Welcome to our first WOMB Project Update

Welcome to our first WOMB Project update! In our recent face-to-face meeting in Brisbane (photo above), we committed to building upon our shared values of privileging voices   of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, two -way learning , and a strengths- based and nurturing approach   . Open communication between us as partners in the WOMB project is key to us reaching our goal of improved maternal and child health outcomes.

WOMB Project partners

We have a commitment from eight service partners to participate in the WOMB project, with negotiations continuing with another two services. The services who will be facilitating participatory women's groups are:

• Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service, Ballina
• Carbal Aboriginal Medical Services, Warwick
• Gidgee Healing, Mornington Island
• Gidgee Healing, Doomadgee
• Geraldton Aboriginal Medical Services, Geraldton
• Kalwun Medical Services, Gold Coast
• Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, Mareeba
• A Tiwi-based partner (still negotiating the best service to support a women's group)

Ethics and approvals

At our Brisbane WOMB meeting, we had a thought-provoking presentation by colleagues from the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress about ethics. We discussed ethics from an Aboriginal perspective, and the importance of true informed consent by participants in our project. This approach would apply to Torres Strait Islander communities also. The WOMB team are now working to ensure the WOMB project processes reflect the principles we discussed.

Formally, ethics applications are being finalised across the country to safely proceed with establishing new women's groups or supporting existing groups partnering in the WOMB project.
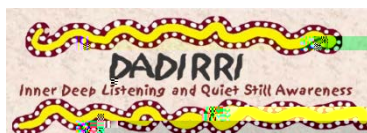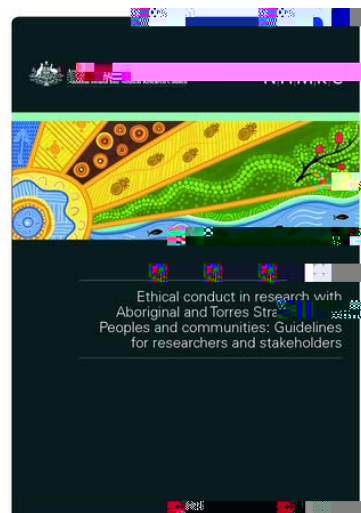
Dadirri - Deep listening

At our recent WOMB Project meeting in Brisbane, Dr Lynore Geia introduced us to Dadirri, inner deep listening and quiet still awareness. Dadirri is explained in more detail by Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, an Aboriginal elder from Nauiyu, in the podcast found here:
https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/spiritofthings/elder-invites-australians-to-embrace-tradition-of-deep-listening/7699476

You can also read more about Dadirri - just click on the link below.

Request for a logo

It is time to put on your 'thinking caps' - we need a project logo! As we discussed in the Brisbane meeting, we invite someone from the WOMB project group that understands the values and purpose of the project (or someone close to them) to design a logo that captures our shared desire to improve life for Mums and Bubs though the participatory women's groups. If you, or someone you know, would like to design a logo, then we have a small amount of funds to thank the artist. Let us know! womb@jcu.edu.au

Communication and Media

Your Closed Facebook Group is LIVE and waiting for you to join :) Thanks to Lee Yeomans from QAIHC, we now have a place to meet and share about all things 'WOMB'. To join the group, please open Facebook and paste Women's Action for Mums and Bubs -   WOMB Project in the search box at the top of the page. Once you are at our page, click on '+Join Group' and you will be connected!

We have recently sent out a document outlining our shared commitment to regular, respectful communication. In response to a request from one of our service partners (thanks Tracey!)), we have also developed a one-pager explaining the WOMB project in plain language. This was circulated last week - you can download the now UPDATED document via the 'Read More' tab below.

The monthly WOMB Project meeting will be held on Wednesday 21.11.18, with an Agenda sent last week. Minutes will be distributed to all project partners, including those who cannot attend.

For social media users: please use our hashtag #WOMBprojectAU

Photo Spot

We love to focus on the positive here at the WOMB project, and invite you to help us! Each Project Update we will include a photo from one of the beautiful places we live and work. This Update, we are including a photo by Peter Eve from Tiwi Islands (sourced from the National Museum of Australia). If you have a photo you would like to share with