working their way through the traineeship program currently being organised by Empowered.

The lines crossing through the work are a contemporary take on the traditional art of my people the Barkindji people and their line work. In this work I see the lines representing a topographic map and the way that empowered is working across not only Newcastle but also the Hunter and Lake Macquarie. The coloured circles represent the many diverse people that are a part of Empowered Community Services, staff and participants and the positive effects of their work all across our local region.

I wanted the bottom plant to represent the steady and wonderful growth of Empowered as an important community service for those living with a disability. Each circle coming from the main stem of the plant represent Empowered Community Services meeting goals and changing lives for the better.

