

Appendix 1.

Veronica has more than 60 years experience in species harvesting and ecosystem-based monitoring. This includes formative childhood years when her family hunted and gathered on lands east of Alice Springs with regular foot-based journeys of more than 200 km distance. She is the most published of any central Australian Aboriginal author (e.g Henderson and Dobson 1994, Dobson and Nano 2005, Dobson et al. 2008). She was awarded a 'Member of the Order of Australia' by the Australian Governor-General. Whilst some might see her as a sole authority, Veronica speaks humbly of her knowledge as inherited from her grandparents and forbearers (Dobson 2007). Josie is a Wardaman woman married into an Arrernte family. She managed an indigenous publishing house specialising in language and cultural books. Her research foci are on traditional knowledge within Aboriginal education (Douglas 2011) and the lives of Aboriginal youth. Fiona has 23 years practical experience working with various desert Aboriginal groups and organisations (e.g. Walsh 1992, Walsh 2008, Walsh and Mitchell 2002). She is now a researcher with a strong practical orientation.

Dobson is highly fluent in Arrernte and English; we three authors talked mainly in English. We recognise that many meanings are lost in the translation and transcription of practices and concepts to paper (Wehi et al. 2009b). Also essential to our methods is trans-disciplinary research with linguists, anthropologists and geographers. We three authors compiled the findings section of this paper. The paper was written by Fiona and Josie then re-read by the three of us.