

## Inspirational stories from rural and remote Aboriginal communities

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Many excellent projects occurring in rural and remote Indigenous communities do not get exposure and are rarely published in traditional academic journals. Reasons for this include lack of experience and skills, resources and time. The WA Indigenous Storybooks aim to address this issue by providing an easy and non-threatening way for Indigenous people to record and share their positive stories within their own networks and with the broader West Australian (WA), and Australian community. PHAIWA aims to publish two books per year.

A Steering Committee of key Indigenous practitioners oversee this project. A framework which ensures all stories are structured under five headings has been developed to guide authors. Consultation with Indigenous people and communities takes place face to face to collaborate on the writing and storytelling process and relevant photos are taken of both the project and storytellers involved. A local launch of each book in the relevant region is conducted followed by post evaluation to determine reach and effectiveness.

The Storybooks provide Indigenous people with an opportunity to share their positive stories and express the value and benefits of their projects for public consumption. These innovative Storybooks encourage improved dissemination of written Indigenous stories in a culturally appropriate and sensitive manner. They recognise and celebrate the achievements of Indigenous people and their communities by embracing a holistic view of health and sectors outside of health including education, employment, housing, environment, the arts, animal management, sport, alcohol and drugs and others.

The five Storybooks that feature only rural and remote Aboriginal stories will be featured in this presentation. The paper will outline how the stories portray positive outcomes in communities which have resulted from sharing and disseminating these stories.