



# Barry

From  
Australia

Lower Primary Story



Photo credits: Richard Wainwright





Can you think of a time when you have felt very sad, or you have lost something or someone who was very special to you? Hopefully you received the love and support you needed to get through this difficult time.





This is a story about Barry, a Gamilaroi man originally from western New South Wales, Australia.



Barry lives in Australia.



Where in Australia  
do you live?







Barry remembers life being very hard when he was young. He mostly lived with his grandparents and didn't have many friends.





When Barry became a dad he found it hard to make good choices.





Barry met Tom (pictured) who works with a group called 'Red Dust Healing', supported by Caritas. Tom helps people like Barry who feel sad or angry.



Who can you talk to if you feel sad or angry?





The Red Dust Healing program helps people find peace in themselves. It helps people understand why they are feeling hurt and angry and provides tools to talk about it.



Who can you do if you feel sad or angry? What tools do you have?





Through the program, Barry learnt to understand his feelings, to make good choices and to become the dad, he wanted to be.





Barry now runs Red Dust Healing workshops to help others make better choices for their future.



# Questions

1. Where does Barry live?
2. What made life hard for Barry?
3. What helped make things better for Barry?
4. How did Caritas Australia help?
5. How is Barry helping others?



# BARRY, AUSTRALIA

## Learning Tasks

### 1. Read the story book and discuss the questions.

*Curriculum: English: ACELY1650, ACELY1660, ACELY1670.*

**2. Pray.** As a class or individually, students write a prayer for the featured community.

**3. Act.** After reading the story, discuss different actions students can take to build a fairer world. For example. sharing their knowledge, making a donation, learning more. They might be prompted to change something in their daily lives as a result of something in the story, for example; including people in their games more often, wasting less food or carefully watering their gardens.

### 4. RE LINK: Loving our neighbours

Discuss: Why do we need to say sorry for the things we have done wrong?

### 5. Dreaming Dot Paintings

Students create their own dot painting depicting an original story from their Dreaming. Students should feel free to have their own style rather than copying others.

In this photo below, Barry's daughter, Isabella, is painting her own version of the rainbow serpent Dreaming. The 6 figures represent mountains, this is Isabella's interpretation. The rainbow serpent is curling through these obstacles trying to get to the highest point getting away after swallowing these 2 individuals. When they opened the stomach of the rainbow serpent 2 rainbow parrots fly out.



Find out more about Aboriginal Dot Painting as an art form:  
<https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/a-re-dot-paintings-traditional-aboriginal-art>

*Curriculum: Cross Curriculum Priority: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, Visual Art F-2: ACAVAM106.*

### 3. Each of us have strengths

Trees remind us about growth. Use the symbol of a tree to reflect on your own life. This isn't the same way that Uncle Tom uses the tree symbol, but the concept of a tree can be helpful to organise your thoughts.

Instructions: Draw a tree to help you think about your own gifts, talents and how the Holy Spirit works through you.

For example:

On the roots, draw/write things that are given to us to help us grow. These could be people (role models, people who inspire you).

On the trunk draw/write your name.

On the branches, add fruits- your talents and strengths. This is also how the Spirit works in us.

*Curriculum: Health and PE Foundation: ACPPS001, Year 1-2: ACPPS015.*