



**The role of the First Nations guidance partner
Steven Kennedy – Convenor – Restorative
Justice Unit**



First Nations Guidance Partner (FNGP) Role

- The First Nations Guidance Partner (FNGP) is a support person for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) participants who are either the person responsible or person harmed.
- Any RJU case matter that includes First Nations participants will have at least one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Convenor or FNGP allocated.
- The FNGP provides support pre- and post-conference process.
- The extent to the FNGP's role depends on the needs of the First Nations participant.
- The FNGP liaises with the RJ Convenor to discuss the referral received, noting key issues, including whether the FNGP has prior knowledge about the person referred, who will make first contact with the participant/s, and then make a plan of action to progress the referral.
- The FNGP may be involved for initial contact only or may be play a role alongside the Convenor throughout the restorative process.
- If appropriate, the Convenor and FNGP will have several meetings to discuss the needs of the participant and debrief about the case. The FNGP will also be a part of suitability meetings to discuss and plan for the conference or indirect process. The FNGP may also follow up with the participant post-conference to provide aftercare as well as support the participant to complete tasks outlined within a RJ agreement.

Supporting the Conference Process

The FNGP performs a number of other duties as appropriate, including assisting the Convenor and the convening process by:

- making initial contact with the participant and providing information about the service to the participant;
- providing details about the family and community of the participant;
- assessing with the participant the level of support (if any) that they require and communicating this to the Convenor;
- liaising with Convenors to determine the most appropriate lines of communication with the participant;
- supporting the participant to meet with the Convenor;
- offering guidance to the Convenor as to how be culturally respectful and appropriate.

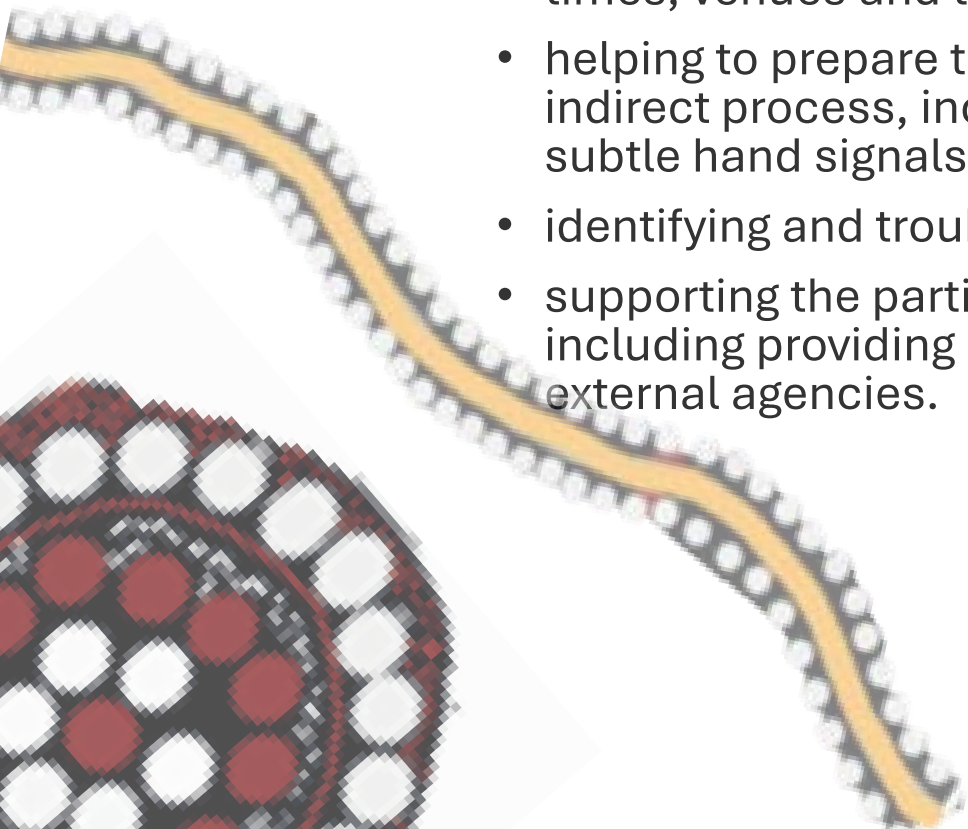




Supporting the First Nations participant

The FNGP can support the participant by:

- sourcing culturally appropriate supports for the participant as required and according to the participant's gender/age/guardianship,
- helping organise other practical and logistical arrangements about meeting times, venues and transportation to meet the participants needs,
- helping to prepare the participant to engage effectively within a conference or indirect process, including well-being checks throughout the conference with subtle hand signals,
- identifying and troubleshooting possible agreement arrangements, and
- supporting the participant to complete tasks outlined within a RJ agreement, including providing support to attend meetings and to follow-up referrals to external agencies.



Case study

- Police diversionary referral of property offence.
- Young woman involved in a car hijacking
- The people harmed had stopped to assist the young woman and her partner who had crashed their car. She and her partner stole the car and it was discovered later burned out.

What do you think would be the needs of the person harmed?

Needs of the person responsible

Needs of the people harmed



Questions/comments/
discussion points?