

Notre Dame
Nulungu
Talking Heads
Seminar Series



A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

'Foundations of Cultural Competency'

Date: Wednesday 31st March 2021

Venue: The Hall (NBD10/101)

Time: 12.00pm-2.00pm



Presenter: Cissy Gore-Birch

Senior Executive Manager – Aboriginal Engagement, Bush Heritage
Australia & Chairperson of Balangarra Aboriginal Corporation.

Abstract

Being born and bred in Wyndham, I have had the privilege to see Wyndham in its prime - the meat works in was in operations, the town booming with events and activities for all, individuals, families and community members participated and engaged. I felt safe and a part of a broader community.

When I was 17 years old, my first official job was with the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley, and the past 30 years I have had the privilege of working in various positions within the NGO, Govt & ENGO sectors, and sat on many boards and committees. During these times I found myself constantly being challenged and reminded of the lack of cultural competency the service providers and organization have working with Aboriginal people.

If we are serious about closing the gap', we need to be more culturally capable and competent as individuals and as service providers and organizations. This is where my passion is and this is what I choose to challenge.

Biography

Cissy Gore-Birch is a Jaru and Kija woman, of the East Kimberley Region. Cissy is a mother of 5 and now resides in Kununurra. Cissy has a background in environmental protection , land conservation and Native Title. Cissy has been working in this field for over 15 years holding a Graduate Diploma in Natural Resource Management. Cissy is currently employed with Bush Heritage Australia, the Chairperson of Balangarra Aboriginal Corporation and a business owner.

Through the love of sport and the development of communities across the Kimberley region Cissy continues to engage with sport and other forums encouraging inclusion and equity. Cissy is the only Aboriginal woman of the Kimberley region with accredited Australian League Football Umpiring credentials. Cissy paves the way in officiating AFL games in the Kimberley taking the lead in pushing equity in a male dominated field. As well as umpiring Cissy engages with many other sports as a player and or volunteer.