

# Notre Dame Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series



*A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994*

## Improving Dementia Services for Remote Dwelling Aboriginal People: Report from a Churchill fellowship

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018

12:30 – 1:30pm

### Cathryn Josif

This research project was inspired by a want to improve dementia services for Aboriginal people residing in remote Aboriginal communities throughout Australia. The award of the Bob and June Prickett Churchill Fellowship enabled my travel to London, Phoenix Arizona, Ontario Canada and Aotearoa. I visited researchers, service providers and communities to explore the provision of dementia services to remote Indigenous populations. This presentation describes the services and researchers I visited, what I learned and how my experiences can be used to improve dementia services for Aboriginal people in remote Australia. The aim of my fellowship was to improve dementia services for remote dwelling Aboriginal people. Dementia rates are increasing nationally and the burden of disease affects those with the condition and their families in many ways. Australian Aboriginal people over 45 years are 3- 5 times more likely to be diagnosed with dementia than the non-Aboriginal population. Australian researchers have conducted landmark studies into the development of a culturally appropriate screening tool for dementia in Aboriginal people and tested different service delivery models for older remote-dwelling Aboriginal people and their caregivers. However, these have not been widely adopted. This project enabled me to explore dementia services and research in Indigenous populations in similar contexts.

Cath Josif RN, RM, CHN, PhD (submitted) and Churchill Fellow has lived most of her life in rural and remote Australia. She has worked with Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory and Western Australia as a RAN and researcher in community-based participatory action research projects across the lifespan. She was a researcher on the 1+1= A Healthy Start to Life project recognised in the NHMRC 10 of the Best Research projects 2014. She is now the Assistant Dean and Coordinator of Enrolled Nursing/Bachelor of Nursing Articulation Pathway, Kimberley Rural Health Alliance, Notre Dame, Broome.

Cath's Churchill Fellowship aimed to improve dementia services for remote dwelling Aboriginal people.

**Venue:** The University of Notre Dame Australia, Behind the screen building (NDB11), 88 Guy Street, Broome

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