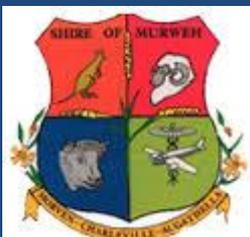
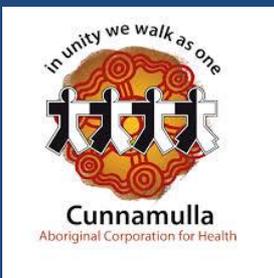
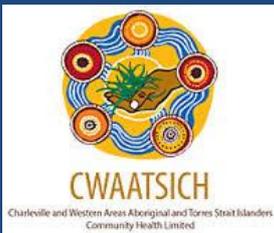


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## MEDIA RELEASE

18 May, 2015

### A whole of community approach in Cunnamulla

Cunnamulla residents today took the first steps in identifying core community values to create a community owned vision and blueprint for the future.

The meeting follows initial roundtable discussions in March where the Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health (CACH), Paroo Shire Council, South West Hospital and Health Service (HHS), Murweh Shire Council and Central and Western Areas Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health (CWAATSICH) were given a mandate to progress strategies to improve social and health outcomes for the communities.

Annalise Jennings from Dynamic Exchange was brought in to facilitate the meeting based on her wealth of experience in helping communities drive positive change.

“Whole of Community Change’ is a philosophy of ownership and self-determination,” she said.

“It’s about the push for change coming from the community who live and work here, rather than being imposed by policy makers from afar.”

Ms Jennings’ work in Cape York has seen the Napranum community shift from welfare dependency to wealth creation.

“In Napranum within two years there was a 60 per cent increase in employment and a 40 per cent increase in community owned infrastructure.”

Ms Jennings said it is all about shifting the conversation from discussing problems to creating possibilities.

“Our communities are not a problem to be solved.”

“They are full of opportunity and potential that we need to collectively recognise and support.”

“Creating a connected community is about respecting our differences and finding our common goals and values.

Ms Jennings said the ‘Whole of Community Change’ framework opens the door for the community to create a vision and to be supported in making it a reality by service providers and policy makers.”

# MEDIA RELEASE

CACH CEO Kerry Crumblin said the Cunnamulla meeting was a good start.

“There was really good energy and enthusiasm and I am feeling positive that we will see community buy-in to the process,” she said.

Paroo Shire Mayor Lindsay Godfrey agrees it was a critical step.

“There are a lot more steps to take as we bring everyone together to create a future for our youth in this town. This is a solid beginning.”

ENDS

## **Photo Captions;**

***HOPE Photo 1*** - (F) Annalise Jennings Dynamic Exchange, (L-R) Kerry Crumblin CEO CACH, Julie Fox Cunnamulla State School, Lindsay Godfrey Paroo Shire Mayor, Nicole Gibson National Mental Health Commissioner, Lawrence 'Cheesie' Anderson Cunnamulla Disability Services.

***HOPE Photo 2*** - The Cunnamulla community bonded as they discussed common goals during a meeting facilitated by Annalise Jennings Dynamic Exchange.

## **For More Information Contact;**

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