

# Notre Dame Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series



*A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994*

## 'Developing and adapting an early years literacy program for Aboriginal communities'

**Date:** Wednesday 23rd September 2020

**Venue:** UNDA Hall NDB10/101

**Time:** 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Also available via Zoom: <https://notredame-au.zoom.us/j/92816382788>

Passcode: **428613**



**Presenter:** Mystique Dia and Deb Hannagan

### Abstract

Through an innovative initiative, local Aboriginal organisation Waardi Limited partnered with Monash University and schools across the Kimberley region to develop an early year's literacy program. The Literacy Acquisition for Pre-primary Students (LAPS) program aims to provide the best start to children's literacy learning at school, integrating the aspirations of Traditional Owners, schools, families, and government. Our approach involves upskilling and building the capacity of teachers, support staff, and families to meet the needs of all children through strength-based, engaging strategies. The program continues to evolve based on research, reflection, and feedback from key stakeholders.

## Biography

### Debra Hannagan (Torres)

Debra Hannagan has over 15 years' experience in Aboriginal education, including teaching, specialist and leadership roles in remote schools and in Broome. She has worked as an Early Years Literacy Specialist with Waardi Limited since the pilot of the Literacy Acquisition for Pre-primary Students (LAPS) program in 2014. Debra is passionate about supporting students learning English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D). Her expertise in this in this area is enhanced through an EAL/D accreditation and Postgraduate studies in Applied Linguistics.

### Mystique Dia

Mystique Dia is a Nyul Nyul woman raised in Broome. She joined Waardi Limited as an Early Years Literacy Specialist with Literacy Acquisition for Pre-primary Students (LAPS) program in 2017, facilitating the expansion of the program. She has delivered LAPS as a classroom teacher in Broome and brings a wealth of knowledge of Aboriginal education to the role. Mystique is passionate about research-informed literacy education and bringing trauma-informed practice to the classroom.

