

## Interpreters Newsletter June 2006

## TOURING WITH THE NEW KIS POSTER



During the Easter break Dee travelled to Kununurra and back to Broome, stopping in at the towns and communities along the way.

It was a trip to promote the new KIS poster aimed at publicising KIS in aboriginal communities throughout the Kimberley. It is also a poster to encourage the use of KIS in the government departments in the towns.



The poster is of photos of interpreters representing KIS and aboriginal languages used all over the Kimberley. Along the way Dee met up with some interpreters and put up the poster at hospitals, court houses, police stations and other places where interpreters need to be used.



People liked seeing the poster and recognising family and people they knew from all over the Kimberley. By seeing the poster people also became interested in training to be an interpreter.

We hope the poster generates conversation about KIS, encourages people to use interpreters and how to access them. We would like all aboriginal people in the Kimberley to know that the service of KIS is available to them. If more people are aware of KIS they can then ask for an interpreter to make communication easier for everyone



The poster was funded by Office of Multicultural Interests





In January this year, Wendy Rogers, Kathy Rogers and Janie Wright began interpreting at Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS). The interpreters go to BRAMS every Wednesday morning from 8.30am to 12.30pm for the morning clinic. Wendy, Kathy and Janie are working in the clinic, doing home visits, going to the old peoples home and have also worked in the emergency ward at the hospital.

The interpreters are working with Dr David Shepherd and also GP Inga Shea. They said interpreters make their work so much easier and far more accurate.

The doctors said that the patients have respect for the interpreters.

"The patients will be more likely to listen about what is going on if it is spoken to them in their own language. It is really important for the patients to feel comfortable and know the right details about medicines."

Jess Hall, a journalist from the Broome Advertiser wrote a good story about the interpreters at BRAMS . We have had new clients coming to KIS who read that article and knew it would make their work easier by ringing us at KIS.

We are hoping that other Aboriginal Medical Services through the Kimberley can look at BRAMS as a model for their own centres.



## TRAINING FOR INTERPRETERS AND THE NEW KIS RECRUITS

Welcome to the people who have expressed their interest in becoming an interpreter and are also interested in doing training

There are over 50 people throughout the Kimberley waiting for interpreter training, KIS is negotiating with Kimberley College of TAFE about delivering the Diploma of Interpreting at TAFE's through the Kimberley.

It is a long complicated process for TAFE to get registered to deliver the Diploma. TAFE are developing specialist workshops in health, justice and interpreting in large meetings with KIS.



## Thankyou David Newry

After 25 years Mr David Newry has stepped down as Chairman of Mirima Council Aboriginal Corporation, the organisation responsible for MirimaLanguage and Culture Centre. It was David's vision that started Kimberley Interpreting Service. David has always worked very hard to promote and maintain traditional language and culture and to foster good relationships between indigenous and non indigenous people. We look forward to Davids continued involvement with KIS and Mirima as he has become available to take on other roles .

We also welcome the first woman to take on the position. Rita Boombi will be taking David's place.



In February Joyce Hudson, Heather Umbagai and Clifton Bieundurry developed materials for a Communication through Interpreting course. Clifton and Heather delivered it as a one day workshop to trainee doctors at the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service. The feedback from the doctors was very positive. Interpreters also delivered the course in Kununurra in June. The course is being trialled in Kimberley towns over the next few months.

## Halls Creek meeting with the Ministers

After all the talk in the news about Halls Creek the Ministers came to meet with the Halls Creek community to talk about what was going on in the town.

Bonnie Edwards was at the meeting and noticed that the old people couldn't understand the Ministers. She asked the Ministers to wait a minute while she let the community know what was happening. Bonnie began interpreting and the meeting began to flow with better understanding for everyone present. Bonnie said she would like young people to get skills to do meetings like that. "They really should get involved in the interpreter training"

Ministers booked an interpreter through KIS for their next meeting after realising how much easier communication is having an interpreter present.

## NEW RULES FOR INTERPRETERS

In February Lesley Baxter went to Perth to have discussions with NAATI and other Interpreter organisations and Interpreters about new rules for interpreter accreditation. Things won't change for Interpreters who are already accredited. New interpreters will have to report to NAATI every year about what interpreting they do and what professional development is done .

Lesley was speaking up for the Kimberley interpreters.



## Jane Lodge..the new KIS manger!

KIS will be welcoming new manager Jane Lodge in the middle of June. Jane was interviewed in Kununurra and asked to take the position as manager of KIS. Jane is excited and looking forward to taking on the new position after spending the last 2 years working in Maningrida and Yirrkala Community Education Centres. Jane also has a good history of working in the Kimberley running her own business, producing books with KLRC, teaching office skills at Karrayili and working with Stolen Generation. We look forward to Jane coming on board.

## KIS Jobs

KIS has been really busy with jobs right from the beginning of the year. By March there had been three times as many jobs compared to the same time last year. Most of the time the Interpreters were needed by health services. The police and district court have also asked for interpreters this year, and even the prison! For the first time ever Broome hospitals Physiotherapy and Speech Pathology departments booked interpreters for one old Bidyadanga woman and an old Fitzroy Valley man. The message for using interpreters is spreading and its only a matter of time before all the departments will be made to use interpreters. There has been some very positive comments coming back to KIS about the work of Interpreters.

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