



2014—Q1 HIGHLIGHTS

* FEBRUARY:

Cert III in Disability training in Kalgoorlie continues for the year (see activ.asn.au for course details)

Margaret continues storytelling circles with families

* **MARCH:** Jillian & Caris visit Kalgoorlie.

* **APRIL:** Equipment library from Perth, **Independent Living Centre**, visit Kalgoorlie together with Jillian & Caris.

Later in the year other Disability services will be visiting...

* **MAY:** The team from **Autism Association** visit Kalgoorlie

* **JULY:** Damian Griffis, **First People Disability Network**, scheduled to visit Perth.

* **AUG/SEPT:** **Occupational Therapy Services Group** possibly visiting Kalgoorlie.

Pika Wiya Kuthupa

'NOT SICK, DIFFERENT ONE'

UPDATE 2014 - Q1

Families tell their stories...

The beginning of the year saw the continuation of storytelling circles (sharing disability stories) coordinated by Margaret Gidgup.

Here are excerpts from some stories:

"Didn't really understand what the doctors were talking about with the condition, and stuff so... yeah, it was just too overwhelming."

Aboriginal mum

"You know we need people who are passionate about Aboriginal people that respect the culture, and respect other people, you know, not just in the position because it pays well and it's a cruddy job, and they need to be educated about how; what's acceptable and what's not acceptable, how they can speak to us, and how they can't."

Aboriginal aunty

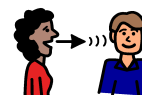
"When he needs a counsellor I prefer an Aboriginal man because talking to another Aboriginal we got the same background, we walk the same streets... she [counselling service] turns around and calls me a racist and I said its got nothing to... its not your choice... we want to pick our counsellors, we pick our counsellors."

Aboriginal dad

Aboriginal views of disability...

In many Aboriginal communities:

- a disability is viewed as not sick, just different
- there is no direct or translatable word for disability
- wellbeing is viewed holistically – having a strong spirit, body and mind
- all children are cared for and treated the same
- children stick together – whether they have a disability or not
- understanding about the causes of disability can range from pay-back, curses, wrong way marriage, domestic violence, substance abuse, or cultural beliefs
- if a disability is seen as pay-back for past wrong doing, there may be guilt or shame – families would not want to engage with disability specific services.



More: http://www.healthinfor.net.ecu.edu.au/uploads/resources/3050_reviews_oneill.pdf

Thank you Margaret...



Above: Jillian, Margaret and Caris. Margaret showing off a silky pear, Wongi name 'Karlakurla' (Kalgoorlie—place of silky pears).

In April, Margaret left the Community Engagement Officer role to pursue disability care work in Perth and be closer to her family and loved ones. Margaret's impact on the project and community will be missed, her contribution was invaluable. **Thank you Margaret!**

The project is looking at appointing a Aboriginal male to capture more stories of fathers, grandfathers and uncles who are carers. Stay tuned!

Right: Occupational Therapist, Fiona Kemp, showing families equipment and resources for people with a disability.

Family Dinner...



Staff from the **Independent Living Centre** visited Kalgoorlie. Two therapists were the guest speakers for the April Family Dinner Get Together. These monthly get together evenings are an opportunity for Aboriginal families to find out more information about disability supports in their community.



Jillian and Margaret outside Disability Services Commission, Kalgoorlie

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cerebral  **palsy**
celebrating potential, creating possibilities

PIKA WIYA KUTHUPA PROJECT- 'NOT SICK, DIFFERENT ONE'