



## Dennis Simmons

### Consultant



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Dennis James Simmons is a Nyoongar man who is a Traditional cultural educator and a passionate community leader.

Dennis is a graduate of the Australian Business College; upon graduating he became employed in the Western Australian public service at:

- The Western Australia Police Service
- The Department of Employment and Training

Dennis successfully completed a Plant Machinery Operators course at Pundulmurra College (where he later worked as a Student Support Officer, providing academic and personal mentoring and guidance to students) in Pt Hedland and commenced work in the construction and mining industry.

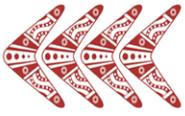
Dennis worked at the Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI) plant at Bodarie in Port Hedland for construction and civil company Thiess, constructing roads for the HBI plant; John Holland, the Major contractor for BHP, later employed him.

Dennis has extensive experience in the mining and construction industry and is qualified in:

- Dogging
- Rigging
- Scaffolding
- Elevated Work Platform (EWP)
- HR truck license
- Has a security license

Dennis, with his son's and family leads the dance group Maar Koodjal and has been teaching and performing traditional Aboriginal culture in schools throughout Perth for the past 15 years. In 2009, Dennis and his son Dennis Jnr performed at the World Festival in Malaysia.

In 2009, he sat on the Senate Select Committee on Regional and Remote Communities, with Nundjan (senior Noongar Elder). With the Waitch Project being recommended in the Final Report for improving Aboriginal mental health. Due to his significant involvement Dennis was elected as an inaugural Director of the Ken Colbung Cultural Activity Centre.



Dennis' achievements include:

- Graduating from the prestigious Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) School
- Performed theatre throughout Australia and Europe
- Hosting the award winning National Indigenous Television (NITV, Channel 180) program on Foxtel, Noongar Danjoo
- Written and directed a number of short films and corporate DVDs,
- Currently writing a feature film
- As an experienced film and television writer, director and presenter, Dennis was chosen to develop and host the Department of Drug and Alcohol's (DAO) training DVDs to raise awareness of the effects of drugs and alcohol in the Aboriginal community due to his life style choices as a non-drinker and non-smoker.

Dennis developed, wrote and presented a series of radio advertisements for DAO to inform the Aboriginal community on the change of laws and the effects of using cannabis and other drugs.

Dennis was a trainee lecturer at West Coast Institute of Training (formerly Tafe) in Joondalup, lecturing in Conservation and Land Management. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service.

Dennis is heavily involved in his community where he mentors and guides youth and others to improve their personal and professional lives. He is an outstanding role model.