



# ISABELLE ADAMS

**COORDINATOR**

**KULUNGA ABORIGINAL RESEARCH UNIT**

## ISABELLE'S RESEARCH

Mara West and I share the KARDU Coordinator role, which involves providing support and assistance to researchers working in areas of Aboriginal health research.

I began my working career as an early childhood teacher, and moved into education research. For my Master of Education, I conducted a research project focusing on sexism in pre-primary centres, which was the topic of my dissertation. I looked at how sexism was developed in pre-primary children and how pre-primary programs and teachers facilitated or intervened to decrease and/or eliminate the development of sexism.

I then turned my attention to my other great passion - health. As an independent consultant, I conducted consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia for several years on the development of national Aboriginal health promotion materials and resources.

## ISABELLE'S PEOPLE

I'm Gurindji (Northern Territory) and Wuthuti (Cape York Peninsula, Queensland).

## WHAT DRIVES HER

In the health industry, Aboriginal people tend to be the group most researched in Australia, often by researchers who have limited knowledge, understanding and experience of the diversity of Aboriginal culture, knowledge systems, traditions and lifestyles.

By building the capacity of our Aboriginal health researchers and other researchers working in Aboriginal health, we can help improve this situation, bring a different perspective to how Aboriginal health research is conducted, and assist the involvement of Aboriginal communities in research.

## HER INSPIRATION

Two women in particular have inspired me to achieve. One is my great grandmother who was my role model until her passing when I was nine years old. She told me that I was clever and could achieve provided I worked for it and didn't give up. The other woman is my mother, who made a lot of sacrifices for her children and encouraged us to finish school and get a good education so we could have opportunities to better our life situation. My mother only got to go to school until Grade 6, so my career in education research has had extra meaning to me in that way.

