

# Language saves life

An innovative program that pairs the world's oldest continuous culture with the world's newest technologies is helping to close the gap for First Nations Australian patients.

In October last year, the West Australian Government issued a \$5 million global challenge to researchers, calling for world-leading medical research and innovation solutions to improve health service delivery in the Pilbara.

Lyfe Languages connects with indigenous communities to translate medical terminology into traditional languages, breaking down communication and cross-cultural barriers to better improve the delivery of healthcare to Australia's First Nations people.

Joint project leads, the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF) in Subiaco and Lyfe Languages, were selected last month as one of 10 finalists in



**Collaboration ...** WIRF's chief executive Deb Portuges is pictured with Yarlalu Thomas, manager of the Lyfe Languages program.

a worldwide search to help improve the delivery of healthcare in WA's vast Pilbara region.

Lyfe Languages founder Dr Gareth Bynam said medical jargon could be daunting at the best of times — an experience made worse when you and your doc-

tor speak a different language. "As technology continues to improve health and lifestyle outcomes for the wider community, we need to make sure that innovation is equitable. We must not widen the gap," he said.

"This program aims to transfer wisdom across generations and creates new knowledge."

Lyfe Languages manager Yarlalu Thomas said that, particularly for First Nations people, it takes more than medicine to improve health outcomes.

"Lyfe Languages is retaining and empowering indigenous languages, partnering with new technologies to equitably transform health and well-being, and creating more connected communities," he said.

"This network of indigenous change makers is partnered to doctors, nurses, and other care providers to shift the dial for healthcare.

"In turn this is partnered to the newest technologies such as artificial intelligence, neural



A program that translates medical terminology into traditional languages is being co-led by Subiaco's Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF) and Lyfe Languages.

networks and genomics."

The 10 finalists were chosen following two stages of judging by experts and stakeholders on the ground in the North West.

WIRF chief executive Deb Portuges said being selected as one of 10 high-tech digital solutions from almost 100 global submissions was the highest level of endorsement for the Lyfe Languages program.

"Given the calibre of the submissions, we consider ourselves incredibly fortunate to be able to progress our program to the proof-of-concept stage," she said.

Each of the 10 finalists has been awarded \$200,000 from the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund to embed their concept in the Pilbara for 12 months to prove it works.



## Birds that frequent Perry Lakes

Tegan Douglas from BirdlifeWA will join Friends of Perry Lakes on Tuesday, July 25, for a presentation discussing the main birds that use Perry Lakes, their habitat and water-level needs and how the habitat compares to similar lakes.

She will cover the small birds that need terrestrial

understorey as well as aquatic ones.

The talk will be in the Tamala Room at the Ecology Centre, Bold Park from 5.30 to 7pm.

Everyone is welcome (non-members entry by gold coin).

Light snacks will be available and participants are invited to bring a share plate.

See the entire POST online at [www.postnewspapers.com.au](http://www.postnewspapers.com.au)



# Winter Weekend Giveaway!!

To celebrate all that is wonderful in Winter down south, we're joined with some amazing local businesses to create a luxe Winter Weekend escape! The lucky winner will enjoy:

- 2 night stay (for 2 guests) at the contemporary & stylish Bluewater Bungalow on the 25-26th August 2023
- A drink & nibble plate for 2 @ award winning Blue Manna Bistro
  - Breakfast for 2 @ Artezen Café
- 2 Person Infra Red Sauna Session with Land Sea Hydrate Powder add-on @ Tama Wellness
  - 2 Mini Facials @ Beauty by the Bay

Visit our website and instagram @luxurybreakssouthwest for competition details



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