



Christine Burarrwanga and Lucy Van Sambeek have published a new children's book titled *The Life of Tree*

# Cultures collaborate

A PAIR of creative Territorians have teamed up to self-publish a children's picture book aimed at helping Aboriginal kids talk about their experience of domestic and family violence.

*The Life of Tree* is the result of a six-year friendship and collaborative partnership between a non-indigenous children's counsellor and a Yolngu artist.

The fictional story by Lucy

## DARWIN

### LITERATURE

Van Sambeek and Christine Burarrwanga invites children on a safe, metaphorical journey about the "storms of life".

Recognising the need for effective, culturally-safe therapeutic tools, Van Sambeek set about using her interest in

metaphors to create a story to help Aboriginal boys in particular express their emotions.

This book will appeal to anyone who cares for, lives with or works with Aboriginal children who have experienced trauma, such as social workers, psychologists, counsellors, case workers, domestic violence support workers, teachers, foster carers or family members. To celebrate the

release of *The Life of Tree*, the authors will be launching a crowd-funding campaign, to send free books out to communities across the NT, WA and Queensland.

The campaign and book will be released on Wednesday, March 1.

*The Life of Tree* will be available for purchase through the website [metaphoricallyspeaking.com.au/shop](http://metaphoricallyspeaking.com.au/shop).