

# Kimberley

## REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

- **SIZE:** 419,558 Km<sup>2</sup>
- **POP'N:** 35,092
- **MEDIAN AGE:** 33
- **ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POP'N:** 14,408 (41.1%)
- **LANGUAGE GROUPS:** Kimberley Aboriginal communities are made up of Saltwater, River, Desert and Hill Country peoples who continue to maintain connection to their natural landscapes and waterways
- **4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES**



The Kimberley region has six major townships, over 160 small remote Indigenous communities and 93 pastoral properties. The Kimberley experiences a sub-tropical climate, is one of the most remote and untouched ancient landscapes on earth and is home to many unique birds, mammals, reptiles and marine life.

## Key Community Concerns

- Alcohol and other drug use, including youth
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
- Alcohol related youth crime
- Family and domestic violence



Kimberley residents had the highest rate of risk for long-term harm from alcohol consumption in WA at 43.7%, compared to 17.2% (state average).

(WAPHA 2022, 'Kimberley Needs Assessment 2022-24')



Alcohol use disorders (9.5%, 19.9/100,000) are the second highest cause of burden of disease for males in the Kimberley region.

(WACHS 2022, 'Kimberley Health Profile 2022')



Rates for AOD-related presentations per 100k population to Emergency Departments in the Kimberley region were the highest in the state (1968) and were more than five times the WA state rate (369).

(WAPHA 2022, 'Kimberley Needs Assessment 2022-24')

## Meet Vennessa - your Community Engagement Officer

I am a descendant on my mother's side of the Nyikina Nation from the Martuwarra (Fitzroy River) that passes through the West Kimberley region of Western Australia. I was born and raised in Broome by my father who came from Abangiwang in West Timor. I live, and have raised my family, in Broome.

My role as a Life Promotion and Community Development Practitioner has always focused on working with young people and their families, paying particular attention to the unique stressors facing young people today. I prioritise supporting and enabling young people and their families to engage in help-seeking behaviour and to aspire to become socially, culturally, and economically engaged whilst sustaining and valuing their lives.

Over many years supporting individuals and families in the Kimberley I have developed extensive community engagement experience as well as knowledge of Indigenous health promotion, youth counselling, mental health and AOD prevention. Strengthened by existing cultural, professional and personal networks throughout the Kimberley region and across the nation, I look forward to working with community to support social change for all Kimberley people.



Contact Vennessa on - [vpoelina@holyoake.org.au](mailto:vpoelina@holyoake.org.au) or 0484 271 258

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