



Ky-ya Nicholson-Ward is a 16-year-old Wurundjeri Dja Dja wurrung girl from Hampton Park, Melbourne and is currently completing year 11 at high school.

Through Netball Victoria's connection with the Korin Gamadji Institute, Ky-ya was selected to design the Melbourne Vixens' 2019 Indigenous dress. Ky-ya's mother, Mandy Nicholson is also an artist and together they share this passion for creativity and storytelling in Victorian Aboriginal artwork.

Through the creation of this dress, Ky-ya has helped showcase aboriginal culture and art in a positive way and has played a significant role in helping indigenous netballers feel proud of their culture. The dress features elements of Ky-ya's ancestry that she has learnt from her mother and her experiences as a young aboriginal woman. One of the most significant details is the script writing printed inside the neckline reading; "Ky-ya Nicholson-Ward" and "William Nicholson Senior (Pa)", in honour of Ky-ya's late lalal (grandfather) and in recognition of Ky-ya for the artwork design.

The dress is titled *Nallei jerring* (coming together).

The *Boorimul* (emu) footprints walk over the shoulder and across the *durrung* (heart) of the Vixens. These 10 footprints represent each player and resemble coming together and going on a journey and path. The emu does not step backwards, it only looks forward into the future.

The passing on of knowledge from generation to generation holds importance for Ky-ya and her family, and this is illustrated in the middle panel of the dress. The horizontal lines are placed in a way to represent this passing on of *ngagu* (knowledge) from generations.

The side panel features circles, this symbolizes how culture has no beginning or end. It illustrates the ripple effect culture has on people and how one person has the ability to give so much knowledge to the people they meet.

The triangle lines featured on the bottom half of the dress represent *balit* (strength), standing by each other and unity. The strength of standing together is powerful and like the Vixens team, we are stronger together.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Ky-ya Nicholson-Ward".

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