

ABORIGINAL FAMILY VIOLENCE & CHILD PROTECTION



Definition of Family Violence

- | Family violence refers to the violation of an individual's and/or family's spiritual/cultural well-being and includes social isolation, and the perpetration of physical, sexual, emotional, mental and financial abuse (Memmott and Stacy, 1999: 3-4)

Different types of family violence can include the following

- | Violence by a partner (usually male against women), although there can be violence against men.
- | Child abuse
- | Abuse of Elders
- | Parent abuse, usually by teenage boys
- | The impact on children witnessing abuse

Causes of Family Violence



- | Influence of Drugs and alcohol
- | Mental illness
- | Low self esteem
- | Isolation from family and community
- | Loss and Grief
- | Family breakdown
- | Lack of employment
- | Homelessness
- | Loss of identity

Family & Domestic Violence

- | What is acceptable / what is not
- | Impact on children, family and community
- | Homelessness
- | Removal of children
- | Social and Emotional Wellbeing
- | How do you define chronic neglect
- | What warrants a removal
- | Should service be put in to support families to stay together



Symptoms of Abuse

- | Children who are victims of Family violence suffer the trauma of violence, either witnessing or being abused both sexually, physically and emotionally.
- | Bed wetting, behavioural problems, loss of self esteem, constantly worry about safety and protecting siblings and or mothers, hence children taken on a role of protector, parent trying to ensure sibling safety.

Why does the victim stay in the relationship

- | Fear of leaving
- | Fear of payback
- | Mis-interpretation of cultural obligation
- | Fear of leaving is less stressful as staying
- | Uncertainty of what the future holds
- | Not being able to take children's belongings

WHAT WAS TAKEN FROM ME

Stolen Generation

A decorative graphic consisting of four red circles and two red outlines of circles. The circles are arranged in a horizontal line, with the two outlines interspersed among the solid circles.

- | The ways that children were removed
- | Where were the children placed
- | What were the effects of removal on CHILD, FAMILY, COMMUNITY
- | What were some of the re-awakening memories
- | What were the memories to feelings & what would be helpful to people

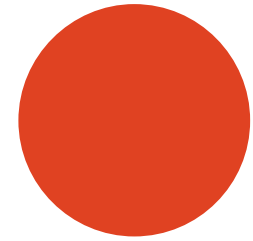
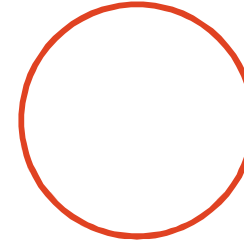
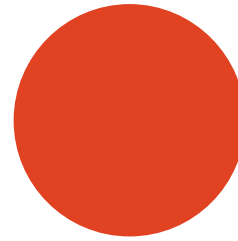
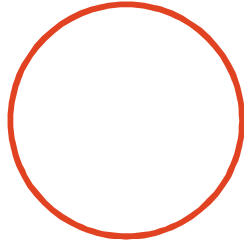
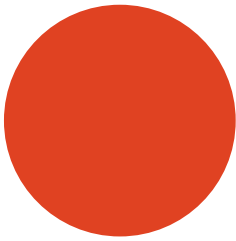


Loss & Grief Practices

- | Aboriginal people tell stories through art and yarning.
- | Developing Art therapy programs using contemporary forms of art enhances the programs and assist Families, Communities and Individuals to work through their own issues.
- | Taking a Narrative approach assists in building relationships and engagement strategies.

Understanding the Complexities

- | Attending Cultural Awareness training is a valuable course to attend, as it gives insight to the complexities when working with Aboriginal families, individuals and communities.
- | Stolen generation continues to affect Aboriginal people today and there is that fear that if Welfare is involved, children will be removed, and in many instances the department offer supports and referral to other programs to ensure that children are kept in the home with safety agreements.



Children – Family & Extended Family

Impact
On
Children

Family
Impact/
Historical
Factors

Safe
Environment

Family
Safe
Meetings

Review
Progress
Regularly

Advocacy &
Support

Time to
Build
Trust

Case
Management

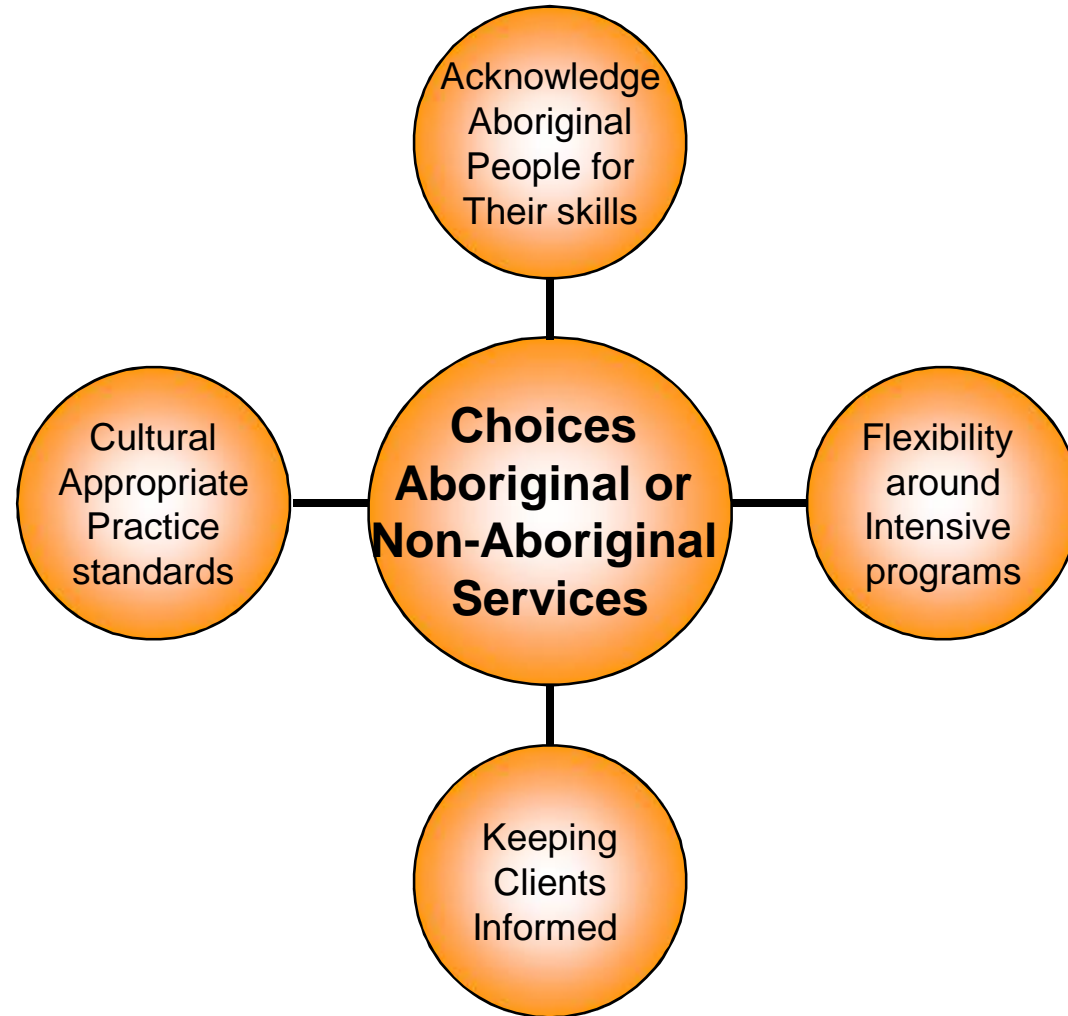
Case Management / Key Stakeholders



Working in Partnerships



Culturally Appropriate Service



Support Services



- | Aboriginal Wellbeing Team – 8243 5438
- | MAYFS Tier 3 Program – 8243 5753
- | Nunga Mi:Minar DV Shelter (DVCS - 1300 782 200)
- | Ninko Southern DV Shelter (DVCS - 1300 782 200)
- | Nunkuwarrin Yunti - 8223 5217
- | Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) - 131 478
- | Aboriginal Legal Rights - 8211 8824
- | Muna Paiendi – 8182 9206
- | Karpandi Women’s Centre - 8211 8344
- | Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFSS) - 8212 1112
- | Aboriginal Hostels
 - | Gladys Elphick - 8261 6188
 - | Karinga - 8336 2525
 - | Luprina - 8269 1768
 - | Mulgunya - 8234 2488
 - | Nindee - 8338 4835