

## **Dawn the Aboriginal Community Centre Coordinator**

Dawn has been working as the Coordinator of Women's and early childhood programmes at Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Resource Centre for the past three years. She had been actively working for the betterment of her aboriginal community since she retired from her former career as a surgical theatre nurse. She wanted a job that gave her the opportunity to mentor younger aboriginal women. At her present workplace, she is one of the few paid staff with the rest of the work done by volunteers. She loves her workplace and the opportunities she has but admits the challenges facing her community are huge, and not easy to solve. However she is optimistic that through education, life could get better for the future generations. Since there are few staff, her work covers nearly every aspect of the day to day running of the centre, including cleaning and making tea and coffee.

Recently she initiated a workshop for the women, a first in the state for Noongar women. She facilitated the meeting between some of those women and the elders, an event recorded in this sketchbook. She works in close consultation with the elders and the staff and chairmen of the organisation, seeking also to train two younger women to eventually take over her role.

She works tirelessly and despite receiving far less pay than in her former profession, she finds fulfilment in knowing she is doing her part to make the future brighter for the next generation.