

TEREESA'S STORY (AUSTRALIA)

PRIMARY (F-2) PHOTO STORYBOOK

Photo credit: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



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End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity



This is Tereesa's story.



Tereesa is a proud Gamilaroi woman. She lives on Darug Country, in Western Sydney, Australia.



When Tereesa was younger, it was hard to find a home and raise her four young children by herself.



Then Tereesa found the support she needed when she joined the Young Mums and Bubs Group at Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation.



Baabayn means 'Ancestral Woman' in Gumbaynggirr language. The Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation is supported by Caritas Australia.



Baabayn provides a place of welcome, where Aboriginal people can connect with culture and have a strong sense of belonging so they can realise their potential.



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Through the Young Mums and Bubs Group, Tereesa made new friends. And she learnt art and craft!



She also listened to stories from Elders and reconnected with her culture.



Tereesa also learnt how to manage her money and was helped to find a home for her family.



She can support her children and help them know their culture and the support of their community.



Tereesa's art skills have flourished at Baabayn. She has sold her artwork at local markets.



“When I paint, every painting has a story. And my story is very long.”

Tereesa





Last year, Tereesa's art was displayed at the Vivid Light festival.



Vivid Light is an annual festival in Sydney that projects art onto buildings and pathways.



Tereesa had four artworks selected for the festival.
What an achievement!



"I've never been to Vivid. To have my artwork displayed is over the moon amazing! I never thought in a million years that this was something that would happen to me."

Tereesa





Tereesa started volunteering at Baabayn.



She was then offered paid employment with the Youth Group and is now an assistant to the Young Mums and Bubs Group.



As a former member, Tereesa understands what it is like to be in their shoes and can share what she has learnt with other young mums.



"I don't think I'd be the person I am today without Baabayn and being part of the mum's group."

Tereesa





With your support, the work of Baabayn can continue so that young mothers like Tereesa can keep their culture strong for future generations.

QUESTIONS

1. It was hard for Tereesa to raise 4 young children on her own. Where did Tereesa find support?
2. What kinds of activities happen at the Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation?
3. Why is art important to Tereesa?
4. How did Caritas Australia help?

