

**All seminars take place from 10.30 am to 12 noon on Mondays,
room 309, Morven Brown, UNSW Kensington Campus.**

9 April **Peta MacGillivray, UNSW Project Manager for the Yuwaya Ngarra-li partnership**
**Dr Ruth McCausland, Director of Evaluation for the Yuwaya Ngarra-li partnership and Senior
Research Fellow, School of Social Sciences, UNSW**

*Building an ethical community-led research collaboration: the Yuwaya Ngarra-li partnership with the
Dharriwaa Elders Group, Walgett*

From 2011-2015, a UNSW research team undertook an ARC Linkage-funded research project, Indigenous Australians with Mental Health Disorders and Cognitive Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System (IAMHDCD Project). The mixed method research was underpinned by an Indigenous-informed methodology, the qualitative component of which was led by two Aboriginal researchers (Peta MacGillivray and Elizabeth McEntyre) who built research partnerships with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations in four sites. One of those sites was Walgett, a remote town in north-west NSW, where the research partners were the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service and the Dharriwaa Elders Group. After working closely and collaboratively for four years, the Dharriwaa Elders Group invited UNSW to continue to work together to respond to the problems identified around the criminalisation of Aboriginal communities and systemic barriers to community-led solutions.

This presentation will give an overview of common approaches and mechanisms for engaging in ethical Aboriginal community-led research, before detailing the methodology and findings of the IAMHDCD Project. We will then discuss how we have worked collaboratively to build a holistic, long-term partnership between UNSW and the Dharriwaa Elders Group to support the Elders' vision for positive systemic change in their community. We will conclude by discussing the responses to our intention to forge a different way of working within UNSW which gives primacy to Aboriginal community views and priorities.

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