



Birthing, mothering & grandmothering

**An Aboriginal research
project**



Researchers from SGRHS

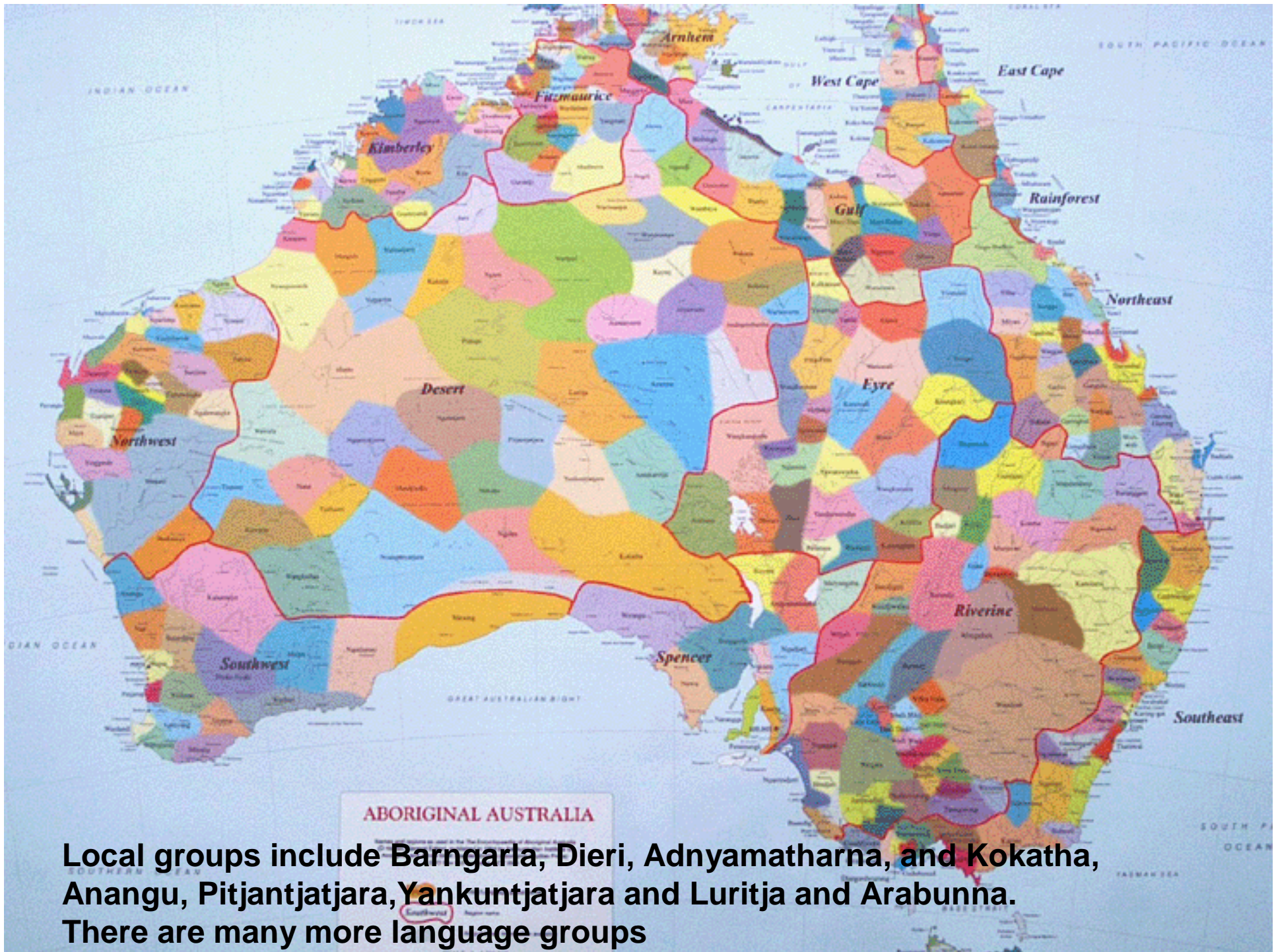
- **Christine Franks**
- **Geraldine Anderson**
- **Georgie Stamp**
- **Sonia Champion**





**Community researchers
and partners**

**Senior women and young
women of the Spencer
Gulf area of South
Australia**



Local groups include Barngarla, Dieri, Adnyamatharna, and Kokatha, Anangu, Pitjantjatjara, Yankuntjatjara and Luritja and Arabunna. There are many more language groups

Background

- **Region population 53,220**
- **Aboriginal people 6002 (11.3%)**
- **Concerns about mothers' and babies' health**
- ***Mothers want care from their own people***
- **Anungu Bibi Birthing Program**
- **Grant from AHCSA / CCRE**

Aims

- **To explore and define traditional birthing, mothering and grand-mothering practices**
- **To highlight gaps in understandings of contemporary birthing issues**

Method

- **Two workshops in 2 locations**
- **40 senior women and young women attended**
- **Old ways and new ways**

Old ways and new ways



Findings 1

The grandmother role is important and respected within kinship – teaching, support, comforting and passing on spiritual and traditional knowledge



Findings 2

Pregnancy

*support from grandmothers needed
young mums are confused by staff
culture - not touching*

Birth

*concerns about who is there
unnecessary caesareans*

Postnatal

pressures on new mothers

Findings 3

Aboriginal people are not the same

differences between skin groups

different language or dialects

different body language among groups

different protocols

Summary

- **Strong input from grandmother's and pride in their role**
- ***Contemporary birthing issues:* more two-way sharing with mainstream**
- **Further research and actions needed**
- **Funding issues**

Thank you



Questions?