



Narrogin is one of nine areas taking part in the National Empowerment Program. Picture: Marc Simojoki

Town empowerment

■ Marc Simojoki

Local Noongar people attended a two-day workshop last Tuesday and Wednesday, with Narrogin being one of nine sites taking part in the National Empowerment Program.

Project co-ordinator Tjalaminu Mia said the workshop was the second step of the first stage of the one-year initiative.

Ms Mia said the program aimed to promote social and emotional wellbeing and reduce community distress in Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander communities.

"The National Empowerment Program was devised to aid the ability of empowerment within the town, family and community but also the extended families that live right across the Wheatbelt and throughout Western Australia," she said.

"The project is about empowering the self and understanding the dysfunction that is happening in the families, the reasons why Aboriginal people in this town are in a lot of ways acting

the way they are, the way they see the world and changing their thinking."

Ms Mia said the program hoped to help Aboriginal people deal with intergenerational trauma stemming from the stolen generation to other more contemporary issues affecting them, such as high suicide rates.

Local project co-ordinator Venessa McGuire said issues that had been brought up during the program in Narrogin included racism and injustice in the town, lack of services and division.