

*'Whisper No More' ...*  
**Workshop**  
**Aboriginal Health Conference 2019**

**Presenters:**

**Marilyn Lyford WA Centre for Rural Health**  
**Taneisha Hansen Cancer Council WA**

# Acknowledgement to Country

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land we are meeting on today, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and pay our respect to the Elders past, present and emerging.



Aboriginal people are advised that some of the photos and videos used contain images and voices of people who have died.

We are very grateful to everyone involved who were keen to tell their story on video and agreed to the use of the material to develop the resources for health professionals to increase our understanding of what matters to Aboriginal people when they have cancer.

# Workshop Outline

- Welcome and introductions
- Some stats and facts about cancer
- Background to *Whisper No More* resource
- Discussion Groups
- Feedback
- Wrap up



# Taneisha's story



# Marilyn's story



A Safe Space is a place or environment in which a person or category of people can feel confident that they will not be exposed to discrimination, criticism, harassment, or any other emotional or physical harm.



# Common Cancers for Aboriginal people

1. Lung cancer
2. Breast (female)
3. Bowel
4. Prostate (male)
5. Head and neck
6. Uterine (female)
7. Liver
8. Unknown Primary Site
9. Pancreatic
10. Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma



# Stats and Facts

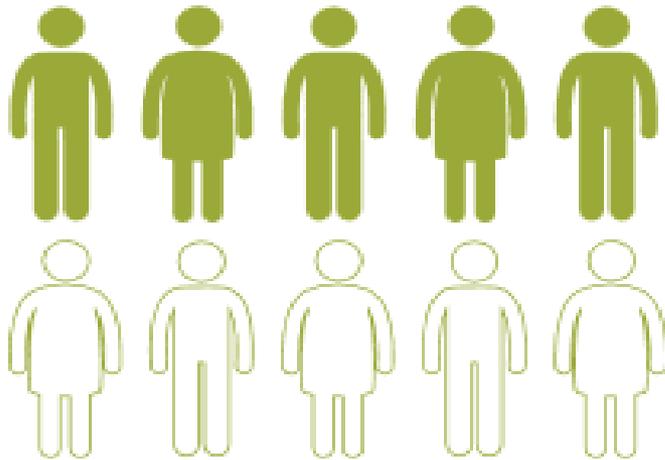
- From 2009-2013 there were 6,397 new cases of cancer for Aboriginal people = 1,279 Aboriginal people diagnosed per year
- Between 2011-2015 there were a total of 2,754 deaths , an average of 551 cancer-related deaths each year for Aboriginal Australians
- From 2011–2015, Aboriginal Australians were 1.4 times as likely to die from cancer than non-Aboriginal Australians



# Cancer Survival

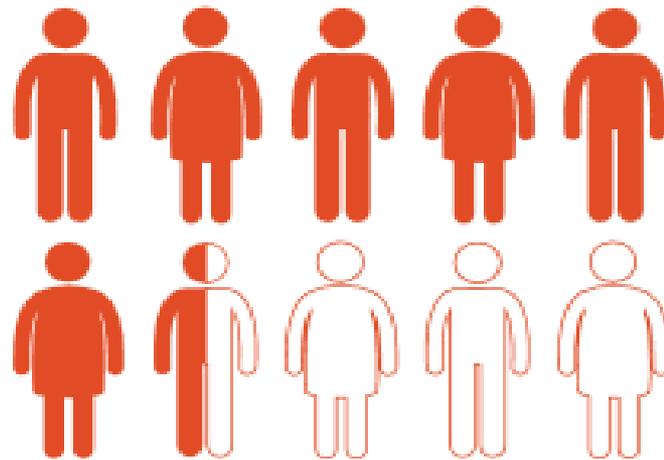
Chance of **surviving**  
at least **5 years**

**50%**



**Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islanders**

**65%**



**Non-Indigenous**

2007-2014 NSW, Vic, Qld, WA, NT



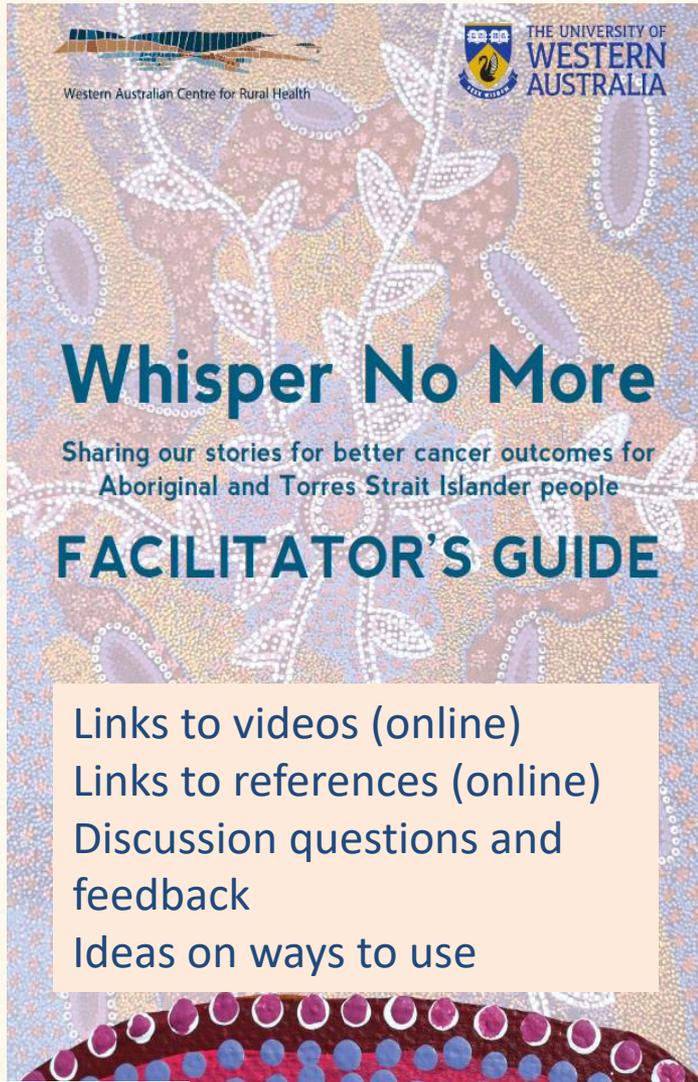
# What is known?

## Cancer survival and mortality for Aboriginal people

- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Aboriginal people
- Cancer survival is worse for almost all cancers among the Aboriginal population, regardless of the stage at diagnosis
- Later presentation / diagnosis resulting in more advanced disease
- Less likely to receive treatment – chemotherapy, radiotherapy, less surgery
- Higher incidence occurs in cancers with the poorest prognosis



# What is *Whisper No More* about?



- Eight individual story videos
- Five themed videos
  - Delayed diagnosis
  - Screening
  - Family
  - Staying strong
  - Difficult conversations

Use authentic voice and lived cancer experience to bring together...

Aboriginal people + Health science students  
and health service  
providers



# Discussion

Let's look at 2 of the videos - website: [www.wacrh.uwa.edu.au](http://www.wacrh.uwa.edu.au)

## Scenarios 1 & 2

### 1. *It took a long time – delayed diagnosis*

- In your small group discuss - use the discussion questions as a guide
- Refer to one of the key readings
- Summarise the main points
- Report back to the group

### 2. *You've got to prepare – difficult conversations*

- In your small group discuss - use the discussion questions as a guide
- Refer to one of the key readings
- Summarise the main points
- Report back to the group



# Thank you

**Authors and Curriculum Development:** Michele Gawlinski, Sue Jones, Marilyn Lyford, Lenny Papertalk, Sandra Thompson

***Whisper No More Advisory Group***

**Video Production Team**

**Poche Centre for Indigenous Health UWA**

***DISCOVER –TT CRE, STREP Ca-ClndA – Cancer Council NSW & WA***

***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework***

**Art work:** *Barndi Health* by Barbara Merritt and Charmaine Green, Yamaji artists, Geraldton

Most importantly our **Story Providers**

*The health system doesn't become safe for people by sitting them down in a dark lecture theatre and giving them facts..... It becomes safer by sitting in the sunlight and red dirt and hearing the patient voice.....*



**Dr Tim Senior - *Safe spaces: a comparison of experiences***

**MJA InSight Doctor's Portal, October 22 2018**