

# Making FASD History in the Pilbara

## Service Provision and FASD in Port Hedland: An Environmental Scan



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# 1 Background

## 1.1 Alcohol Use

Alcohol consumption in Australia is a societal and cultural norm, and even while the apparent per capita consumption of alcohol in Australia (Figure 1) has been in decline from 2009 to 2014 (ABS, 2015), in 2010 some 7.2 per cent of Australians were drinking on a daily basis and more than a third (39.5 per cent) drank at least weekly (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2011).

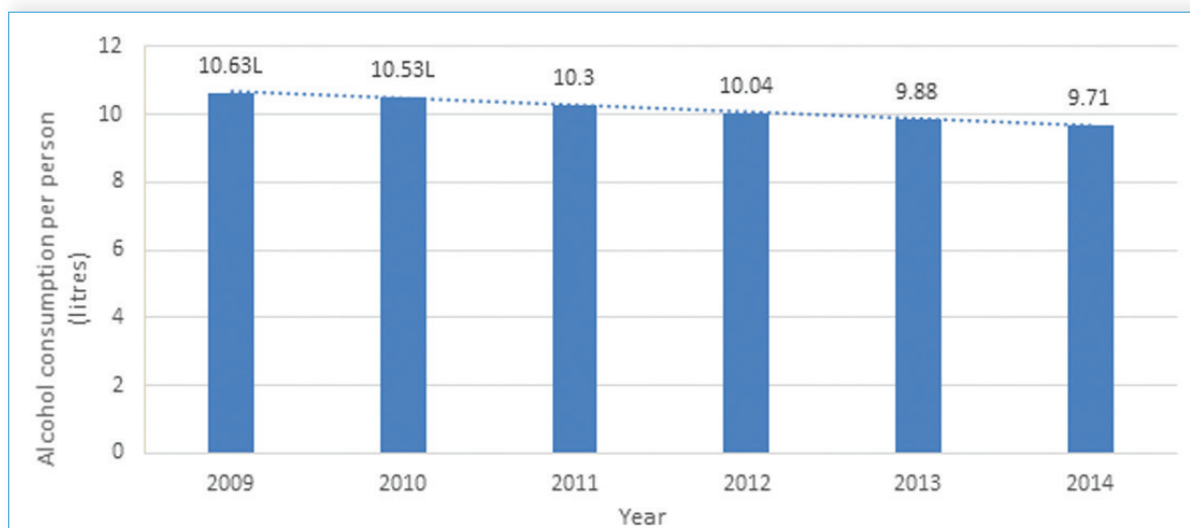


Figure 1. Per capita alcohol consumption in Australia; 2009 to 2010.

The lifetime and single-occasion health risks associated with alcohol consumption as defined by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC; 2009) show that associated risks are compounded by Aboriginality and geography. As can be seen in Figure 2, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to show high lifetime and single-occasion health risks.

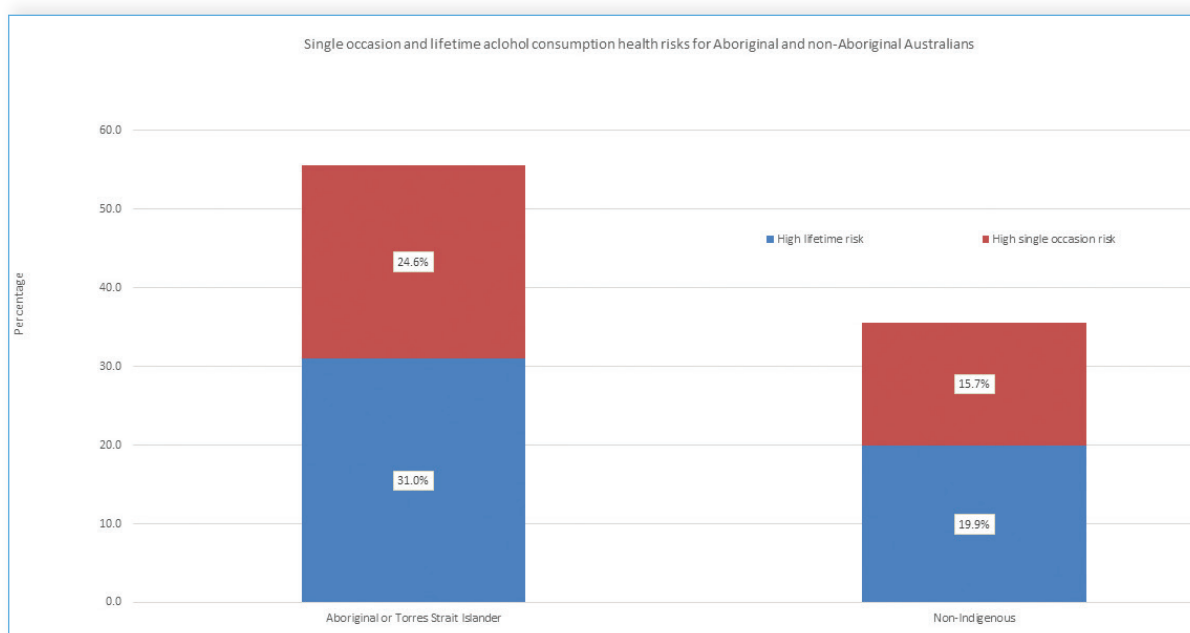


Figure 2. Alcohol consumption health risks; Aboriginal and non-Indigenous Australians.



Additionally, residents of outer regional areas and remote or very remote locations in Australia are more likely to have high levels of risk associated with lifetime consumption and single-occasion consumption (Figure 3).

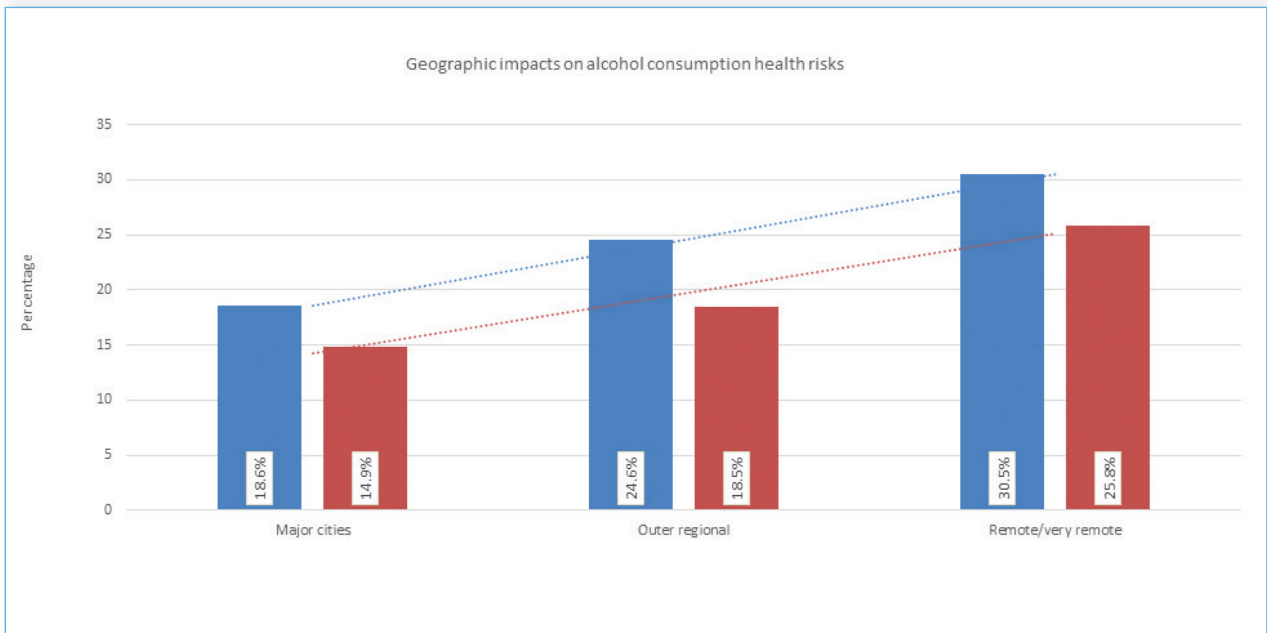


Figure 3. Geography and alcohol consumption health risks.

## 1.2 Alcohol use in Pregnancy and FASD

Alcohol is teratogenic and its use in pregnancy can result in multiple health issues (for example miscarriage, prematurity, birth defects) and also Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). FASD is an umbrella term referring to physical and cognitive impairments that may result from fetal exposure to alcohol, and includes Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), partial FAS and Neurodevelopmental Disorder -Alcohol Exposed. FASD is associated with birth defects of the brain and nervous system, kidneys, heart, lungs, eyes and ears; characteristic facial features; and poor growth. Developmental, behavioural, learning and motor problems are common, particularly low IQ and problems with academic achievement, executive functioning, attention/hyperactivity, language, sensory perception, hearing and vision. FASD are permanent disorders and long-term outcomes are poor (Streissguth et al, 2004).

As per the 2009 NHMRC guidelines for women who are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or who are breastfeeding, not drinking is considered to be the safest option. Despite these recommendations, and a growing awareness of the risks associated with prenatal alcohol consumption, international studies have indicated that up to 53 per cent of pregnant women consumed alcohol during the first trimester or at some point in their pregnancy (see de Chazeron et al, 2008; Nykjaer et al, 2014; Chambers et al, 2014). In Australia, the Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW) reports that while the proportion of pregnant women abstaining from alcohol use increased between 2010 and 2013, more than 50 per cent of women consumed alcohol before realising they were pregnant, and up to 25 per cent continue to drink once aware of their pregnancy (AIHW, 2015).

While the risk of FASD is not specific to any one group or geography, Australian data suggests that almost 90 per cent (89.5%) of FASD cases identified between 1980 and 2010 were Aboriginal. Further, 82.9 per cent of mothers of affected children resided in a rural area at the time of the birth. These results are consistent with the AIHW rates of lifetime and single-occasion alcohol consumption risks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and people living in rural or remote areas.

### 1.3 The Hedland FASD Strategy

Initiated in 2015, the Hedland Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Project (the Hedland FASD Project) was developed to address both a growing community concern and evidence from other North Western Australian communities that FASD might be an increasing issue in the Hedland area.

Working with existing Hedland services and communities, the project aims to build an evidence base of what works in preventing FASD and assists in supporting children and families affected by FASD, in a locally contextualised manner. To this end, the study specifically aims to:

1. Identify rates of alcohol use in pregnancy using AUDIT-C data routinely collected by midwives during antenatal care;
2. Reduce the rates of alcohol use in pregnancy among local Aboriginal women; and
3. Increase the capacity of the local community and services to care for and support individuals and families affected by FASD.

Funded by BHP Billiton, the Hedland FASD Project is utilising a Community Participatory Action Research and a mixed methodological approach to develop and trial programs, strategies and activities aimed at preventing FASD and increasing support available to children and families dealing with FASD. This approach involves a number of steps, including:

1. Establishing a governance structure that will facilitate comprehensive and meaningful engagement of partners, stakeholders and communities;
2. Employing a community-based participatory research methodology that empowers community partners, community leaders and community members in designing, implementing and evaluating the Hedland FASD Project;
3. Establishing baseline data collection processes using the AUDIT-C questionnaire, medical records and Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices surveys;
4. Conducting formative research and community scoping to confirm the specific features and implementation processes of the Hedland FASD Project;
5. With partners, stakeholders and community groups, designing, piloting, and evaluating FASD prevention and support strategies; and
6. Evaluating the impact of the overall project on rates of pregnant women abstaining from alcohol during pregnancy and changes in effectiveness of support for children with FASD, as well as secondary outcomes.



*The current report provides a background and context to the proposed work in this project by outlining the current services available in the region, and in particular those explicitly or implicitly related to treatment and prevention of FASD. The project team acknowledge the importance and strength of existing services and stakeholder commitment to reducing the harm caused by FASD in Hedland and the Pilbara more widely.*

## 2 The Pilbara Context: Geography and Demography

The Pilbara Region is located in North Western Australia, and encompasses some 507,896 square kilometres (PDC, 2015). The region consists of four Local Government Authorities (LGAs) including the:

- Shire of Ashburton;
- City of Karratha;
- Town of Port Hedland; and
- Shire of East Pilbara.

Major towns in the region include Port Hedland, South Hedland, Karratha, Newman and Tom Price.

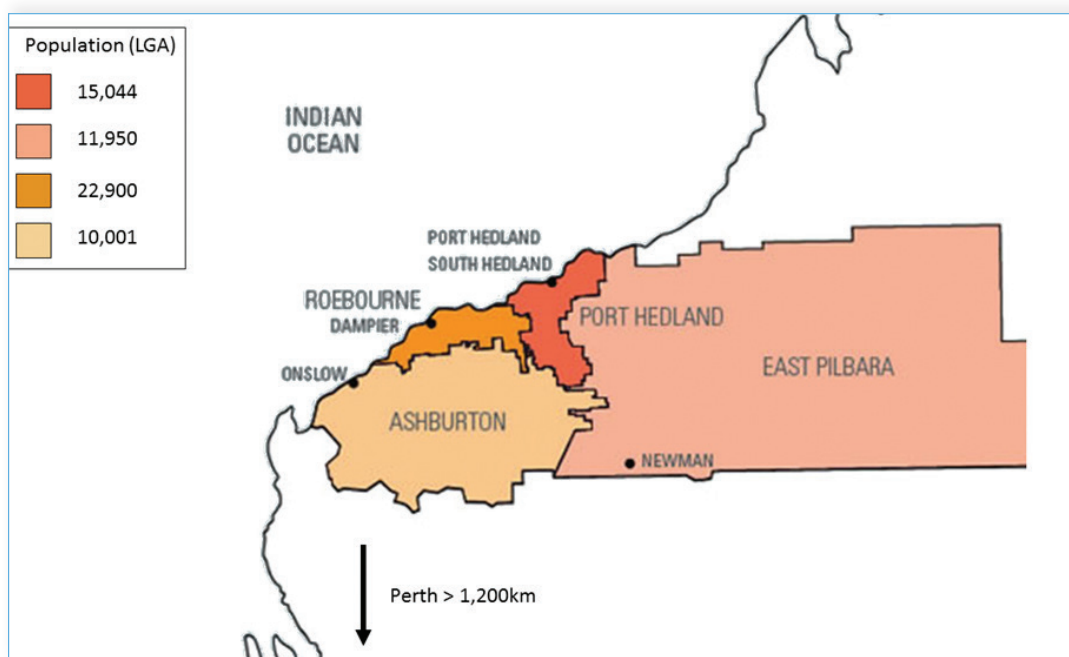


Figure 4: The Pilbara Region.

At the time of the 2011 ABS Census, the Pilbara had 59,894 residents, 61.6 per cent of whom were male. Twelve per cent of the population were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, compared with only 3.1 per cent in WA and 2.5 per cent nationally (Table 1). The median age of the population was 32, which was slightly younger than the state (36) and national (37) medians. The proportion of people never married (43.7 per cent) was higher than state and national proportions (35.3 per cent and 34.3 per cent respectively) and couples were more likely to be in a de-facto relationship (20.3 per cent) than people in WA (11 per cent) or nationally (9.5 per cent).

Table 1: Key Demographics of Pilbara and WA.

	Port Hedland (LGA)	Pilbara (SA3)	Pilbara Ab/TSI Population	WA
<i>People</i>	15,044	59,894	7,211	2,239,170
<i>Male (%)</i>	57.0	61.6	52.4	50.3
<i>Female (%)</i>	43.0	38.4	47.6	49.7
<i>Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander</i>	14.8	12.0	-	3.1
<i>Median Age</i>	31	32	25	36
<i>Children 0 to 14 years (%)</i>	21.3	19.2	30.3	19.7
<i>People aged 65 years and over</i>	2.6	1.9	3.2	12.3
<i>Completed year 12 or equivalent (%)</i>	36.7	37.2	21.2	49.1
<i>Did not go to school (%)</i>	1.0	0.6	4.1	0.6
<i>Median Weekly Household Income</i>	\$2,809	\$2,788	\$1,772	\$1,415
<i>Median Weekly Personal Income</i>	\$1,421	\$1,632	\$431	\$662
<i>People per household (average)</i>	2.8	2.9	3.7	2.6
<i>Unemployment (%)</i>	3.6	2.5	7.6	4.7
<i>Single Parent Families (%)</i>	11.5	10.4	18.3	14.5

In comparison with state-wide averages and medians, residents in the Pilbara Region can be characterised as being:

- Relatively young;
- Predominantly male;
- Highly employed;
- Well paid; and
- With relatively low completion of high school.

The population of the region is highly transient, with only 69.8 per cent of people completing the 2011 Census in the Pilbara stating that the region was their usual place of residence. Nearly 40 per cent (39.16) had a usual place of residence outside the region one year prior to the 2011 Census, and more than 60 per cent (68.3) had a different address (outside the statistical area) five years previously.

## 2.1 Economy

The Pilbara Region accounts for 13.17 per cent of WA's Gross State Product (GSP) and 2.2 per cent of Australia's Gross Regional Product (GRP; REMPLAN, 2015). As can be seen in Figure 5, the Shire of Ashburton contributes the highest proportion to GRP, followed by the Shire of East Pilbara, the City of Karratha and the Town of Port Hedland (REMPLAN, 2015).



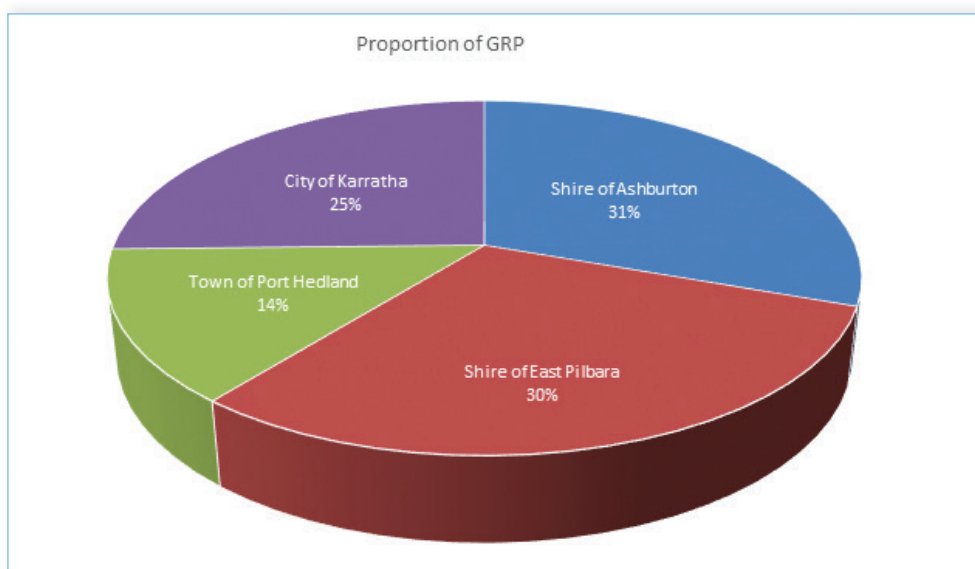


Figure 5: Proportion of GRP by LGA.

Mining (41.15 per cent) and construction (18.69 per cent) make up more than half of all jobs in the Pilbara, with the next highest employment category (accommodation and food services) accounting for only 5.49 per cent of jobs. Median personal and household incomes in the Pilbara region are much higher than both the state and Perth medians (see Figure 6), however the cost of living, and particularly housing costs in the area, are also relatively high compared to Perth and state medians.

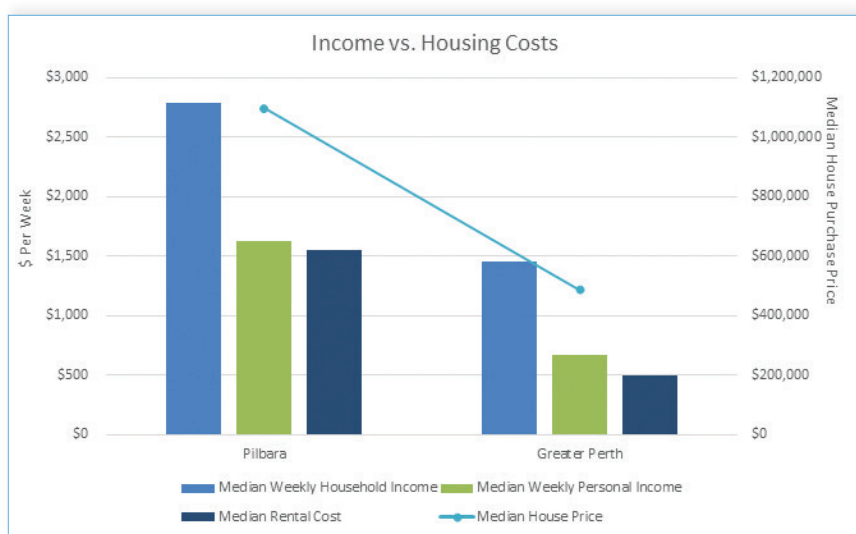


Figure 6: Income vs. Housing Costs – Pilbara\* and Greater Perth\*\*.

\*Pilbara housing data is based on 2011 prices in Port Hedland (REIWA, 2015)

\*\*Greater Perth housing data is based on 2011 prices in the Perth 6000 postcode (REIWA, 2015).

A 2013 report by Regional Development Australia (Pilbara) points out that the Pilbara has the highest price indices of any Western Australian region, with the gap between the region and Perth extending to 26 points between 2007 and 2011 (RDA, 2013). While the cost of housing in the Pilbara remains disproportionately high in comparison to other regional centres, a recent reduction in the resources sector has led to substantial reductions in the cost of housing which are not yet reflected in the data.

## 2.2 Pilbara Aboriginal Population

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 12 per cent of the Pilbara region's population, nearly four times the proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in WA.

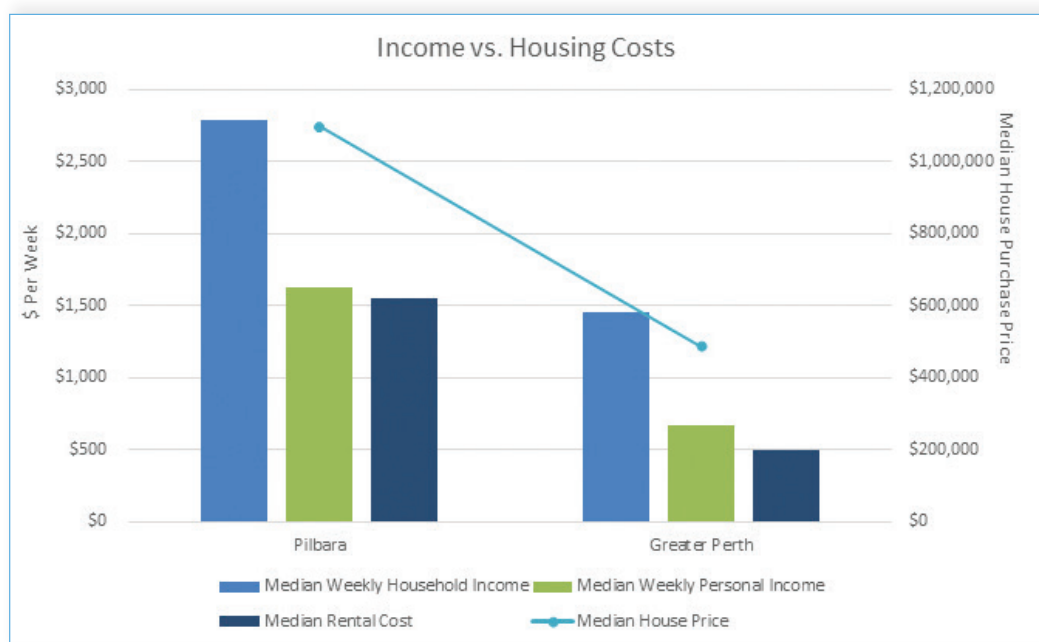


Figure 7: Pilbara and ATSI Population Demographics.

When compared to the broader Pilbara population, its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are:

- Less likely to have completed year 12 schooling, and more likely to have not attended school at all;
- Much less likely to be employed;
- Relatively young;
- On low incomes;
- Living with more people per house; and
- More likely to have single parent families.

Some 22 Aboriginal communities are located in the Pilbara (Figure 8). Of these, only 8 have any associated ABS Census data, and data on population size from varied sources are available for only a further 5 communities (Table 2).



Table 2: Aboriginal Communities in the Pilbara - Available Demographics

Community	Population	Median Age	Average People per Household	Percent Male
Yandeyarra	100	28	4.3	47.0
Warralong	163	21	7.3	53.4
Cheeditha	301	30	5.3	73.8
Goodabinya	126	22	3.6	45.2
Punmu	137	23	5.7	51.1
Kiwirrkura	199	25	6.2	47.7
Jigalong	325	22	5.3	51.7
Kunawarritji	71	25	2.1	53.5
Bindi Bindi*	120	No Information available.		
Wakathuni*	75			
Youngaleena*	50			
Ngurawaana*	30			
Punju Njamal**	~30			
Jandaru	No information available.			
Weymul				
Innawonga				
Marta Marta				
Tjalka Boorda				
Woodstock Homestead				
Irrungadji				
Parnpajinya				
Cotton Creek				

\*Shire of Ashburton, 2012

\*\*[https://apps.indigenous.gov.au/sra/wa/fact\\_sheets/wa15.html](https://apps.indigenous.gov.au/sra/wa/fact_sheets/wa15.html)

Of those Aboriginal communities for which demographic information is available, there is a high degree of variation in population, age, household composition and gender distribution, as can be seen in Table 2.

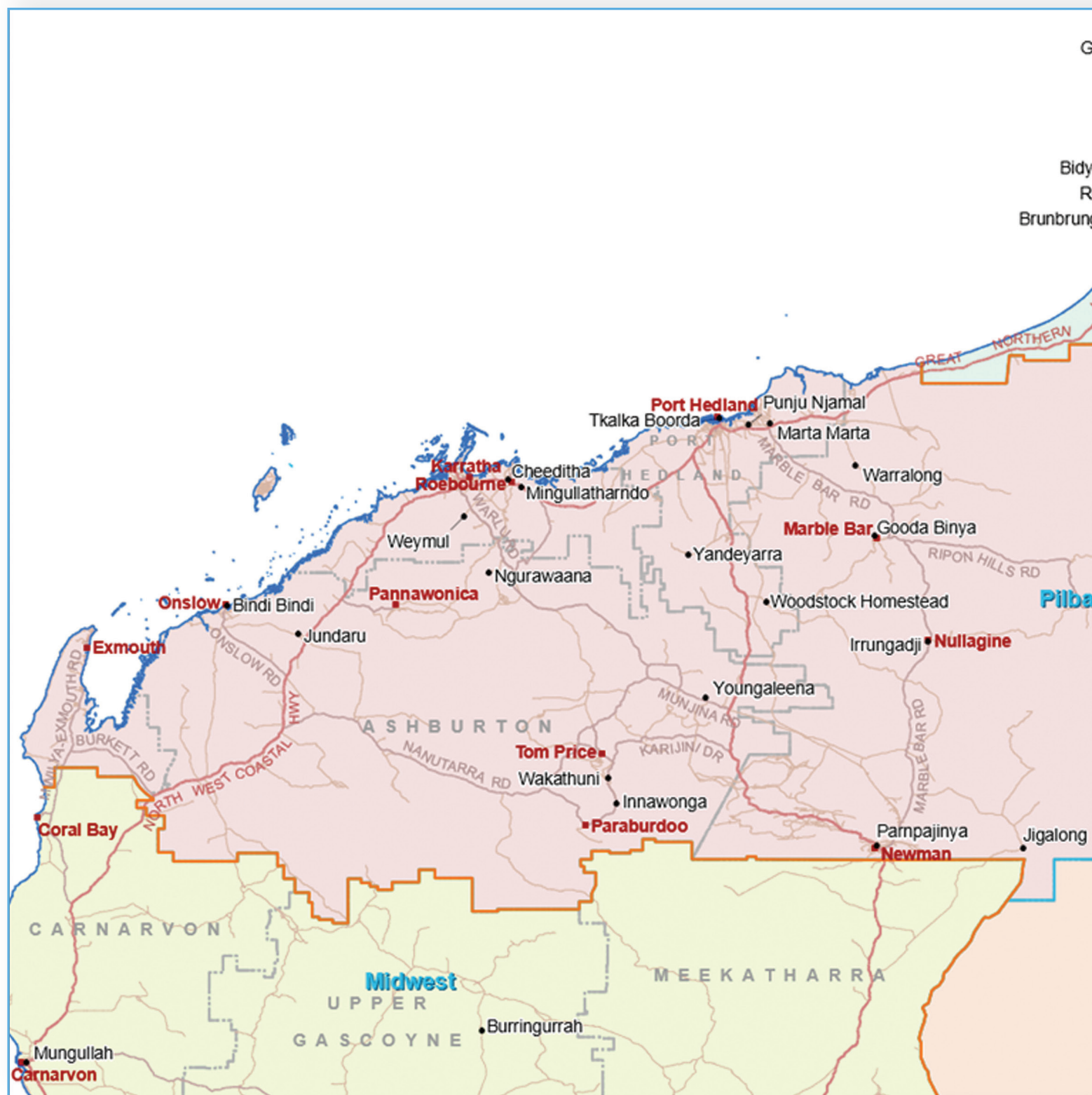


Figure 8: Aboriginal Communities in the Pilbara.





### 3 Identifying Services – Methods

A number of methods were used to identify relevant services in the Pilbara. Initial desktop activities focused on identifying government and non-government organisations operating in the Pilbara through existing databases and reports. Two reports released by the Pilbara Regional Development Australia office offered a primary source of information on existing services, these being the:

- Map and Gap Analysis: Pilbara Non-Government Organisations (RDA Pilbara, 2012); and
- Children and Families Community Directory (RDA Pilbara, 2015).

Subsequent to creating a database of existing service providers, web searches for each provider were undertaken to identify in-depth information about the programs being run. Building upon this information, consultation with service providers (where possible) was undertaken in Port Hedland to gain further information about specific programs.

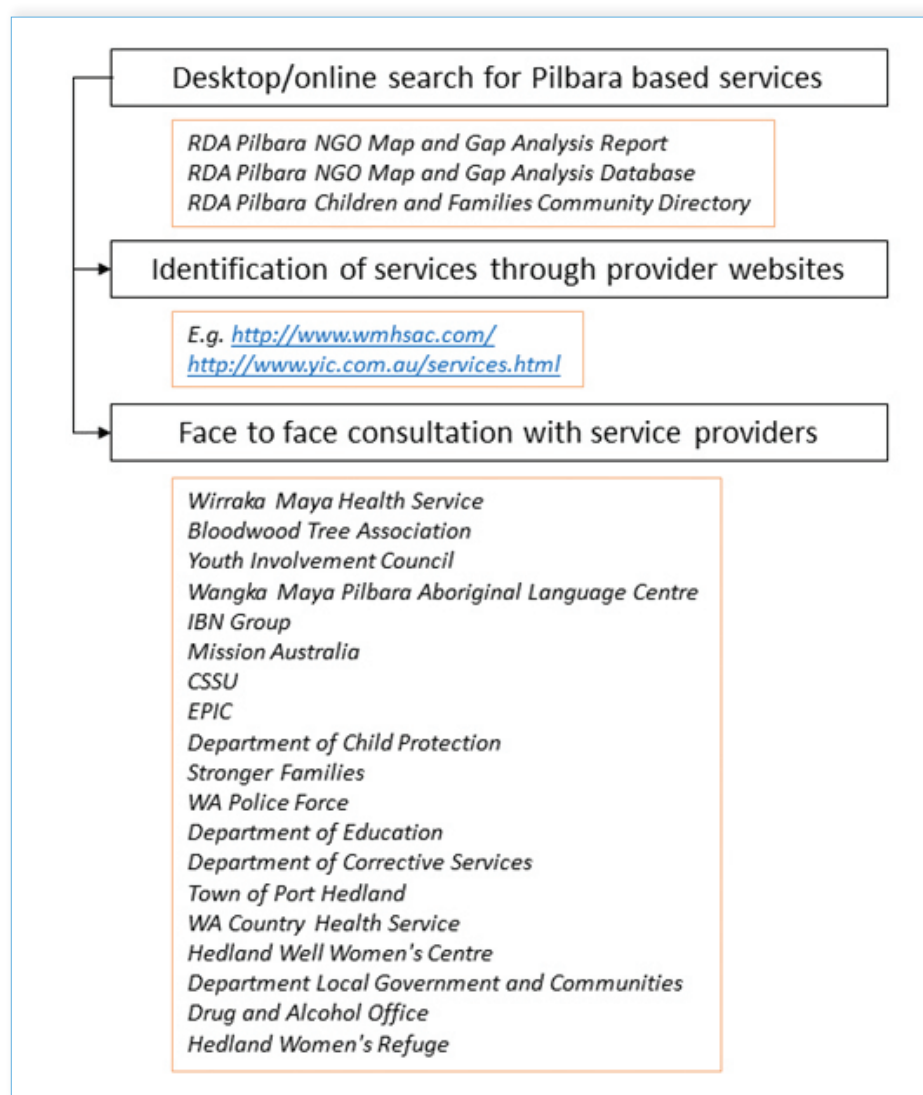


Figure 9. Process for identifying and mapping services.

## 4 A Model of FASD Prevention

Poole (2008) sets out a framework for FASD prevention, encompassing four levels of prevention and supportive alcohol policy, such as taxation and legislated restrictions on outlet density and trading hours. The Four Part Model provides a comprehensive prevention framework to guide activities that create knowledge, motivation and supportive environments for establishing and maintaining positive behaviour change around alcohol use during pregnancy. The four levels of FASD prevention are outlined in Figure 10 below.

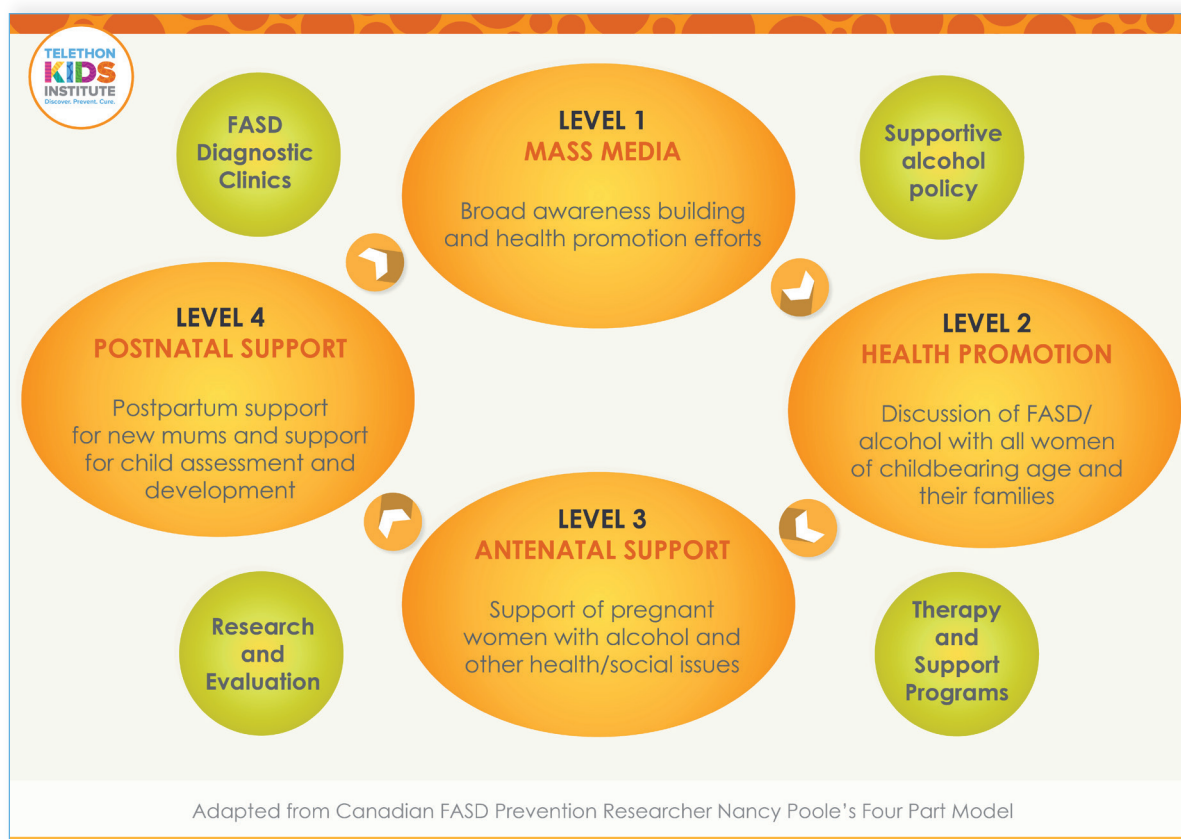


Figure 10. A Four Part Model of FASD Prevention.

For the purposes of mapping services that may have some bearing on awareness of alcohol issues and FASD, each identified program has been charted against one of the four framework categories. A summary of this mapping is shown in Table 3 below.

## 5 Service Provision Associated with the Four Part Model of Prevention

Services identified in the Port Hedland area, including the communities of Yandeyarra and Warralong, were sorted into the four levels identified in the Poole model. These four categories relate specifically to alcohol, and alcohol and pregnancy-related activities, however many services identified were not explicitly targeting alcohol use or pregnancy, but are nonetheless important to acknowledge as many would have indirect links back to substance use and pregnancy. Therefore, these services are also outlined in Section 6 of this report.

Table 3. Description of the elements of the Four Part Model.

<b>Level 1- Broad awareness and health promotion</b>	<b>Community awareness through mass media</b>
	Community event
	Community support groups
	Health education resources
	Integrated Education
	Girls Empowerment Groups
	Pre-conception care
	Reducing unplanned pregnancy- contraception and family planning
	Guidelines
	Health practitioner training- raising awareness of FASD
	Training of other professionals- raising awareness of FASD
<b>Level 2- Women of childbearing age and networks</b>	Antenatal screening
	Brief intervention
	Motivational interviewing
	Health practitioner training- alcohol use during pregnancy
	Training of other professionals- alcohol use during pregnancy
<b>Level 3- Targeted support for pregnant women with alcohol/social issues</b>	Access to antenatal care*
	Alcohol counselling
	Support for women with alcohol problems
	Support for women with social problems
	Rehabilitation services
	Harm minimisation
	Access to specialised care
	Specialised maternity care
	Supporting women affected by domestic violence
<b>Level 4- Postnatal support</b>	Parenting support
	Postnatal care

## 5.1 Level 1 Activities

Level 1 activities formed the majority of activities in the Hedland area, and include programs being run in the area by agencies and organisations located elsewhere. Additionally, many services and programs run across the different levels of activity as defined by the Four Part Model. A total of 17 services were identified as operating within Level 1. Of these services, more than 70 per cent (70.6%, n=12) were locally based and 5 were non-Pilbara specific programs.



Community awareness activities included the *Strong Spirit Strong Future* campaign, a comprehensive prevention-based campaign designed for Aboriginal people and communities, including culturally secure resources, and a community awareness media campaign with messaging in line with the *NHMRC 2009 Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding*. The primary target groups are Aboriginal people, families and communities across WA, with particular emphasis on Aboriginal women of childbearing age. Secondary target groups include health workers and other professionals who provide services to women of childbearing age, and include training and education for health professionals and other workers, which are Level 2 prevention interventions including antenatal screening and brief intervention.

Locally based broad awareness-raising programs included programs by the Western Australian Country Health Services (WACHS) health promotion unit (encompassing community-based activities in Yandeyarra and Warralong), education and information pamphlets produced by the Pilbara Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Program (PADAP) and activities organised by local services including Wirraka Maya Health Services Aboriginal Corporation (Wirraka Maya) and Bloodwood Tree Association for International FASD Awareness Day (9 September).

Less specific to FASD awareness, but still falling under the description of Level 1 activities, a number of programs for young people operating in the town focused on broader integrated education and empowerment of young people generally. These included programs such as the SLAM basketball-based diversion program (Town of Port Hedland), the Transition to Adulthood program run by Wirraka Maya, and various programs run by the Youth Involvement council such as Birds and Bees and Deadly Hearts.

While Level 1 activities make up the largest proportion of activities (as categorised against a Four Part Model), one identified gap is in the development of local community awareness resources created specifically for the local Pilbara population. While consultation with local providers indicated that this may be happening more informally, financial and staff resource constraints were identified by some as contributors to the lack of local awareness resources such as posters, radio advertisements and information pamphlets.

## 5.2 Level 2 Activities

Level 2 activities (those focusing specifically on women of childbearing age and networks) were less frequent than Level 1 activities, although of the same frequency as Levels 3 and 4.

As with Level 1 activities, Level 2 activities included a mix of locally provided services, and non-Pilbara based services. The most prominent of the non-Pilbara services was again the *Strong Spirit Strong Future* campaign which, in addition to broad awareness raising, included secondary target groups such as health workers and other professionals providing services to women of childbearing age, and includes training and education in Level 2 prevention interventions including antenatal screening and brief intervention.

The Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) also provides training resources online, with online modules such as *Introduction to AOD* and *Introduction to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders*.

Six out of the eight identified Level 2 services were locally based, and included a range of activities. The collection of AUDIT-C alcohol screening data is routinely undertaken by both the WACHS maternity staff as well as community midwives and nurses at Wirraka Maya. Similarly, antenatal screening is undertaken by both these primary health providers, and Wirraka Maya

has more recently instigated a 'dreaming' project aimed at reducing trauma and increasing maternal connections with unborn children. Brief interventions are also offered for alcohol consumption and smoking during pregnancy at Wirraka Maya and WACHS.

Practitioner training is in part provided by a consultant Paediatrics team (Patches Paediatrics), who also undertake FASD diagnostic clinics.

### 5.3 Level 3 Activities

There were nine Level 3 activities identified as operating in the Hedland area. All these activities were locally based, and of the nine, four programs were operated by local non-government organisations.

Within local services, Bloodwood Tree Association, Yaandina Family Service and the Hedland Women's Refuge offered services related to drug and alcohol counselling, crisis accommodation and support around domestic violence. Additionally, the Well Women's Centre (South Hedland) offered counselling services specifically aimed at pregnant women and young mothers.

The Department of Health (through WACHS) offered mental health and drug and alcohol counselling through the Pilbara Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Services group, and specifically through the PADAP.

Mission Australia was identified as running the court-mandated drug and alcohol counselling services, and also operated throughout the Pilbara, including in the communities of Yandeyarra and Warralong. The Patient Assisted Travel Scheme and the Royal Flying Doctor Service assisted local people with access to specialised care.

Of the Level 3 activities identified, none were offering services specifically targeting alcohol use in pregnancy.

### 5.4 Level 4 Activities

Eight Level 4 activities were identified, offering parenting support and postnatal care (Table 4).

Parenting support in Hedland was provided by locally based programs including services provided by Parenting WA, the Department for Communities, Child and Parent Centres, and Children's Services Support Unit (CSSU). Strong Families is funded by the Department of Child Protection and supports families that require parenting assistance from multiple agencies. Strong Families aims to coordinate agency services to provide targeted support towards agreed goals. The Parenting WA coordinators support parents to gain knowledge and develop parenting skills from pre-birth to 18 years through teleconferences, workshops and information sessions.

Access to postnatal care was facilitated through the Strong Families program, the Well Women's Centre and the WACHS Paediatrics Baby Follow-up program.

Table 4. Services in Hedland by Activity Level.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Strong Spirit Strong Future	DAO FASD online training	Royal Flying Doctor Service	Parenting WA
International FASD Awareness Day 9 September	Strong Spirit Strong Future	Patient Assisted Travel Scheme	Minderoo and Ngala Growing Strong Brains
Mary G Radio TV Adverts (DAO)	AUDIT-C data collection (WACHS and WMHSAC)	Pilbara Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Services	Strong Families
No Alcohol During Pregnancy is the Safest Choice Campaign	WACHS antenatal screening	Bloodwood Tree Association Drug and Alcohol Counselling	Hedland Well Women's Centre
Alcohol treatment guidelines for Indigenous Australians	Wirraka Maya healing program	Turner River Rehabilitation (Yaandina)	Department of Local Government and Communities – Best Start Program
FASD Diagnostic Clinics and training (PATCHES and TKI)	Wirraka Maya community midwifery	Wapa Maya Sobering Up Shelter (BTA)	South Hedland Child and Parent Centre
WACHS Health Promotion Community visits	Brief Intervention through WACHS midwifery	Hedland Women's Refuge	Children's Services Support Unit (CSSU)
Town of Port Hedland SLAM youth diversion and education (alcohol related)	FASD Practitioner Training and Diagnostic Clinic (Patches Paediatrics)	Mission Australia court mandated drug and alcohol counselling	WACHS Paediatrics – Baby Follow-up Program
Town of Port Hedland JD Hardie Youth Zone education programs		Well Women's Centre	
Youth Involvement Council – Birds and Bees			
Youth Involvement Council – Deadly Hearts			
Wirraka Maya – Transition to Adulthood program			
Wirraka Maya and TKI – FASD Network			
Bloodwood Tree Association – Volatile Substances Unit			
PADAP – Alcohol education pamphlets			
WACHS Midwifery contraception planning (on maternity ward discharge)			
WACHS Paediatrics – diagnostic services			

## 5.5 Supportive Alcohol Policy

A 12-month trial of mandatory alcohol restrictions was instigated by the Department of Racing Gaming and Liquor in the Town of Port Hedland in 2004, with a review undertaken in 2005 by the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University. Positive outcomes relating to alcohol consumption, trauma-related ambulance callouts, emergency department presentations and disturbances attended by police, along with general community and industry support, meant that these restrictions remained in place after the 12-month period. While not as stringent as restrictions seen in the Kimberley, the Hedland policy states that:

- Takeaway liquor may not be sold outside the hours of 11am to 8pm Monday to Saturday;
- Takeaway alcohol cannot be purchased at any time on a Sunday;

- The sale of wine in containers larger than two litres is prohibited;
- The sale of fortified wine in containers of one litre or more is prohibited; and
- The sale of spirits in bottles or containers greater than 750ml is prohibited.

In addition to these restrictions, there are periodic short-term restrictions put in place by the local Police in response to special social conditions. These restrictions limit the volume of alcohol that can be purchased in a single transaction, and the number of purchases that may be made per day, and are most often instituted in response to influxes of people entering Hedland from outlying communities due to funerals.

## 5.6 FASD Diagnosis and Therapy

FASD diagnosis in the Hedland area is primarily provided through the WACHS Paediatric team and Paediatrician Dr Anita Banks at the Hedland Health Campus. The need for multi-disciplinary diagnostic teams, coupled with issues with staff attraction and retention, and particularly compounded by a recent State Government hiring freeze, has limited the rate of FASD diagnosis.

Consultation with WACHS Paediatrics identifies a need for a collaborative model of care and diagnosis, in order to undertake necessary diagnosis. Support for diagnosis and therapy has been provided by external consultant multi-disciplinary teams in conjunction with local providers.

Therapy support for those affected by FASD is limited but this aspect will be revisited regularly to track progress.

## 5.7 Alcohol in Pregnancy and FASD Related Research

No research specific to the Hedland area, or the broader Pilbara area, was identified at the time of this report. However, due to the nature of publication and report release, this could be an artefact of delays in research becoming publically available.

## 5.8 Coordinated FASD Prevention Strategy

The Hedland FASD Network was initiated in mid-2014 and meets monthly to share FASD-related activities and coordinating activity moving forward. Currently run as a collaboration between Wirraka Maya and Telethon Kids, the Network has successfully created a community of service providers and community members interested in addressing issues of alcohol and pregnancy and FASD in Hedland, and will be instrumental in the design and sustainability of a FASD strategy in the area.



## 6 Broad Overview of Service Provision in the Pilbara

Service provision in the Pilbara Region is heavily reliant on Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), with more than 100 NGOs operating in the region. More than 20 government departments are represented in the region, and these departments have multiple offices throughout the region. Some of these government departments also run multiple services within the Pilbara. For example, the WA Country Health Services operate five hospitals (or Health Campuses) throughout the region in addition to population health, and drug and alcohol services.

### 6.1 Regional and Port Hedland NGOs

Most of the 100 odd NGOs in the region are local or community based (61 per cent) with only 20 per cent being national groups, and 17 per cent having a whole of WA coverage (Figure 11).

At least 27 NGOs operate specifically within the Port Hedland area, with many more offering services to Port Hedland while not necessarily having a physical presence in the town. As can be seen in Table 5 these NGOs run upward of 63 programs and services in the Port Hedland area ranging from early childhood education through to crisis accommodation.

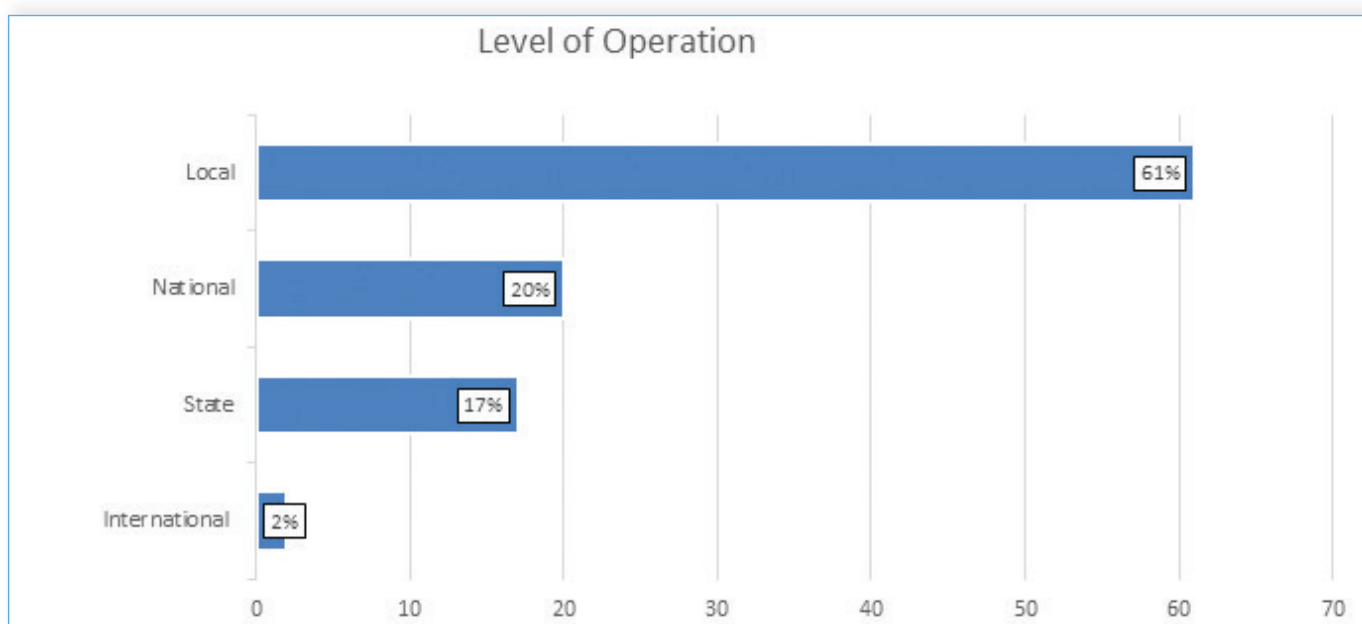


Figure 11: NGO Level of Operations.

Table 5: NGO programs and services in the Port Hedland area.

Organisation	Programs/Services
Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation	Certificate IV Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice
	Transition to Adulthood Project
	Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs)
	Indigenous Family Healing Counselling Services
	Yarning Up
	Inspire Men
	Medical Services
Bloodwood Tree Association	Work Ready Program
	Drug and Alcohol Services
	Emergency Relief Funding
	Wapa Maya Sobering Up Shelter
	Bunara Maya Hostel
Youth Involvement Council (YIC)	Mingle Mob
	Youth Accommodation Program (YAP)
	Quicksmart Numeracy and literacy
	Reach for the Stars
	Deadly Hearts
	Birds and Bees
	YIC Youth Centre
YMCA	Port Hedland Early Learning Centre
	Department for Communities Aboriginal Employment Program
	World Vision Training Program
	Community Child Health
	Intensive Support Playgroup
Hope Community Services	Youth Bail Options Program
Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre	Cultural Awareness Training
	Language and History Services
IBN Group	Higher Education Program
	High School Scholarship
	Employment, Training and Enterprise
	Health Assistance
Mission Australia	Pilbara Community Alcohol and Other Drug Service
	Connected: Classroom to Career (C2C)
Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation	Link Up Program
MacKillop Family Services	Aboriginal Foster Care Program
Royal Life Saving Australia	Have a Go Days
	Remote Aboriginal Swimming Pools Project (RASP)
Hedland Women's Refuge	Crisis Accommodation
Hedland Well Women's Centre	Women's health clinic
	Counselling Services
	Home Away from Home Program
	Needle and Syringe Program
Children's Services Support Unit (CSSU)	Family Information Support and Help (FISH)
	Early Childhood Centres/Day care centres
Child Australia	The Rural Playgroup Support Program
	Mobile Playgroup
	Inclusion Support Service
Hedland Personnel Inc	Disability Services
	Employment
Australian Parents Council	Indigenous Parent Factor (IPF) program
Ngala	Pilbara Families Building Pilbara Communities (PFBPC)
Oz Help Foundation	Hard Hat Chats
	Field and support visits
	ALERT
Pilbara Health Network	Remote Clinics
Empowering People in Communities (EPIC)	Disability Support Services
Pilbara Meta Maya Regional Aboriginal Corporation	Remote Area Essential Services Program (RAESP)
	Housing Division
Protective Behaviours WA	Education programs
Relationships Australia	Acacia Support Service Port Hedland
	Forced Adoption Services
	Unplanned Pregnancy Counselling
The Smith Family	Technology Packs Initiative
World Vision Australia	World Vision Training Program

## 6.2 Government Departments

Twenty-two government departments are located in the Port Hedland area, with many more providing services or support to the town from other locations. As shown in Table 6, government services representatives are diverse, ranging from the Department of the Attorney General through to the Water Corporation.

Table 6: State, Federal and Local Government in Port Hedland.

State Government	Federal Government	Local Government
Department of Attorney General	Centrelink	Town of Port Hedland
Department of Child Protection	Bureau of Meteorology	Pilbara Regional Council
Department of Corrective Services	Indigenous Coordination Centre	
WA Country Health Service		
Disability Services Commission		
Department of Education		
Pilbara Institute (TAFE)		
Department of Housing		
Department of Indigenous Affairs		
Legal Aid WA		
WA Police		
Department of Finance		
Water Corporation		
Main Roads		
Department of Fire and Emergency Services		
Pilbara Development Commission		

## 7 Primary Health Services: Port Hedland

### 7.1 Overview

Health services in the Port Hedland area are provided by both government and non-government providers. Services range from Primary and Specialist Health Care through to Health Promotion and Education activities. Primary Health services are provided through the WA Country Health Services, two private GP practices, the Pilbara Health Network, the Hedland Well Women's Centre and the Wirraka Maya Health Service.

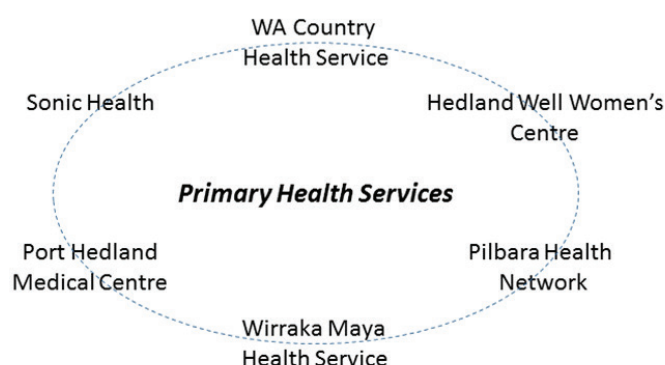


Figure 12: Primary Health Service Providers.

## 7.2 WA Country Health Services

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) provides primary health services to all regional Western Australia, from the Kimberley to the Great Southern. WACHS employs approximately 5,662 FTE staff, and in 2010 had an estimated resident population of 507,800 patients, of whom an estimated 46,600 were Aboriginal (WACHS, 2011). The WACHS delivers a wide range of services in the Port Hedland area, primarily through the Hedland Health Campus (HHC), including:

- 24 hour emergency department;
- Operating suite with two operating theatres;
- Day surgery;
- In-patient beds;
- Special care nursery;
- Ambulatory care wing including renal dialysis and consultation facilities for primary health and mental health, drug and alcohol services;
- Medical imaging X-ray services, pathology and in-patient pharmacy services;
- Aged care services;
- Outpatient and allied health services such as child health, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology and home nursing services;
- Visiting specialist services such as adult and paediatric cardiology, echo cardiology, ear nose and throat, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, podiatry, nephrology, respiratory medicine, rheumatology, urology, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics and anaesthetics; and
- Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATs).

The HHC has a total of 59 beds, of which 43 are for overnight stays. All pregnancies considered to be of high risk in the Pilbara are referred to the HHC for delivery, and in 2012–13 there were a total of 155 stays for vaginal delivery and 77 stays for caesarean delivery.

In addition to services offered at the HHC, WACHS maintains a Drug and Alcohol Office in South Hedland and runs the Pilbara Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Program.

## 7.3 Sonic Health Plus and the Port Hedland Medical Centre

Two privately run General Practitioner offices are located in the Hedland region – Sonic Health Plus located in South Hedland, and the Hedland Medical Centre located in Port Hedland. Both clinics offer General Practice and occupational health services.



Sonic Health Plus additionally offers services including:

- Injury Management;
- Employment Medicals; and
- Seasonal Vaccinations.

The Port Hedland Medical Centre also offers:

- Physiotherapy;
- Pathology;
- Women's Health;
- Preventative Health; and
- Travel Medicine.

## 7.4 Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation

Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation (WMHSAC) is a health corporation specialising in the provision of primary and specialist health care to Aboriginal people of Port Hedland. While focusing on Aboriginal health, the WMHSAC offers primary care to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents, with specialist care provided to Aboriginal people only. WMHSAC is also a provider of health education, promotion and social support programs which are detailed in the relevant sections below. The primary and specialist health care provided by the corporation includes:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ➤ Primary Care                | ➤ Aged Care visits   |
| ➤ Dental treatment            | ➤ Men's health program   |
| ➤ Podiatry                    | ➤ Women's health program   |
| ➤ Optometry                   | ➤ Sexual health program  |
| ➤ Physiotherapy               | ➤ Eye Health   |
| ➤ Pharmacy                    | ➤ Chronic Disease Management   |
| ➤ Audiology                   | ➤ Retinal photography  |
| ➤ Paediatric Cardiology       | ➤ Maternal & Child Health programs   |
| ➤ Paediatric Program          | ➤ Immunisation programs  |
| ➤ Health promotion activities | ➤ Journey Assistance   |
| ➤ Home medicines review       | ➤ Quality Assurance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Services (QAAMS) |
| ➤ Provision of glucometers    |  |

The WMHSAC has more than 13,000 Aboriginal people registered to receive services, and more than 5,000 (5,165; WMHSAC, 2011) actively engaged and receiving primary care.

## 7.5 Hedland Well Women's Centre

The Hedland Well Women's Centre (WWC) provides primary health, counselling services, social support and health promotion and education services to the Hedland community. Operating for more than 20 years, the Centre engages over 12,000 women and children each year (WWC, 2015).

Primary health services are offered to women and children through the WWC Health Clinic, a free service provided by a women's health nurse and including services such as:

- Pap smears;
- STI testing;
- Pregnancy testing;
- Teaching breast awareness; and
- General health questions, discussions and referrals.

## 7.6 Pilbara Health Network

The Pilbara Health Network (PHN) is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1998. The PHN facilitates remote clinics in the Pilbara in locations including Roebourne, South Hedland, Onslow, Paraburdoo and Tom Price. Through these clinics, the PHN offers the following primary health services:

- Allied health;
- Diabetes education;
- Mental health services;
- Diabetic treatment; and
- Podiatry.

## 7.7 Programs Supporting Primary Health

The **Pilbara Health Partnership** is a \$38.2 million project that aims to provide robust, sustainable and high-quality health services that meet the diverse health needs of residents in the Pilbara. Royalties for Regions is investing \$32.9 million, with the Pilbara Industry's Community Council contributing \$5.3 million in total across a six year span.

The Pilbara Health Partnership aims to deliver a range of health improvement services across the Pilbara including:

- Emergency transport;
- Aboriginal liaison officers;
- Emergency Department medical equipment and Tele-health Initiative;
- Emergency management education and training program employment;

- Medical specialists;
- Nurse practitioner;
- Aboriginal training and employment;
- Karratha helipad;
- CT scanner services at Nickol Bay Hospital, Karratha;
- Family health workers; and
- Small hospital planning and revitalisation.

The town of Port Hedland, in partnership with BHP Billiton, is constructing Stage 2 of general practitioner houses in Dempster Street, Cooke Point. The completion/occupation of three houses are scheduled for November 2014/January 2015.

The project will provide quality subsidised leased housing to general practitioners who support the Port Hedland community and is intended to:

- Assist in the retention of existing general practitioner / emergency services;
- Encourage and facilitate the expansion of general practitioner service levels and availability;
- Assist in the provision of specialist services / skills not currently available;
- Assist in the provision of services linked to areas of disadvantaged health services / remote servicing / bulk billing; and
- Begin to cater for future general practitioner service requirements.

## 8 Mental Health and Counselling Services

### 8.1 Overview

Mental Health and Counselling Services in the Port Hedland area are provided by both government and non-government providers. Services include Aboriginal mental health and counselling specialists, men's and women's counselling services, and general mental health care. Eight organisations are involved in the provision of mental health and counselling services in the area, as shown in Figure 13 below.



Figure 13. Mental Health and Counselling Service Providers.

## 8.2 Wirraka Maya Health Service

WMHSAC offers mental health and counselling services through its Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) program. The PHaMs program is a Federal Department of Social Services initiative that provides assistance to people aged 16 years and above who are impacted by severe mental illness.

The WMHSAC Social and Emotional Wellbeing centre also provides counselling and referral services through its Indigenous Family Healing Counselling Services, which can be accessed by Aboriginal children, adolescents and adults.

## 8.3 Hedland Well Women's Centre

The WWC offers counselling services accessible to men, women and families. The Centre provides individual and couple's counselling for anyone experiencing:

- Grief and loss;
- Isolation;
- Depression;
- Crisis;
- Abuse;
- Relationship problems;
- Anger; or
- Self-esteem issues

## 8.4 Arafmi Mental Health Carers

Arafmi is a Western Australian charitable organisation that provides support to carers of people with mental illnesses. The organisation employs in excess of 50 staff state-wide, and in the Pilbara operates out of South Hedland. Founded in 1976, the organisation provides services such as:

- Free professional counselling;
- Mental health support groups with peers;
- Workshops and programs;
- Dealing with the mental health system;
- School education to fight stigma;
- School holiday programs for 8 – 18 years;
- Mental health news and information; and
- Advocacy and gaining your full rights.



## 8.5 Frontier Services

Frontier Services is a national NGO, established by the Uniting Church in 1977 with a particular focus on supporting rural and remote communities. In the Pilbara, Frontier Services provides the Pilbara Mental Health Mobile Respite Service which operates out of Port Hedland. The Mobile Respite Service aims to provide flexible respite options to carers of mentally ill and disabled people throughout the Pilbara, including in:

- Marble Bar;
- Nullagine;
- Jigalong and other Western Desert Communities;
- Tom Price;
- Onslow;
- Karratha; and
- Newman.

Frontier Services also operates a complementary respite support service in Port Hedland which provides training and assistance to the remote teams.

## 8.6 Oz Help Foundation

The Oz Help Foundation was founded in 2001 in response to construction worker suicides, with the aim of preventing the suicide of working men through counselling and training. In the Pilbara, the Foundation provides three support programs, including:

- Field and Support Visits;
- Hard Hat Chats; and
- ALERT.

All three programs focus specifically on men in the workforce, and cover a range of topics including:

- Heat stress;
- Reducing the risk of cancer;
- Sleep and fatigue;
- Conflict resolution;
- Mental health and wellbeing; and
- Awareness and understanding about mental health and suicide prevention.

## 8.7 Relationships Australia

Relationships Australia (RA) is a national NGO with a focus on fostering positive relationships. Formerly known as the Marriage Guidance Council of Australia, RA was established in 1953. In 1994 the name of the organisation was changed to RA, and the organisation currently has more than 200 centres and approximately 2,000 staff across Australia (Relationships Australia, 2015).

In the Port Hedland area RA run the Acacia Support Service and also offer two counselling services to rural populations via telephone – The Forced Adoption Service and Unplanned Pregnancy Counselling. The Forced Adoption Services aims to assist all people who have been affected by forced adoption or removal policies by:

- Assisting with record searching;
- Providing referrals for long-term support; and
- Providing staff experienced in trauma informed support.

The Unplanned Pregnancy Counselling service provides free counselling services for women or couples who need assistance with issues surrounding unplanned pregnancies, terminations or carrying an unplanned pregnancy to term.

## 8.8 Children's Services Support Unit (CSSU)

The Children's Services Support Unit (CSSU) is a Western Australian-based NGO established in 1973 to provide childcare services. Currently, the CSSU operates over 22 childcare and community centres across Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

In addition to providing childcare in the Pilbara (detailed in Section 12 below), the CSSU provides counselling and family support in Port Hedland through its Family Information Support and Help (FISH) program. The FISH program provides assistance and information for families, including:

- Guiding your child's behaviour;
- Supporting relationships within the family;
- Improving your child's experience at school;
- Understanding stages of development;
- Assisting finding additional support; and
- Learning skills to celebrate, rather than survive, being a parent.

## 8.9 Western Australian Country Health Service

The Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS) provides mental health and counselling services through the Pilbara Mental Health and Drug Service, which operates out of the Hedland Health Campus in South Hedland. Services include individual counselling and group work, education and information, consultation to professional services and support to the

local community to assist individuals affected by mental health issues. The program specifically targets:

- Individuals worried about their own alcohol and other drug use;
- Families affected by alcohol or other drug issues;
- Families affected by mental health issues;
- Schools, professionals and other service providers; and
- Communities tackling local alcohol and other drug and/or mental health issues.

In Western Australia, the Pilbara Community Drug Service Team based in South Hedland provides outreach services to Port Hedland, Karratha, Onslow, Tom Price and Newman and is one of 12 community-based alcohol and other drug programs that cover the state. The Pilbara team also runs the 'Alcohol and pregnancy: what are the risks?' initiative in conjunction with the Pilbara Health Partnership. This provides counselling and education for communities throughout the Pilbara region on alcohol and pregnancy.

## 9 Alcohol and Other Drug Services

### 9.1 Overview

Alcohol and other drug services in the Port Hedland area are predominantly supplied by four service providers – WACHS, Bloodwood Tree Association, Hedland Well Women's Centre and Mission Australia.



Figure 14: Alcohol and Other Drug Service Providers.

### 9.2 Bloodwood Tree Association

Bloodwood Tree Association (BTA) is an incorporated Aboriginal organisation formed in 1977. The organisation's purview is to provide services to alcohol-affected and homeless people in the Hedland area. The BTA has two programs specifically targeted at drug and alcohol support: the Wapa Maya Shelter and Drug and Alcohol Services.

Wapa Maya is predominantly a sobering-up shelter, the amalgam of the Port Hedland Sobering up Centre, the Community Patrol, Hedland Homeless Support Service and Sobering Up services, which combined under the BTA in 2007. Currently servicing up to 300 clients, Wapa Maya provides people in need with:

- Transport;
- Showers and clean clothing;
- A safe place to sleep;
- Meals; and
- Support and further assistance.

BTA offers Drug and Alcohol Services through trained counsellors, with the aim to:

- Provide confidential addiction counselling;
- Educate and support individuals, families and the community on the effects of substance abuse;
- Promote healthy lifestyles and healthy choices through group facilitation; and
- Work from a holistic model to focus on physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing.

### 9.3 Hedland Well Women's Centre

In addition to the counselling and primary health care services outlined above, the WWC also offers a needle and syringe program. Clients who access the service are provided with harm-reduction packs which include clean needles and disposable units, condoms and health and drug awareness information.

### 9.4 Mission Australia

Mission Australia (MA) is a national NGO with the aim of reducing homelessness and strengthening communities across Australia. Operating for over 155 years, MA employs more than 3,500 staff nationally (MA, 2015).

In Port Hedland, MA is responsible for the provision of the Pilbara Community Alcohol and Other Drug Service. This service provides a range of supports to help individuals and communities reduce drug and alcohol misuse, and to increase the wellbeing of people living in the Pilbara.

### 9.5 WA Country Health Service

The WACHS is responsible for the provision of the Pilbara Mental Health and Drug Service, as described in Section 9.4 above.

## 10 Youth and Youth Justice Services

### 10.1 Overview

Youth and youth justice services in the Port Hedland area are supplied by six NGOs and local government.

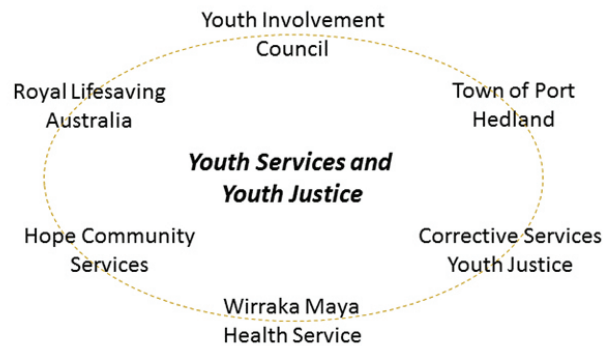


Figure 15: Youth and Youth Justice Service Providers.

### 10.2 Town of Port Hedland: JD Hardie Youth Zone

Redeveloped in 2011, the Town of Port Hedland's (ToPH) JD Hardie Youth Zone (JD) operates a range of youth, sport and recreation services in South Hedland. In addition to after-school and school holiday programs, the JD runs a fortnightly SLAM youth basketball event. The SLAM is a youth engagement and diversionary program that incorporates health promotion and education around themes of bullying, sexual health and self-esteem. The SLAM events include guests from local services such as Police, the Town Mayor and Emergency Services staff.

The JD is also involved in running youth events and workshops, with recent examples being youth hip hop and skateboarding workshops.

### 10.3 Youth Involvement Council

The Youth Involvement Council (YIC) is a not-for-profit organisation focused on youth engagement and diversion that has been operating in South Hedland for 24 years. YIC runs programs for young people of all ages, from under 10 years through to 25 years of age. YIC delivers youth-specific services through five programs, and runs two additional programs focused on education and training (Section 11.3.8). Table 7 describes each of these five programs and the targeted youth audiences.



Table 7: YIC Youth Service Programs.

Name	Age group	Details*
Mingle Mob	<18 years	Mingle Mob is a youth outreach program aimed at reducing antisocial and criminal behaviour. Mingle Mob workers patrol youth hot spots such as the shopping centre and skate park, engaging with youth and offering advice, transport home, information and, if required, referral for case management.
Youth Accommodation Program (YAP)	15-25 years	YAP is a 24/7 service which provides accommodation, support and case management to young people aged 15-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
Deadly Hearts	<10 years	The aim of the program is to reduce the amount of vandalism and damage that occur in these places, by modelling socially acceptable behaviours and encouraging positive engagement while young people are in public.
Birds and Bees	10 to 15 years	Birds & Bees is a program that has an underlying theme of sexual health but also addresses other various teenage issues such as bullying, education pathways, possible careers and positive community engagement.
YIC Youth Centre	10-17 years	YIC Youth Centre is a drop-in centre for young people aged 10-17. During weekdays of school terms, the centre runs from 2:30pm-6.30pm and during school holidays and on Saturdays the centre opens from 11:30am-6.30pm.

\*All program descriptions are taken from the YIC web page at [www.yic.com.au](http://www.yic.com.au)

## 10.4 Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation

The Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation (WMHSAC) offers a number of services to young people in the Port Hedland area, with one program specifically tailored to Aboriginal youth aged between 9 years and 24 years. The Transition to Adulthood Project focuses on health promotion, youth development and diversion through a series of weekly ongoing programs. These programs include the:

- Leap program – for girls aged between 13 and 16 years;
- Go Girls program – for girls aged between 9 and 12 years; and
- Fit for Life – for young males and females.

The Transition to Adulthood Program aims to identify and up-skill young community leaders to enable them to become role models within the community.

## 10.5 Hope Community Services

Hope Community Services (HCS) is a Western Australian-based NGO that provides support for people and families who have been affected by drugs and alcohol. In the Pilbara, HCS is responsible for delivering the Youth Bail Options Program. This program assists youth aged between 10 and 17 years who are currently on supervised bail. When young people are unable to be released into the custody of a responsible adult, they are referred to the program by the Department of Corrective Services, to avoid having to remove the young person from the area to be detained in Perth while awaiting trial.

# 11 Schooling and Education

## 11.1 Schools

There are 10 schools operating in the Port Hedland area, including four primary schools, one high school, two community schools and three specialised education centres (see Table 8).

Table 8: Schools and Student Enrolments.

School	Type	Operation	Location	Enrolments
Cassia	Primary School	Public	South Hedland	397*
Port Hedland	Primary School	Public	Port Hedland	476*
St Cecilia's	Primary School	Private	Port Hedland	278**
Hedland Senior High School	High School	Public	South Hedland	878*
Yandeyarra Remote Community School	K through 12	Public	Yandeyarra Community	27*
Strelley Community School	K through 12	Independent	Warralong Community	77***
Cassia ESC	Education Support Centre	Public	South Hedland	14*
Pilbara Behaviour Centre	High School	Public	South Hedland	SUPPORT CHECK
Port Hedland School of the Air	Distance Education – Primary School	Public	Port Hedland	Approximately 50****

\*Department of Education (2015)

\*\*St Cecilia's Primary School website (2015)

\*\*\* Strelley Community School Annual Report (2013)

\*\*\*\*At 2014, Port Hedland School of the Air website (2015)

## 11.2 The Pilbara Institute

The Pilbara Institute is the largest training provider in North West WA, with the largest number of apprentices and trainees in the region. Two campuses of the Pilbara Institute are located in the Hedland area: South Hedland Campus and Pundulmurra Campus. Both campuses are located in South Hedland. Table 9 illustrates the breadth of courses offered at each of the South Hedland campuses.

Table 9: Courses at Pilbara Institute South Hedland and Pundulmurra Campuses.

Pundulmurra Campus	South Hedland Campus
Certificate III in Carpentry	Bookkeeping and Finance - MYOB
Certificate III in Carpentry and Joinery	Certificate III in Commercial Cookery
Certificate II in Building and Construction	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
Certificate II in Business	Spoken and Written English Certificate I, II and III
Certificate II in Construction Pathways	Certificate II in Business
Certificate II in Horticulture	Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start)
Certificate II in Security Operations	Certificate II and IV in Engineering
Certificate II in Surface Extraction Operations	Certificate I and II in Hospitality
Certificate I in Construction	Certificate IV in Business
Certificate I in Gaining Access to Training and Employment	Certificate IV in Business Administration
Certificate I in Industrial Skills (Entry Level Training)	Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
Changing from Occupational Health and Safety to Workplace Health and Safety	Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety
Diploma of Project Management	Diploma of Business Administration
Enter and Work in a Confined Space	Diploma of Project Management
Fire Extinguisher	English for Employment
Games Design - Introduction	Evening Cooking Course
Introduction to Aquaponics	On Site Safety for Supervisors
Introduction to Computers	Provide First Aid
Introduction to Project Management	Skills for New Site Supervisors
Introduction to Spill Kits	
Training for Health and Safety Representatives	
Licence to erect, alter and dismantle scaffolding	
Licence to Operate a Boom Elevating platform	
Licence to Operate a Forklift Truck	
Licence to operate a vehicle loading crane	
Licence to Perform Dogging	
Load and Unload Goods/Cargo	
Microsoft Excel Advanced, Functions, Intermediate, Introduction, Programming in VBA, Smart User	
Microsoft Outlook Introduction	
Microsoft PowerPoint Introduction, Advanced	
Microsoft Project Introduction, Advanced	
Microsoft Visio Introduction, Intermediate	
Microsoft Word Advanced, Intermediate and Introductory	
On Site Safety for Supervisors	
Operate a 4WD Vehicle	
Operate a Commercial Vehicle	
Skills for New Site Supervisors	
Snake Handling	
Testing & Tagging with Portable Appliance Testers to AS/NZS3760	
Windows 8 Basics	

## 11.3 Education and Training Programs

Other education and training programs have been developed and delivered by a number of NGOs in the area (Figure 16).

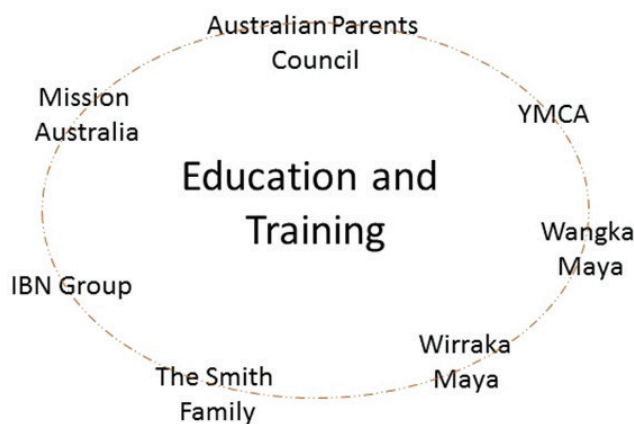


Figure 16: Education and Training Service Providers.

### 11.3.1 Australian Parents Council

The Australian Parents Council (APC) is an NGO providing advocacy services on behalf of parents and families with children in Catholic and Independent schools. The APC has a focus on education reform, policy, leadership and partnerships in schooling and learning, and has been operating nationally for 50 years.

In Port Hedland, the APC is responsible for the delivery of the Indigenous Parent Factor (IPF) program. The IPF is a training program which aims to educate Indigenous parents to positively influence home learning and improve children's start to the early years of schooling. While not operating directly out of Port Hedland, the IPF has been run in the Pilbara with parents, with the expectation that parents who complete the whole course will run training and workshops in their own communities.

### 11.3.2 YMCA

In partnership with World Vision, the YMCA delivers the World Vision Training Program in the Pilbara Region. This program provides Aboriginal women with education and training relating to playgroup and early childhood settings in the community, and provides the opportunity for certificate level qualifications in Children's Services. To date, the program has been run with women and children in the Jigalong, Parngurr and Punmu communities.

The YMCA additionally works in partnership with the WA Department of Local Government and Communities to deliver the Aboriginal Employment program. This program makes available paid roles for women within local playgroup settings.

### 11.3.3 Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre

Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre (Wangka Maya) was established in 1989 to assist with the conservation of the Pilbara Aboriginal languages. Wangka Maya works with the

Aboriginal language communities to produce resources such as dictionaries, story books and recordings to promote the preservation and use of the 31 languages of the region. In addition to the linguistic conservation work, Wangka Maya also runs cultural awareness training in the region to “**aid cross cultural communications and understandings about Aboriginal language, culture and history amongst the broader community**”.

#### **11.3.4 Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation**

Wirraka Maya is the first Aboriginal Registered Training Organisation (RTO) in the Pilbara Region and offers a number of accredited qualifications, including:

- Certificates 2 – 4 in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care; and
- Certificate 4 in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice.

#### **11.3.5 The Smith Family**

The Smith Family is Australia's largest national education-oriented charity, and works to support disadvantaged children to participate fully in education in order to break cycles of disadvantage. In Port Hedland, the Smith Family is involved in the Technology Packs Initiative. This initiative provides eligible families with a refurbished home computer, a four-week computer training course and a year's internet access free of charge. The initiative is delivered in conjunction with Royalties for Regions and BHP Billiton. Eligible families are those with school-aged children, proof of low-income status and without access to a home computer.

#### **11.3.6 IBN Group**

The IBN group is owned by the Banyjima, Milyuranpa Banyjimi, Minadhu and Nyiyaparli Aboriginal Corporations, and was established in 2001 as the trustee for two trusts under an agreement with BHP Billiton. IBN provides assistance to improve the health and education of its beneficiaries, the Yinhawangka, Banyjima and Nyiyaparli people.

IBN deliver three assistance programs related to education and training:

- Higher Education Program;
- High School Scholarships; and
- Employment, Training and Enterprise assistance.

The Higher Education Program provides financial assistance towards the costs associated with studying at TAFE (including apprenticeships and traineeships) and going to university. In addition, the IBN group may make grants of up to \$20,000 towards HECS fees to encourage graduates to bring their skills back to the Pilbara. The High School Scholarships program assists families with the costs of sending children to WA schools outside the Pilbara region. This includes assistance with tuition fees, uniforms, boarding costs and some travel expenses.

IBN also offers assistance for people looking to get licences, tickets or other certifications, and those wishing to start new businesses or enterprises.



### 11.3.7 Mission Australia

Mission Australia's Classroom to Career (C2C) program helps to track the journey and progress of young people engaged in programs sponsored by BHP Billiton. The program aims to maximise the success of students transitioning from education to employment through discovering experiences and providing support in navigating school and vocational learning environments.

### 11.3.8 Youth Involvement Council

The YIC works in conjunction with the South Hedland Primary School to deliver the Quicksmart Numeracy and Literacy Program. The program works with primary school children to improve literacy and numeracy and thereby enhance a successful transition into secondary school.

## 12 Early Learning and Parenting

### 12.1 Overview

Early learning and parenting services in the Port Hedland area, including childcare centres, support services and parenting and family assistance, and principally provided through five NGOs and two state government offices (Figure 17).

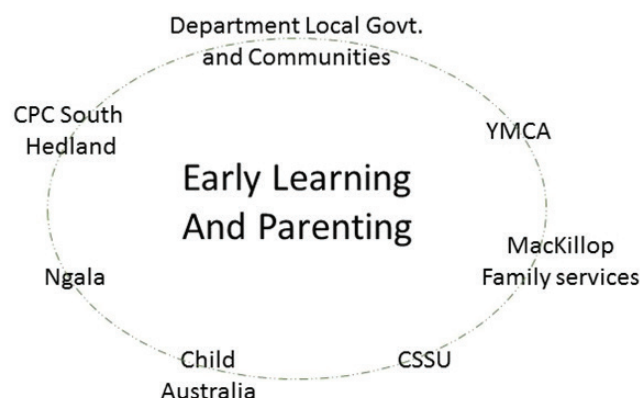


Figure 17: Early Learning and Parenting Service Providers.

### 12.2 Department of Local Government and Communities

The Department of Local Government and Communities funds and coordinates the Aboriginal Early Years Program – Best Start. The Best Start Program provides a playgroup for young children and their parents. Currently operating weekly at Tjalka Boorda community, and twice a week at the Moash Centre (based at Cassia Primary School), the program provides education about nutrition and health, early language and numeracy schools, and assists with integration into kindergarten and pre-primary programs.

## 12.3 YMCA

The YMCA Port Hedland Early Learning Centre was purpose built by the YMCA in partnership with BHP, and runs programs designed to support young people in their learning. YMCA WA also runs the Intensive Support Playgroup Program (ISP) in the East Pilbara region. Focused on improving outcomes for Aboriginal children from birth to five years, and their families, the ISP program is designed to provide a high-quality playgroup experience for Aboriginal children that supports their school readiness development and assists families to access other community services.

## 12.4 MacKillop Family Services

MacKillop Family Services is a Catholic community agency running the Aboriginal Foster Care Program in Hedland. The service works in collaboration with Wirraka Maya and aims to address the fact that currently Aboriginal children in foster care are sometimes placed with families who are not of an Aboriginal background and/or who may not live close by.

## 12.5 Children's Services Support Unit (CSSU)

Family Information Support and Help (FISH) is described in Section 8.8.

## 12.6 Child Australia

Child Australia runs the Rural Playgroup Support program, which is funded by the WA Department for Communities to assist socially or geographically, isolated families in the Pilbara. Child Australia is also responsible for the provision of the Mobile Playgroup program which services the Yandeyarra and Warralong communities

## 12.7 Ngala

The Pilbara Families Building Pilbara Communities (PFBPC) project provides Ngala parenting support to families and communities in Hedland and Newman. The project offers partnership opportunities for parents, community groups, employer groups and services working with families for:

- ▶ Parents to increase their knowledge, confidence and linkages to other parents, community organisations and professionals; and
- ▶ Workers and professionals to access education and training on early parenting and issues impacting families with young children aged up to 8 years.



## 13 Disabilities Services

### 13.1 Overview

Disability services in Port Hedland are largely delivered by three NGOs and one state government department, as shown in Figure 18 below.



Figure 18: Disability Services Providers.

### 13.2 Empowering People in Communities (EPIC)

EPIC is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2012 to deliver quality and reliable services to individuals with a disability and their families, carers and or guardians. EPIC assists people with disabilities in the Pilbara to identify appropriate employment opportunities.

### 13.3 Lifestyle Solutions

Lifestyle Solutions is a national provider of disability supports, as well as services and supports for children and young people in Out of Home Care and Foster Care. Lifestyle Solutions works with carers and people with disabilities in Hedland to provide support and access required services.

### 13.4 Disabilities Services Commission

The Commission works in partnership with service providers and other government departments to provide information, support and services to people with a disability, their families and carers.



## 14 Policing, Justice and Legal Services

Policing, justice and legal services in the Port Hedland area are provided by three state government bodies, and three NGOs (Figure 19).



Figure 19: Police, Justice and Legal Service Providers.

### 14.1 Police and Community Policing

Police stations are located in both South Hedland and Port Hedland, with the South Hedland Station operating 24 hours per day. Two full-time male community police officers are based at the South Hedland Police Station, in addition to one female Aboriginal Liaison Officer.

### 14.2 Department of Corrective Services

The WA Department of Corrective Services provides a number of offices and services in the Port Hedland area, including:

- Pilbara Adult Community Corrections;
- Pilbara Youth Justice Services;
- Court Diversion Officer; and
- Prevention and Diversion Programs.

### 14.3 Pilbara Community Legal Service

The Pilbara Community Legal Service (PCLS) operates throughout the region, and has offices in South Hedland. The service provides free legal advice by solicitors primarily in the areas of Family Law, Criminal Injuries Compensation, Wills and Deceased Estates – however it does not provide criminal law advice.

PCLS also provide free legal education to the community including financial services information, budgeting, and advocacy and support services for the purposes of assisting individuals who are in financial difficulty due to circumstances such as debt, over-commitment, unemployment, sickness or family breakdown. The PCLS also provide tenancy advocacy, education and support services to tenants facing difficulties maintaining their tenancy.



## 14.4 Aboriginal Family Law Services

The Aboriginal Family Law Services (AFLS) provides a range of legal services to Aboriginal people, including advocacy and promotion of communities that are free from family and sexual violence and an understanding that such violence is not culturally appropriate.

The AFLS also provides education within the community, and has a focus on:

- Providing community education and awareness on family and sexual violence and legal processes;
- Promoting respectful relationships; and
- Advocating for human rights, law reform and policy changes in relation to family and sexual violence.

## 14.5 Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia

The Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc.) (ALSWA) provides legal representation and support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Western Australia, including advocating in policy and law reform in submissions, at conferences and in the media.

ALSWA is funded by the Australian Government, through the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department. The contracts between ALSWA and the Australian Government determine what work ALSWA must do.

## 14.6 Legal Aid Western Australia

### 14.6.1 Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

The Family Violence Prevention Legal Service (FVPLS) is a legal and counselling service for victims of family violence and/or sexual assault who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples, or whose partner or children are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island peoples. Each FVPLS provides a range of services that may include:

- Legal advice and information;
- Community legal education;
- Court representation on family violence and sexual assault matters;
- Advocacy and assistance with completion and lodgement of legal documents;
- Information on some general law matters;
- Sexual abuse counselling;
- Community awareness groups/development; and
- Outreach to towns in their area.



## 15 Housing and Crisis Accommodation

One state government department and five local NGOs provide housing and crisis accommodation services in Port Hedland (Figure 20).



Figure 20: Housing and Accommodation Service Providers.

### 15.1 Department of Housing

The Department of Housing forms part of the Housing portfolio of Western Australia's public sector. It was designated as a department under section 35(1) of the Public Sector Management Act 1994, effective from 1 February 2009. This designation followed the transfer of the Works function of the former Department of Housing and Works to the Department of Finance.

### 15.2 Pilbara Meta Maya Regional Aboriginal Corporation

The Pilbara Meta Maya Regional Aboriginal Corporation (PMMRAC) is responsible for maintaining the Remote Area Essential Services Program (RAESP) for the Aboriginal communities located in the Pilbara, Gascoyne and Murchison regions.

The Essential Services Division is responsible for servicing and maintaining power generation, water and wastewater infrastructures, and includes an intensive water quality program which involves the sampling and testing of drinking water to ensure that the drinking water being consumed in the communities meets Australian drinking standards and health guidelines as set down by the WA Department of Health.

The PMMRAC also encompasses a housing division, the overarching focus of which is to improve the quality of living for individuals residing in remote Aboriginal communities through the provision of housing tenancy management, repairs and maintenance, environmental health programs and education. This is achieved by the delivery of services to communities under three programs managed by PMMRAC including Housing Management, Environmental Health and Tenancy Support.

### 15.3 Hedland Women's Refuge

Located in Port Hedland, the Hedland Women's Refuge provides 24-hour crisis accommodation to women and children escaping domestic and family violence or who are homeless due to a crisis.

### 15.4 Bloodwood Tree

Bloodwood Tree Association manages the Bunara Maya Hostel to provide safe and culturally suitable short-term accommodation for Aboriginal people over the age of 18. The Bunara Maya Hostel caters for men, women and families, and provides 20 beds.

## 15.5 Youth Involvement Council

The Youth Involvement Council runs the Youth Accommodation Program (YAP) in South Hedland. YAP is a 24-hour service which provides accommodation, support and case management for young people aged 15-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

## 16 Coordination Activities and Groups

Group/Network	Represented	Hosted	Meet	Coordinator
Hedland Early Years Networking Group		DLGC	Monthly	DLGC – Kathy Holt (leaving) and Tracey Garbin
Hedland FASD Network		WMHSAC	Monthly	June Councilor – WMHSAC
Hedland Youth Services Action Group (HYSAG)		YIC	Monthly	YIC – Stacey Turale
Volatile Substances Unit (VSU) group		Bloodwood Tree Association		
Aboriginal Consultation Forum		Town of Port Hedland – Lotteries House	Quarterly	Facilitator – Maureen Kelly, through ToPH

Table 10: Coordination Groups and Meetings.

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