

AVETRA Conference Sydney April 2009



Thinking and acting outside the square: collaborative and participative research in VET.

A case study from a collaboration between Women in Adult and Vocational Education and Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi.

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
"Doing Good Work for Families"

WAVE & Waltja Minmaku Women Leaders project

Minmaku Palyantja Palya (Value Women's Good Work)

Waltja and WAVE collaboration

Participants : Central Australian Indigenous women leaders

Funded by Office for Women (FaCSHIA)

Womens Leadership Development Program

WLDP aims :

- promote women's social inclusion
- Build women's capacity to take on greater leadership responsibilities
- Build the capacity of women's NGOs to represent the views of members and contribute to public policy and/or service delivery

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
"Doing Good Work for Families"

Women in Adult and Vocational Education (WAVE) www.wave.org.au

- National feminist network for women in adult and vocational education and training
- Advice and advocacy re ACE and VET
- Promotes social justice & equity in ACE & VET institutions, policies, practices
- Links and cooperation with other organisations
- Research to advance interests of women in ACE & VET
- Funded through member subscription and tenders to government

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
"Doing Good Work for Families"

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi: www.waltja.org.au

- Aboriginal NGO supporting remote communities' self-determination and access to local services, training & employment
- Principles: leadership of strong Aboriginal women, a focus on families, and support for community self-management and self-determination and improved services on communities.
- Participants/clients are Aboriginal families and remote communities across Central Australia
- Waltja is an independent NGO, self-funding plus tenders for philanthropic, Shire, NT & Commonwealth funds

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
"Doing Good Work for Families"

Project aims: aligning participants, policy, pedagogy

- Recognise, acknowledge and promote Aboriginal women for their leadership in early childhood and youth services on remote communities in Central Australia
- encourage the active participation of Aboriginal women in education and training programs and networks
- Build friendships between Waltja and WAVE participants
- Development of guidelines & resources applicable to VET in relation to entry level qualifications in community services
- Development of guidelines for other organisations and institutions working with Aboriginal communities

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
"Doing Good Work for Families"

Minmaku Project activities

- Waltja and WAVE governance and planning
- Nominations, endorsement, acceptances
- Community visits
- Participant profiles
- Leadership Awards
- Minmaku workshop Ross River March 09
- Leadership resource development incl DVD
- Waltja & WAVE workshop and launch Alice Springs July 8th -9th 09
- Project reporting and acquittals

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
"Doing Good Work for Families"

“Good leaders work hard”

Mt Liebig group painting



- Speak up and keep on speaking up. Talk up strong the same way for everyone.
- Listen to & look after old people
- Train all the young ones
- Help young people plan and achieve their goals
- Go to meetings, go anywhere to talk up for community
- Help people join in and talk up
- Create and lead good activities and help make good things happen

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
“Doing Good Work for Families”

“Being a leader makes you proud and strong”

- ‘Women getting together making a strong voice’
- Sharing information and talking up about what you know
- Being a role model in cultural activities and in education
- Elders passing knowledge to younger generations; training and encouraging young people to be good leaders
- Don’t give up, remind people of the important things to do
- Indigenous and non-indigenous working together
- Going to meetings and conferences, learning and talking up
- Being involved in evaluation, paperwork, reports
- Assessment and Certificates for your work

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
“Doing Good Work for Families”

“Strong Community, Strong Voices”

Support for Women leaders Tjitjikala group painting



- Look after our leaders
- Having good relationships for trust and respect
- Stand up with them in meetings, encourage them
- Family and friends support
- Training young women/men to help leaders. Take them with you to meetings.
- Celebrate the hard work.
- Certificates make you feel proud.

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
“Doing Good Work for Families”

Overlapping/colliding values: asking the difficult questions

- How to value & accredit social literacies, leadership competencies and experiential learning in VET?
- How does intergenerational transmission of skills fit within the VET model?
- How to create resources with local and national value
- In context of short-term contracts, how to negotiate mutual benefit between policy bodies, funded organisations & community clients/subjects/participants.
- How can the layers of pedagogy best be described?
- Is there a new research model which links policy, participation, pedagogy.
- What are the messages for policy advocacy?

Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
“Doing Good Work for Families”