

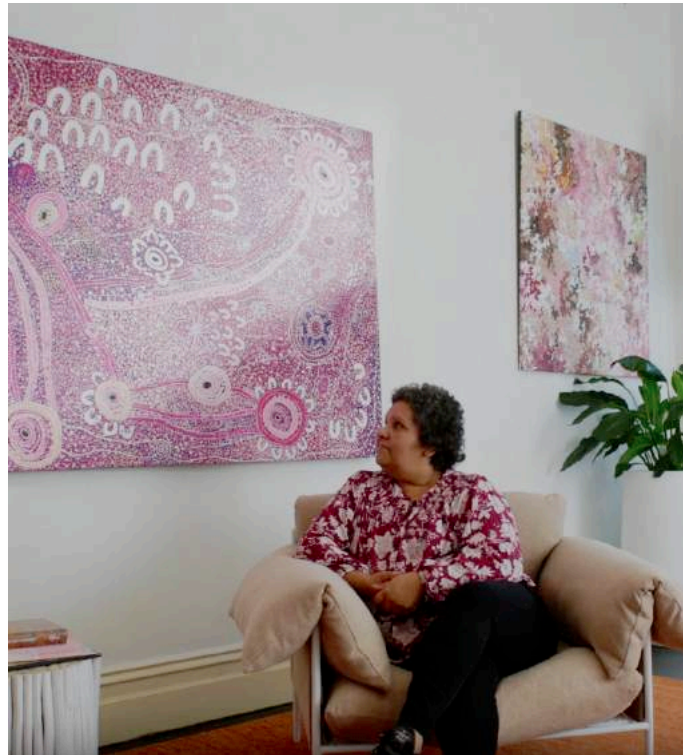


THE *emali* STORY

Through the artistic lens of Charmaine Pwerle.

The Emali Story, a collaboration between Emali Early Learning Centre and Pwerle.

Meet Charmaine Pwerle, a gifted artist hailing from the rich landscapes of Atnwengerrp, a part of the Utopia region, and a proud member of the Alyawarre/Anmatyerre language group. Her creative journey recently crossed paths with Emali Early Learning Centre through Pwerle. Emali's vision is to embed Aboriginal culture into their centres, expanding on their environment of inclusion and cultural appreciation.



[Pictured above, Charmaine Pwerle admiring her artwork created for Emali Early Learning Centre]

Charmaine, deeply rooted in her cultural heritage, was honored to be selected for this significant project. She embarked on the creation of a painting that would embody the essence of Emali's Early Learning Centres. Her art tells the story of their journey, from inception to expansion, interwoven with cultural elements. The result is a captivating artwork, resembling a map, not only pinpointing the centre's locations, but also highlighting the relationships that families form within these nurturing spaces.

In 2007, Emali opened their first centre in Salisbury, South Australia. With a vision and commitment to creating a safe place for young children to be inspired, develop and grow, the Emali community has rapidly expanded, now with 10 uniquely designed centres. These centres provide an inclusive culture and sense of belonging for families of all backgrounds, with more Emali centres on the way.

Locally owned and operated, Emali demonstrates values of safety, joy, growth, connection and kindness in every initiative to provide a holistic approach to early learning catering to each child's unique interests and developmental needs. An inspiring curriculum in the form of play-based learning is provided, seeing the children engage with a variety of different extra-curricular programs, activities and learning opportunities each day.

With a deep respect for all cultures, Emali set out to add further representation throughout the children's learning in their centres by embedding Indigenous perspectives with authenticity and integrity. By forming a remarkable partnership with Pwerle, Emali was introduced to Charmaine to create a captivating piece of artwork.

Emali and Pwerle have previously collaborated, with NAIDOC Week 2022 seeing children's workshops orchestrated at Westfield Marion. The children entered a vibrant journey, offering their young minds the chance to express themselves through painting on canvases while learning the narratives of traditional Aboriginal Dreamings.

Emphasising the importance of embedding Aboriginal culture into early learning centres was one of the core objectives of Jade Torres - Director of Pwerle. Early exposure to diverse cultures fosters understanding and respect, which contributes to the creation of a more inclusive society. The successful workshops laid the groundwork for a more extensive partnership, where both Emali and Pwerle continue share the common goal of integrating Aboriginal culture into Emali Early Learning Centre's curriculum.

Jade's Aunt, Charmaine Pwerle, being a loving mother of 5 herself, was the perfect artist to hero this new project. Her artwork is vibrant and engaging. The piece is designed to captivate young minds, enabling them to connect with Aboriginal culture from an early age. Her artistic creation is deeply influenced by her experiences as a parent, drawing inspiration from the profound connections she and her children formed with childcare centres. Her artwork captures the trust, joy, and mutual respect between staff and families, reflecting the rich friendships and lifelong bonds that often blossom in these centres.

This artwork represents Charmaine's first venture into creating art that isn't a traditional dreaming. It was created specifically for Emali Early Learning Centre, telling their story in an artistic way.

She embraced the project wholeheartedly, drawing from her own experiences. Charmaine used her artistic flair and traditional style to create a one-of-a-kind piece. The creative process began with a request for a map of Emali's childcare centres, allowing her to incorporate their locations into her artwork. She meticulously added roads to connect the centres, symbolising the connections they facilitate.

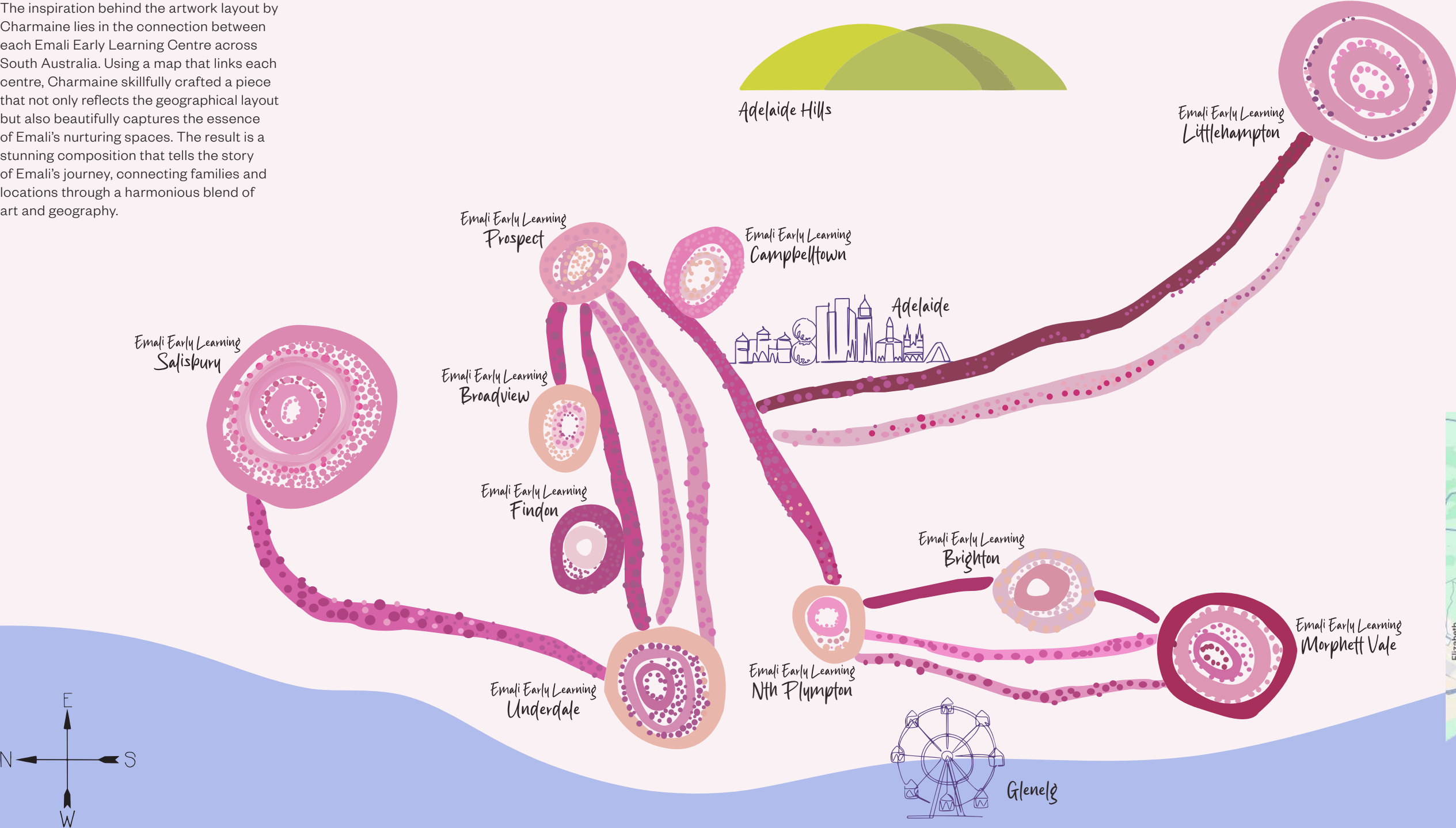
Her artwork features various elements, such as storytime, outdoor play, naptime, and meal time, mirroring the rich experiences children have in these centres. The interconnecting lines in the painting symbolise the strong bonds between families, staff, and children.

Charmaine takes immense pride in her collaboration with Emali. Her artwork serves as a conduit for sharing her culture and heritage with children who will view it daily. Knowing that young minds will learn about her culture and gain a deeper understanding of Aboriginal traditions fills her with pride.

She and the Pwerle team eagerly anticipate the moment her artwork graces the walls of all Emali's early learning centres, symbolising their continuing commitment to cultural inclusion. The artwork stands as a source of pride, not only for her and Pwerle, but for everyone who will have the privilege of experiencing it within Emali's centres.



The inspiration behind the artwork layout by Charmaine lies in the connection between each Emali Early Learning Centre across South Australia. Using a map that links each centre, Charmaine skillfully crafted a piece that not only reflects the geographical layout but also beautifully captures the essence of Emali's nurturing spaces. The result is a stunning composition that tells the story of Emali's journey, connecting families and locations through a harmonious blend of art and geography.



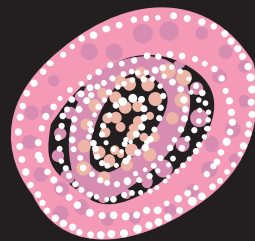
Salsbury Centre.



Morphett Vale Centre.



Prospect Centre.



Littlehampton Centre.



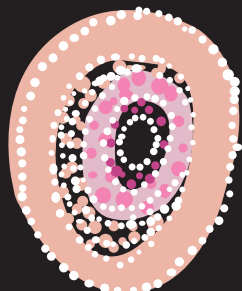
Campbelltown Centre.



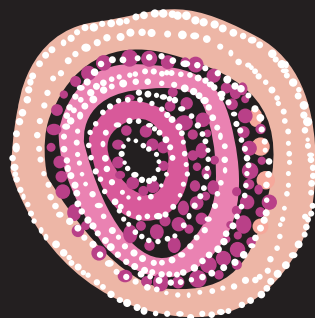
Findon Centre.



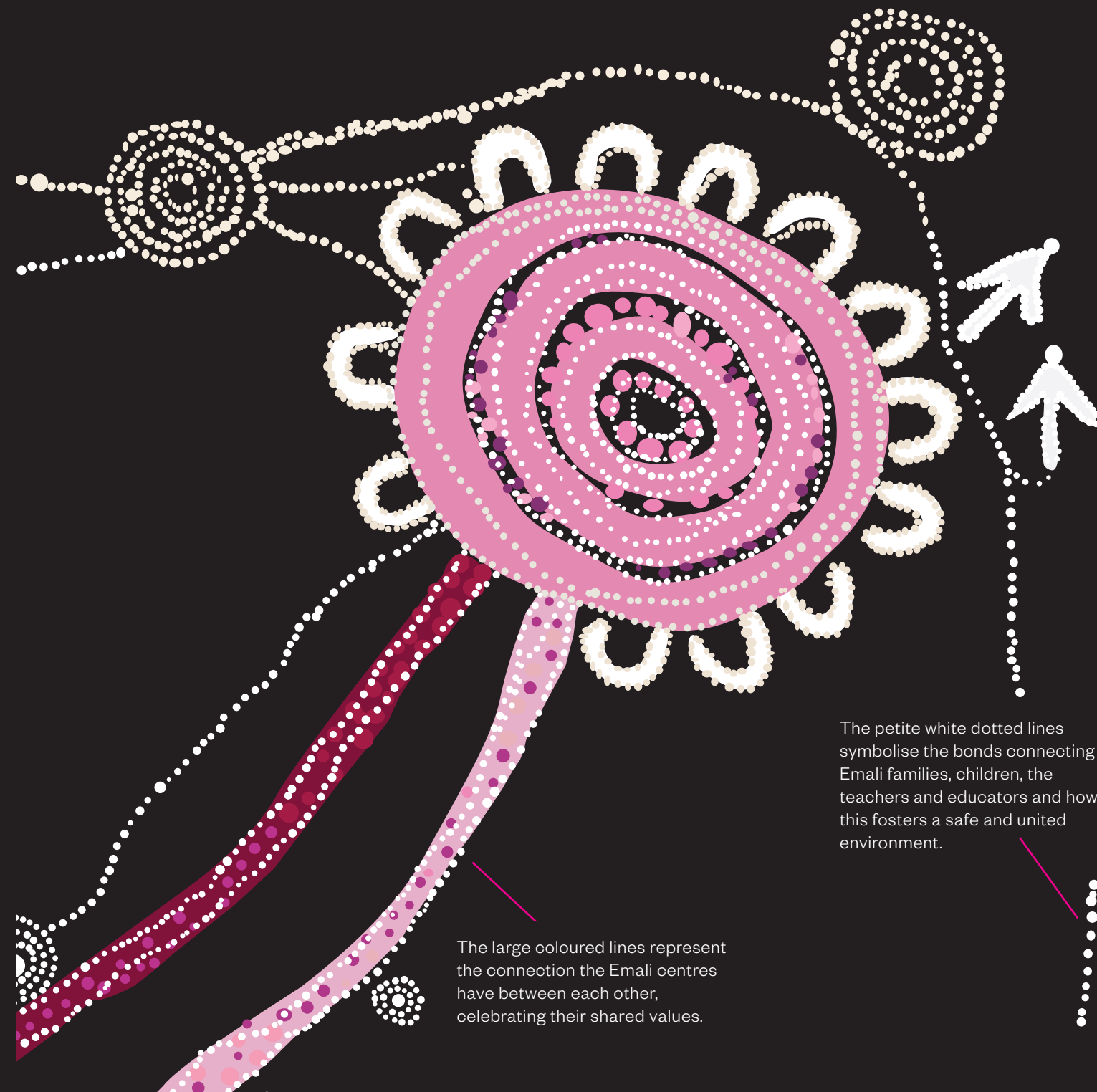
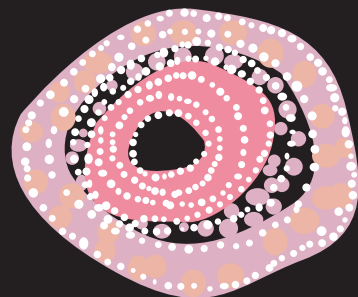
Broadview Centre.



Underdale Centre.



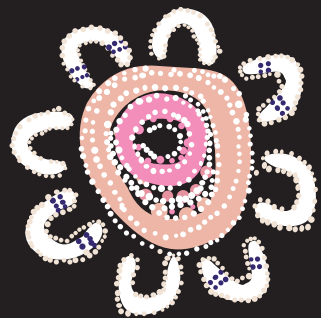
Brighton Centre.



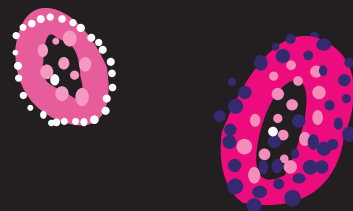
The petite white dotted lines symbolise the bonds connecting Emali families, children, the teachers and educators and how this fosters a safe and united environment.

The large coloured lines represent the connection the Emali centres have between each other, celebrating their shared values.

North Plympton Centre.



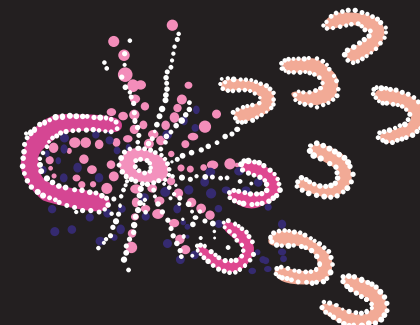
Serving plates of food to children.



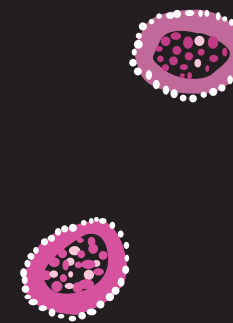
Parents + Guardians of the children.



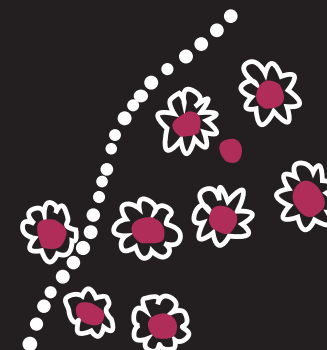
Teachers reading books to children.



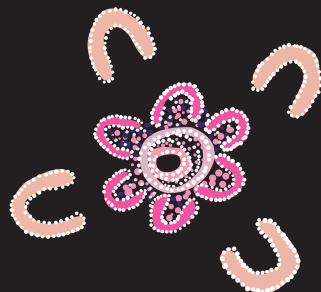
Serving plates of food to children.



Flowers in Emali gardens.



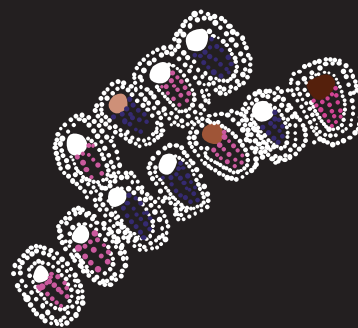
U-shapes are children seated, participating in activities with Emali educators.



Children playing under sheltered areas outside.



Babies swaddled in their blankets, safe and sound in their cots.



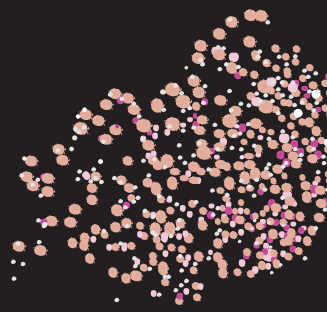
Chook tracks.



Rabbit Tracks.



Tan colour represents the sandpit that the children play in.



Emali Directors.



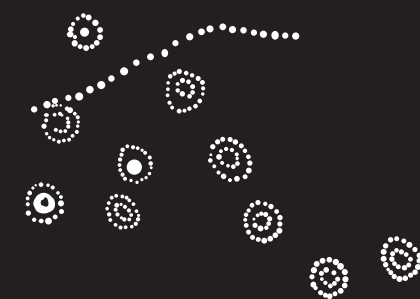
Toddlers having an afternoon nap.



Parents and Guardians of the children.



Children's toys.



Children playing together, forming friendships. The lines represent them holding hands.



Children playing ring-a-ring-a-rosie.





Charmaine Pwerle brought her artistic flair and traditional style to create a bespoke artwork that beautifully tells the Emali story. Unlike her other artworks, based on traditional dreamings, this piece is all about families and the important role childcare plays in their lives. It's a heartfelt tribute to inclusivity and cultural richness.



Pictured above, the Emali Early Learning centre at Salisbury, showcasing the Bush Tucker Garden. The garden includes Native basil, Pepperberry, Saltbush and Native Thyme. The children are able to wander through the garden and immerse themselves in the culture. Emali Teachers and Educators use the garden within their curriculum to create learning opportunities, and centre chefs occasionally include the herbs in meals prepared for the children.



For NAIDOC week 2022, Mariah Akamarre's dreaming 'Awelye' was featured in Westfield Marion as part of their activation. In addition to the incredible installation, Emali and Pwerle Gallery collaborated to hold children's workshops, where children were immersed in the Aboriginal culture. They had the opportunity to paint their own canvases and listen to traditional dreaming stories from the Pwerle team.



PWERLE
ABORIGINAL ART GALLERY