

Ayr State School

Kaiar Ama (Crayfish Mother)

This wearable artwork represents the Torres Strait crayfish, a creature of great cultural and economic importance.

The blue colours symbolise the waters of the Torres Strait. For many young children, crayfish diving with fathers, grandfathers, uncles and cousins was a way to learn and connect. Beneath the surface, they discovered an underwater rainforest—green reef beds, white coral sand, brown seaweed and the many colours of living sea creatures. These sights became treasured memories carried throughout their lives.

The gold colours reflect the wealth and support the crayfish industry has brought, helping families and communities remain strong. Diving is more than work—it is tradition, pride and knowledge. Divers are strong providers with a deep understanding of the reefs, tides, weather and landmarks. Their boats carried them across the sea and, as

they returned home, created a powerful link between sea, sky and land. In this way, they were not only fishers, but also caretakers, moving between the elements and holding responsibility for all.

Equally, within homes and communities, if the father is the provider, then the mother is the giver and sharer of what is provided. She ensures the catch sustains the family, that resources are shared, and that cultural values are passed on through care and generosity. Together, father and mother roles balance one another—providing and sharing, sustaining and nurturing.

Through its colours and form, this artwork celebrates memory, resilience and culture. It honours crayfish divers as proud providers and guardians, while also recognising the mothers who strengthen families through sharing and care.

Kaiar Ama (Crayfish Mother) 2025

Leandra ANTHONY, Shirley BERO-GEORGE, Xavier CROSSLEY,
Peggy DEMPSEY, Danielle GELA, Jaxsyn PEARCE, Shai-Tay TAHANA (Model), Sage WILLIAMS.
Denim, beads, air-dry clay, cotton and polyester, recycled plastic, florist wire, glitter,
pipe cleaners, button, fake flowers, paint, glue, styrofoam.



