

Sharon Mumbler was a job seeker who used WISE's employment service to help her find a job. She shares her story here.

Sharon Mumbler
Wiradjuri Woman

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry
WISE Job Seeker

Sharon first came across WISE Employment when she met Don, WISE's Indigenous Projects Officer out on the main street in Penrith. She was looking for work at the time and was taken by Don's no nonsense approach, who she now says, "gave her the confidence to do what she needed to do."

Since that day Sharon is feeling much more positive about things. She has been volunteering at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and recently completed a media course, which she said was a great experience, especially "learning about the camera and tripod and going on excursions to the Eora Centre". She has helped out with youth camps, transitional programs and her own Art therapy classes, making colourful silk scarves, which she says "helps other people in my community who might feel anxious or have other issues."

Since Sharon started at the Ministry, she has met other Aboriginal people from the Penrith area, some who have also been with WISE. "Don was good because he knew where I was coming from and he didn't make me feel like a number or try to push me into something that I didn't want to do or wasn't ready for."

Are you looking for work?
Do you know someone in your community who is? WISE helps Indigenous job seekers find work you'll want to stick at.

Why is WISE different?

- We start by listening - to understand your needs
- We offer a flexible service to meet your needs
- We help you look for work you'll enjoy, not just any job
- We focus on what you're good at
- We're used to helping people with all sorts of barriers
- We're a not-for-profit organisation

Visit one of our offices or call us on 1800 685 105.

New South Wales - Liverpool, Mt Druitt, Parramatta and Penrith.

Victoria - Broadmeadows, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Frankston, Newport, Northcote, Prahran, Richmond, St Albans and Werribee.

Tasmania - Devonport, Hobart and Launceston.

Northern Territory - Darwin, launching 1 July, 2009.



Supported by the Australian Government
© WISE Employment Ltd 2009



Michael Anderson
Wiradjeri Man and Aboriginal Artist



WISE would like to thank Michael Anderson for his artistic contribution to WISE Trax. Textures and images have been used from his artwork entitled 'Naamarkons'.



Empowerment through Employment

WISE trax

WISE Employment aims to assist Indigenous job seekers to find and maintain employment. By working with other people in the community, we are able to provide a better service to job seekers, through shared learning and experience.



Supporting the 'Shed'

WISE is supporting a horticultural training and landscaping program at 'The Shed' in Mt Druitt. The program promotes physical and mental health and well-being.

WISE has been making tracks through the communities in NSW, engaging with local Aboriginal people and supporting local projects and programs.

Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week

WISE joined local Indigenous people, area health workers and other members of the community and planted a wattle tree to represent the growth of reconciliation. After planting the tree, a commemorative plaque was unveiled to symbolise the day.



Uncle Greg makes a traditional shield for WISE

In August 2008, members of WISE's Board took a trip to NSW and visited Winan Gidyal. Here they participated in a smoking ceremony, ate traditional food and met Uncle Greg, who began to make a traditional shield for WISE. In December 2008, Uncle Greg travelled to Melbourne to present the completed shield to WISE.



Empowerment through Employment

WISE works with other community groups in the areas of mental and physical health, training and education and other support services. Our relationships with these community groups help us to provide a more culturally appropriate and holistic service for Indigenous job seekers. Some of our community partners share their stories here.



Binowee Bayles
Wonnarua, Birri Gubba
and Kungalu Woman

Indigenous Training Consultant

Binowee Bayles is a smart, articulate and proud Aboriginal woman. She wears many hats in her community, one of which is to provide training for Aboriginal people who she says, "are deserving of well-paid and highly skilled jobs."

Often Aboriginal people face many barriers to gaining employment. And Binowee knows first hand some of the issues that people in her community face every day. "It's about moving on and gaining a sense of worth and ending welfare dependency." She believes that training and employment go hand in hand. If she can assist clients from WISE with training that will help them to find sustainable employment then she is doing her job. "We are both here to achieve the same goal".

Craig Brown
Gumbaingirr Man

*Aboriginal Mental Health Worker
Sydney West Area Health*

Through his work as an Aboriginal Mental Health Worker in Western Sydney, Craig says that he is "working to address the needs of his community." He supports people with mental health issues and their families in a culturally sensitive way. "My approach is to empower, build resilience and achieve positive outcomes for Aboriginal people". And it's those positive outcomes that keep Craig motivated.

He believes that sustainable employment is so important when you are talking about a person's self-esteem and confidence, "the ultimate in well-being for a person is being employed." That's why when his clients are ready, he puts them in contact with WISE. "I will always refer to Don as he is passionate about his people and will support them to achieve their goals." Their relationship is a natural fit. "We work together informally for formal outcomes."



build resilience and achieve positive outcomes for Aboriginal people

Linda Lewis
Barranbinya and
Arwon Woman

Eileen Louise
Mauritian Woman

*Aboriginal Health Unit,
Sydney West Area Health*

In her work at the Aboriginal Health Unit, Linda visits pre-schools, primary schools and homes to check for Otitis Media in young Aboriginal children. Otitis Media is a common childhood infection that affects the middle ear and can lead to hearing loss. She says that "the check-ups help identify when children have Otitis Media and treat them for potential hearing loss with grommets or hearing aids." They are also about educating parents on what they can do to help to prevent the infection.

And that's what a lot of their programs and services are about. Eileen works in the reception area and provides admin support at the Unit. She explains that in addition to Otitis Media, they have a whole range of health programs and events for Aboriginal people. "It's about helping people to be more aware of their body." They also run a cardio rehab class for Indigenous people with poor heart health. WISE has helped out by sponsoring t-shirts, caps and water bottles for participants in the classes.

health programs and events for Aboriginal people

