

Francis Fernandez

First generation Australian /
Indian Heritage

Team Leader Change 'Em Ways Broome



My Why:

I came to Kimberley as a primary school teacher, working in remote Aboriginal communities. I have worked for government and non-government agencies in the fields of education and family support. I have enjoyed beautiful experiences on-Country and have been privileged to learn about Aboriginal culture. For the last few years, I ran a men's centre and became aware of issues affecting Aboriginal men in the Kimberley. I enjoyed working alongside those who are living with disadvantage to co-create their unique solutions and support them in complex challenges they face in life.

Timeline:

I arrived in the Kimberley as a primary school teacher in 2006 spending much time in Bidyadanga Community, and a year in Kupungarri Community. I have worked as a school principal, a family support advocate, a men's centre manager and a volunteer firefighter.

Hobbies:

Spending time with family, exercise, community events and walking my dog.

Passions:

Family, personal growth, creating beautiful memories and learning new things.

**“Success is
the sum of
small efforts,
repeated day
in and day
out”**

Nelson Bieundurry

I am a Wangkatjungka/Walmartjarri man on my father's side and a Bunuba/Gooniyandi man on my mother's side, my skin group is Tjapanangka/Tjungurrayi and my totem animal is the catfish from the Fitzroy River.

Cultural Guidance Worker Change 'Em Ways Teams



My Why:

Because I feel I can make a difference.

Hobbies:

Watching movies, walking, learning new things and enjoying quiet time.

Timeline:

I started work with Change Em Ways in October 2022.

Passions:

Learning new things.

“The future belongs to those that prepare for it today”
Malcolm X.

Anna Thorn

Born in Melbourne. Raised in Broome.

Project Officer Change 'Em Ways Teams



My Why:

Being able to be apart of an organisation that strives for equality and equity amongst men, women, and their families in the Kimberley. I want to work towards a future where the gap of racial disparity is closed.

Timeline:

I did all my education in Broome and graduated from Broome Senior High School in 2021 where I then went on to work with WACHS in the radiology department clerical team for one year, moving on to the corporate services team for 18 months as an Executive Assistant and Human Resources Officer.

Hobbies:

Diving/spearfishing , Touch rugby, running, gym , horse-riding and cooking.

Passions:

Helping those in need, travel, music, food and being a Collingwood supporter.

Equality
is giving everyone
the same pair of shoes.
Equity
is giving everyone a
pair of shoes
that fit.

Kirsten Howard

Jaru/ Yamatji

Facilitator Change 'Em Ways Broome



My Why:

I want to use my experience as a positive and not a negative. I Want to help make changes for the next generation of men. I believe trying to help break the cycle can help grow a stronger community.

Timeline:

Grew up in Broome, spent some time in Fitzroy Crossing and Derby growing up. Moved back to Broome in 2022 from Derby. Previous job as an Aboriginal Teachers Assistant at St Mary's College in the high school and now joining the team as a Co-Facilitator at Change 'Em Ways team.

Hobbies:

Family time, art, watching and supporting my sons play football, fishing, camping, traveling and quiet time.

Passions:

Being a positive role model for my sons, for them to be strong men.

Be strong
because things will
get better,
it maybe stormy now
but it never rains
forever

Albert Wiggan

Bardi, Nyul Nyul and Kija

Facilitator Change 'Em Ways Broome



My Why:

Growing up in Broome and watching the impacts of violence most of my life, I wanna help my community get better and build strength with our people to keep our homes and families safer

Timeline:

I joined the Change em Ways team in Oct 2025, after working with the Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service for the last 5yrs, with the Mental Health and Wellbeing team.

Hobbies:

Sport, Going bush and hunting, anything outdoors

Passions:

Spending time with my kids, and family, practicing my culture and helping to inspire my people in a positive way

Karen Koster

Jabirr Jabirr/Bard/Yawuru

Facilitator Change 'Em Ways Communities



My Why:

I grew up with family violence and want to help with the change.

Hobbies:

Camping, fishing and jewellery making.

Passions:

I am passionate about Aboriginal affairs and improving the social, mental and physical welfare of Aboriginal people.

Timeline:

Marnja Jarndu women's refuge, HYPE and Drop-in Centre, Save the Children, Nirrumbuk Employment Services /Nirrumbuk Enterprises, Co-Facilitator CEW Communities.

One of our great Aboriginal academic leaders learnt early on in her career: "the world is run by those who show up"

Buffy Lefroy

English, Yamatji, Noongar, Irish

Partner Support Change 'Em Ways



My Why:

Advocating for those who can't speak up for equity, equal rights and justice.

Timeline:

1987 – 91 visited Broome playing in bands. 1993 moved to Broome and worked as musician, chipped pearl shell, deck hand, gardener, cleaner, mining, traveler, bar work, APB Fitzroy River, deck crew. 2004 – Uni Notre Dame BA Couns. BA Arts worked in Employment services, Family and Domestic Violence services, Legal services, Mental Health, Homelessness sector and currently Change Em Ways Partner Support.

Hobbies:

Street dogs, ukelele (very badly) tin whistle (sound like a farm animal but it's fun).

Passions:

Music, travel, art, soft smelly cheese, sailing and red earrings.

Whether you think you can, or you think you can't – you're right. Henry Ford