



Notre Dame
Nulungu
Talking Heads
Seminar Series

A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

**'Finding Country, Finding Home - How Elders are Experiencing Aged Care in the
Kimberley'**

Date: Wednesday 27th October 2021

Venue: NDB11 Lecture Room 13
88 Guy Street, Broome

Time: 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Also available via Zoom: <https://notredame-au.zoom.us/j/86470211588>

Password: 909705



Presenters: Dr Holly Farley and Anna Dwyer

Abstract

The aged care system in the Kimberley faces a unique set of challenges, and contends with a very big responsibility; that is, caring for Aboriginal Elders at a stage in their lives when their communities and families can no longer care for them.

The very strong connection that senior Aboriginal people maintain to both Country, and to their extended families, underpins their wellbeing. The challenge for the sector is how to maintain this sense of connectedness, via the built environment and/or via programs that diminish the potential sense of social isolation that residents might experience.

In this presentation we will present preliminary insights into how Aboriginal Elders are experiencing Aged Care facilities in the Kimberley, both as a physical space that offers them care, but also as potential places where their sense of connection to Country and to kin can be maintained.

This project has been funded by The University of Notre Dame Research Grant Scheme.

Biography

Holly Farley

Dr Holly Farley is an applied qualitative researcher, co-design facilitator and passionate educator. Holly researches people's lived experience of the built environment. She undertakes collaborative research with community, industry and interdisciplinary partners.

Holly is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the School of Arts and Science at the University of Notre Dame, Australia. Her current industry linked, interdisciplinary national project explores the lived experience and architectural design of residential aged care facilities to inform future architectural design of aged care environments. She is also engaged in co-design and co-research with regard to Aboriginal spatial practises, both in the domestic and public realms.

Holly's PhD research explored cultural expression through sociocultural spatial use patterns within remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia. Her thesis also reconsidered how academic research can be used within the professional domain of architecture in the provision of housing with respect to sociocultural spatial use. In doing so, Holly has developed a novel visual consultation co-design method, The House Game. The House Game is a method that allows members of Aboriginal communities to collaborate with the researcher to visually map sociocultural spatial use in the context of both existing Anglo-Australian housing typologies and in the collaborators' ideal house.

Anna Dwyer

Anna Dwyer is an award-winning Researcher and Associate Lecturer at the Nulungu Research Institute at the University of Notre Dame Australia's Broome Campus. She is a Karajarri Woman from Karajarri Country, 190kms South of Broome in the West Kimberley region of Western Australia. Anna's professional background is in Education and Linguistics. Anna has been a Cultural Educator and Researcher with the Nulungu Research Institute for 13 years. She is currently enrolled in a Master's Degree by Research through the School of Arts & Sciences. As Associate Lecturer she has taught in the Indigenous Studies and Diploma of Nursing programs, on topics including Relationship to Country, Kinship, Language and Cultural protocols. Anna continues to represent her people through her research on issues of Law and Culture, Health and Climate Change.