

Fact Sheet

Culture of Care through the eyes of a Consumer

About the presenters

Merle Scarce

Mrs Merle Scarce is an Aboriginal woman with a mixture of heritages from across coastal SA including the Nullarbor, Eyre Peninsula, Pt Augusta, and York Peninsula. Merle grew up in Adelaide and, after completing her schooling, worked in various roles that were permitted by the Government of the day for Aboriginal women, such as a nursing aide, and in administration. Merle left work to get married and become the mother of 5 children and Nanna to 11 grandchildren, 2 of whom she raised as guardian. Merle's interests include reading and music. Merle has spent the last 8 years in a wheelchair due to rheumatoid arthritis, however, she lives independently in the community with the support of a home care package delivered by Aboriginal Community Services. Despite experiencing trauma throughout her life commencing in early childhood, Merle has lived a resilient life, which she believes has a strong sense of meaning, and she expresses this in love and compassion for others.

Mark Thompson

Mark is an occupational therapist with extensive experience in community based aged care and rehabilitation. He is a co-director of Inspire Therapy, an Adelaide-based private allied health service. He is currently working towards a Doctor of Philosophy with the University of Adelaide and his research is focused on frailty in older adults, identification of risk factors, and strategies of reduction of risk. He is also an investigator with the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Frailty and Healthy Ageing. Mark is Merle's occupational therapist through her home care package managed by Aboriginal Community Services.

SA Health

Email: HealthandWellbeingStrategy@sa.gov.au

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/HealthandWellbeingStrategy

Public -I1-A1

© Department for Health and Wellbeing, Government of South Australia. All rights reserved.



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>



Government
of South Australia

SA Health