



Supporting culturally safe, continuity-of-care perinatal services for Yolŋu women and babies in East Arnhem Land.

What is a Djäkamirr?

A djäkamirr is a Yolŋu childbirth companion (First Nations doula). The word djäkamirr means 'caretaker'. Djäkamirr provide culturally grounded, non-clinical support to Yolŋu women across pregnancy, birth, and the postnatal period.

Why Djäkamirr Matter

Yolŋu women experience high rates of perinatal disruption, evacuation for birth, and culturally unsafe care. Continuity-of-care and culturally matched support are known to:

- Improve engagement with maternity services
- Strengthen communication and understanding
- Reduce stress during evacuation and hospitalisation
- Improve women's experiences of pregnancy and birth

What Djäkamirr Do

- ✓ Provide emotional, cultural, and practical support
- ✓ Speak Yolŋu Matha and support communication
- ✓ Provide comfort measures, ceremony, advocacy, and education
- ✓ Support women during sit-down, evacuation, hospital birth, and postnatal care
- ✓ Work across home, community, bush, and hospital settings

What Djäkamirr Do NOT Do

- ✗ Do not provide medical or clinical care
- ✗ Do not perform assessments or make clinical decisions
- ✗ Do not replace midwives, doctors, or interpreters

Clinical Safety & Governance

- All djäkamirr are trained through a nationally recognised Certificate II in Pregnancy, Birth & Postnatal Companionship
- All are insured and operate under a Djäkamirr Code of Ethics and Conduct
- Djäkamirr work collaboratively within multidisciplinary teams
- Ongoing mentoring is provided by the Womb to Tomb Foundation
- A djäkamirr supervisor is available 24/7 for urgent matters

Who Can Be Referred?

- Yolŋu women living in Galiwin'ku
- Yolŋu women travelling for sit-down or birth
- Women pregnant with a Yolŋu baby
- Yolŋu women requiring culturally safe perinatal support

How to Refer or Connect

To discuss a referral or work alongside a djäkamirr:

☎ Djäkamirr Coordinator: 0428 092 196

✉ djakamirrcoop@gmail.com

www.djakamirr.coop

ABN: 22 780 606 487 | ASIC NT Registration: COOP0021