

# The Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative



## COOP CARD\*

**Location:** Sydney, New South Wales

**Year of foundation:** 1987

**N° of members:** 60

**Sector:** Aboriginal artists cooperative

**Key themes:** Identity recovering, indigenous peoples' empowerment, socio-economic inclusion



**AUSTRALIA**

## CONTEXT

*This text will be ready soon.*

## AUTHORS

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## COOP STORY

*This text will be ready soon.*



## HOW HAS THE COOPERATIVE CHANGED MEMBERS' LIVES?

- **Space for creativity:** It is a space where they feel free to express their own creativity, beyond any stereotypical classification of what Aboriginal art should be or not, as decided by the international tourism market;
- **Working conditions:** By exhibiting in the cooperative's art gallery, they have control over their artworks, they can earn more than they would in any other gallery, and they can avoid being exploited by intermediaries;
- **Networking:** The cooperative gives them the opportunity to find new job opportunities and better contracts;
- **Personal empowerment and inter-generational relationships:** It provides them the opportunity to increase their self-confidence and be inspired by older artists' members.

## SELECTED QUOTE

“Belonging to the cooperative is like medicine. It’s healing and it gave me identity”

Jeffrey Samuels – founding member



## KEY LEARNING POINTS

- The key role that cooperatives can play for indigenous peoples and artists as a means of healing and identity recovery.
- Cooperatives provide opportunities not only for economic but also cultural and social empowerment at individual and collective level.
- Cooperative members, through collective action, can have an opportunity to challenge current perceptions about their identity and culture, build their own individual and collective identity, and foster resilience.
- Cooperatives provide space for collaboration and learning across generations that foster the sense of belonging to a community.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

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