Many attempts have been made to ameliorate the high levels of alcohol-related harm associated with remote NT Aboriginal communities. But still the harm continues. Unless we accept the unacceptable - that this is an intractable situation - we must wonder whether there is something awry in the planning or execution of these efforts. This study aims to identify factors undermining or supporting engagement with, and success of, alcohol harm reduction efforts on four remote NT Aboriginal communities and to do so through the eyes of community residents as well as the ‘official’ accounts.

Moira has lived in the Territory since 1981 and in the Top End since 1985. Her background is in health – initially hospital work until she saw the light and moved into Public Health! Public Health has given her the opportunity to work in several developing countries and, for the last four years, to support remote Aboriginal communities in the Katherine District of the NT with alcohol management planning.