



ANNALEE STEARNE

PROGRAM MANAGER

MAKING FASD HISTORY NATIONAL PROJECT



ANNA'S RESEARCH

I'm the Program Manager for the Making FASD History National Project. We are working in Alice Springs and Newcastle to implement localised strategies to prevent fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

I stumbled into research after working as a high school teacher. I discovered that I really enjoyed public health research that engaged at community level. I've been lucky enough to travel throughout Australia working on many different projects.

WHAT DRIVES HER

I think for research to be done properly, it needs to be done with communities. Research should be a tool that supports the priorities of communities, and gives a voice to community concerns.

The Making FASD History project I'm involved in is working with local communities to reduce and prevent alcohol related harms for individuals who haven't chosen to consume alcohol.

HER INSPIRATION

My mother and grandmothers have inspired me, at no point have they ever said that I couldn't achieve anything. They have given me opportunities that they never had.

Because of her, I have pursued an education. Because of her, I have been given opportunities. Because of her, I have stepped out of my comfort zone.

ANNA'S MESSAGE

I would encourage any Aboriginal person interested in pursuing a career in research to speak to other Aboriginal researchers, and to find an area of interest and a niche.

The more Aboriginal people involved in research the better, and it's never too late - you don't have to be young to start a research career. Take every opportunity to learn and step out of your comfort zone, because slowly that too will become your comfort zone.

ANNA'S PEOPLE

I'm a Nyungar woman, with connections on my mother's side to the Pilbara.

