

## **THE HEDLAND FASD COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP (CRG)**

The Hedland FASD Community Reference Group (Hedland FASD CRG) has been established with representatives from the local community to provide advice on the research project aimed at reducing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) amongst the Hedland and surrounding communities in the Pilbara. This project is being driven by the community and aims to make FASD history in the Pilbara.

The project called 'Warajanga Marnti Warrarnja - Together we walk on country' is a partnership between the Telethon Kids Institute, Wirraka Maya Health Services and BHP Billiton in collaboration with the Hedland FASD Network.

## **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF HEDLAND FASD CRG?**

The Hedland FASD CRG was formally established in March 2016.

- It aims to support the FASD project and to ensure the key goals and principles of the project are achieved at all times.
- It provides advice to the research team, research partners and the FASD Network on engaging with Aboriginal community groups and organisations in Hedland, Warralong and Yandeyarra.
- It supports the research team in ensuring the cultural and ethical conduct of research in Aboriginal communities with a key focus on strengthening community empowerment, healing, connectedness to country, spirituality and local family capacity building.

## **HEDLAND FASD CRG KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Provide advice to the FASD Network, research team and Wirraka Maya
- Talk to the community about the FASD project
- Assist the FASD project with promotion and prevention activities
- Support events promoting the FASD project
- Support annual bush meetings and women's and men's gatherings to promote FASD awareness
- Support Aboriginal community research recruitment
- Encourage and assist policy development

## WHO ARE THE HEDLAND FASD CRG?

- Ann Sibosado
- Tracy Kynaston
- Anika Coppin-Foley
- Janet Stewart
- Bonnie Liddell
- Tabareena Waddaman
- Margaret Moses-Martin
- David Moses-Martin
- Gordon Yuline
- Basil Snook
- Ebony Winmar
- Chrissie Black



## HEDLAND FASD CRG MILESTONES SO FAR

In March 2016 the group worked with the research team members, Associate Professor Roz Walker, Sylvia Lockyer and Adrian Clinch (who is also a member of the Hedland FASD CRG).

**Terms of Reference:** These were endorsed in June 2016.

**Naming the Project:** The research team worked with the Hedland FASD CRG to decide on the project name 'Warajanga Marnti Warrarnja - Together we walk on country'.



This has been an important step - 'everything is in the name'. Deciding on the right name took several weeks and very wide consultation with all of the local language groups to agree on using **Nyangumarta**.

It was very important to everyone that the name was able to capture the essence of the project – the notion of Aboriginal families, mothers, fathers, children and communities, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working and walking together.

Walking on country was also important as country is the mother, it is country that people draw their strength and connectedness from - *Warajanga Marnti Warrarnja*.