

Vanessa Marika is a Dhalwangu woman from Yirrkala. Vanessa worked at the Yirrkala School for 15 years and is passionate about literacy and bilingual schooling. She worked closely with students to support them in their senior education years to achieve the best they could.

Vanessa was a finalist for the Aboriginal Educator of the Year in the 2018 in the Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards. Being a strong supporter of bilingual schooling, Vanessa has strong skills in translation and transcription work. In addition to this work Vanessa has also been working for Miwatj Health as a Research and Cultural Engagement Officer since 2023 working to develop a SEWB App for young Yolngu, contributing to the development of a major parasite elimination program in communities and helping Yolngu to understand the impact on health arising from climate and air quality.

Vanessa is also an artist who has been creating important artwork for research projects to ensure appropriate messaging for Yolngu as part of her health advocacy work. Vanessa's ability to impart her knowledge in a mentoring manner to her own people adds great dimension to Miwatj Health's Research team.