

Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series

In the Face of Overwhelming Evidence, Let's Get Real

June Oscar AO, Marninwarntikura Fitzroy Women's Resource Centre Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM, University of Sydney

June Oscar and Elizabeth Elliott have worked together for many years on the Lililwan project, which is recognized as the most comprehensive survey into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) ever undertaken with Indigenous people anywhere in the world. June is a Bunuba woman from the central Kimberley region, where she is CEO of Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre. Liz is Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Sydney Medical School and the Children's Hospital at Westmead in Sydney. She is recognised as a world authority on FASD. The Fitzroy FASD study is a collaboration between Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre, Nindilingarri Cultural Health Services in Fitzroy Crossing, the University of Sydney and the George Institute.

In 2007 the women of the Fitzroy Valley embarked on a courageous journey of societal recovery and restoration. They reversed the conversation on alcohol. The destructive impacts of drinking could no longer be confined to false arguments of the right to buy, or blaming individual irresponsibility. The women's campaign to restrict the supply of alcohol was driven by a belief that this behaviour should not be normalised. They knew that the revitalisation of cultural practices and interconnected structures of family support and care was vital to empowering today's community.

In this Talking Heads seminar, June Oscar and Liz Elliott combine medical science, history and community justice into a narrative which challenges accepted societal norms. Their story presents the evidence and refreshing perspectives on how to empower people. Fitzroy Crossing is on a journey of creating a holistic, collaborative model of service delivery with wrap around health and educational supports for families and their children. As this model is constructed and positive changes made, June and Liz see in the lives of children and families today, a vibrant and healthy future.

Wednesday, 25th November 2015, 12:30pm – 1:30pm Venue: Library, University of Notre Dame, 88 Guy Street, Broome