

Barry Fewquandie

Indigenous Research Fellow,
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Hi all, my name is Barry Fewquandie. I am of mixed descent (Australian South Sea Islander and Indigenous) from Mollicoola people of Malaita in the Solomon Islands and the Goreng Goreng people of the Gladstone region in central Queensland. I am one of eleven children - 7 boys & 4 girls. I have two adult children and one grandchild all living in North Queensland. I have been involved in Aboriginal and Australian South Sea Islander affairs most of my adult life, either as an employee, a member on boards/committees or in an advocacy role. Since 2006 I have worked for the Wuchopperen Health Service as Program Coordinator of the Healthy Hearts Cardiovascular Health & Rehabilitation Program in Cairns Far North Queensland.

In 2008 I won the Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Essay Prize held yearly by the Australian Medical Association for an essay titled The Heart of the Matter is that it's a Matter of the Heart & published in the Medical Journal of Australia, May 2008.

I am a non-clinical health worker in the health promotion stream and co-ordinate cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation programs. I am currently involved with the Kanyini Vascular Collaboration as one of the Indigenous Research Fellows and enjoy being part of this important research. I see the benefits of this research impacting on indigenous people well beyond the life of the project – and that's an exciting community action to be part of.

My previous work life began in a quite a different field to today; after leaving school I worked as a fencing contractor on cattle stations before moving into several other manual labouring roles such as railway worker, cane farm worker & plant operator on a mine site to mention a few.

During the early 1980's I became involved in Indigenous community welfare by being part of management committees, steering committees and work as welfare officer. Working in this field exposed me to various social inequities experienced by marginalised indigenous and ethnic groups in the community & it challenged me to do things to bring about change. It became clear, to improve the standard of living for the affected group, access to specific knowledge and a greater understanding of how to progress and resolve key issues was needed

This led me to further studies as a Project Officer for Government Services at Northern Territory University and Koori Community Management and Development in Victoria and a Community Services Worker in Townsville.

Since furthering my studies I have worked in various fields including; Child Protection, Legal Aide Support, Freelance Journalism, Disability Advocacy Support, Community Management & Development, and Indigenous Health Promotion. I also plan to complete further studies in population health, project management and health promotion.