**NATSIEH 2019 ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

# Presentation Title

# Working together and making change happen from the people

**Abstract.**

In this presentation, two Aboriginal environmental health practitioners will discuss how environmmetnal health works on the ground in remote settings in Northern Australia. Chicky works with Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Patrick works with Nindilingarri Cultural Health Services, both organisations have been in the Kimberley for many decades. In an earlier presentation, the journey so far in the Kimberley has been described. Across the region, clinical and environmental health partner together. The support from Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum in advocating this link has made a big difference. In this presentation, we share how combined effort is needed to make change happen using examples from our experiences. Working with communities not talking ‘at’ them is the way both services go about their business to share knowledge about the link between environment and health. Across Northern Australia there is Aboriginal environmental health on the ground, sharing the way we advocate and harness partnerships. It’s important to learn from our shared experiences, today we are talking about how to get support and gain more weight behind our messages. We will show the advantages of growing and resourcing expert Aboriginal environmental health organisations. Problems need funding and partnerships to fix. The changes to the Plumbing regulations have been benificial for remote Aboriginal people. Chicky will describe Nirrumbuk’s service area. Patrick will describe his work in the Fitrzroy Valley, a region in Central Kimberley with approximately 3,000 Aborigial residents. Both services acknowledge and appreciate funding from EH Health Branch.

**Abstract Summary.**

This presentation will share experiences as Aboriginal exnivironmental health practitioners working in the remote Kimberley region.

**Main Presenter Biography**

Chicky is the Environmental Health Supervisor (Kimberley) for Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Services. He has rich and diverse experience in the environmental health field, including as EH Lecturer for Kimberley TAFE and Djaringo RTO and Field Supervisor for Kimberley Population Health Unit. Chicky is a Bardi man from Arydaloon (One Arm Point) on the Dampier Peninsula. Born, raised and educated in Darwin, he completed his trade in Carpentry and moved to Ardyaloon in 1980 to join his family and started his own, one family there. Chicky has been working in and with remote communites across the Kimberleys for the past 40 y ears. He has been a Community Council Chairperson, Builder, Mentor, Trainer and for the past 20 years focussed on his passion, Environmental Health. Chicky has been instrumental in developing local partnerships and ways of working, always keeping his eye on the best outcome for all Aboriginal people.