

Notre Dame Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series



A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

‘Aboriginal community understandings of dementia’

Wednesday 21st August 2019

Venue: NDB11/101

Time: 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Presenters: Terry Cox

Abstract

Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders are impacted by dementia at higher rates and at a younger age of onset than the broader Australia population. Public health strategies to support this population require a thorough understanding of how Aboriginal people perceive dementia and dementia care support needs. Terry will explain how he has investigated Aboriginal community understandings of dementia and their responses to dementia care. He will share his collaborative research methodology, results and positive outcomes from his rural Tasmanian study.



Biographies

Terry Cox is a proud member of the Circular Head Aboriginal community in north-west Tasmania. He was awarded his PhD from the School of Sociology and Social Work at the University of Tasmania (UTAS) in 2012 with his thesis *Beyond childhood cancer: Bringing primary carers into focus*. He has held various lecturing positions in the Schools of Sociology, Nursing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education. Terry also developed the inaugural UTAS School of Health Sciences *Indigenous Health Curriculum Strategic Plan* at the request of the Faculty Dean. Since 2015 Terry has undertaken various Aboriginal community health research projects with the Centre for Rural Health. In close consultation with Elders and community leaders, Terry has examined the therapeutic value of older men engaging in a community men’s shed. He has led a team from the Centre for Rural Health and the Wicking Dementia Centre to examine community’s understanding of dementia and dementia care support needs. This project provided the basis for a successful Department of Health: Dementia and Aged Care Services (DACs) grant for Aboriginal people to undertake an innovative community-based tertiary and vocational program in dementia care education and training. His current research examines how Elders contribute to the intergenerational well-being of Aboriginal people in rural Tasmania.

