

# Iron Ore Community Relations

*Indigenous Health.*

*1<sup>st</sup> August 2008*



## SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA!

Indigenous women from regional towns and remote communities across Western Australia will benefit from a new health program funded by BHP Billiton assets in Western Australia.



***Paula Hicks, Breast Cancer Foundation of WA's new Indigenous Support Services Coordinator.***

With Indigenous women having poorer outcomes for breast cancer than non-Indigenous women, BHP Billiton is funding a support program with the Breast Cancer Foundation of Western Australia (BCFWA).

The BCFWA is leading the way in providing Indigenous breast cancer forums and training for health professionals across the state. The BCFWA has established a range of services to meet the needs of Indigenous individuals, families and communities and is working to improve the services available to Indigenous people with breast cancer.

Through BHP Billiton's support, the BCFWA has appointed Paula Hicks as their Indigenous Support Services Co-ordinator. Paul's role will involve visiting Indigenous communities in Port Hedland, South Hedland, Newman, Parnpajinia, Jigalong, Onslow, Karratha, Kalgoorlie, Esperance and Albany. During her travels Paula will share important information such as the importance of breast awareness and how early detection saves lives.

Indigenous health workers and the general community will benefit from practical information about services and support available to individuals and families affected by breast cancer, particularly those who need to travel to Perth for treatment.

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“Taking the breast awareness message across Western Australia will be an exciting opportunity for me personally and also for BCFWA. Increasing the knowledge of breast awareness in Indigenous communities and learning how to better support families in each community are priorities for BCFWA and our sponsor BHP Billiton” Paula said.