

Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum 2018
Language of Change

EVALUATION



Sponsors, Partners & Friends



16th & 17th May

Mercure Hotel, Townsville

Wednesday 16th May 2018

Introductions and Welcome to Country

Professor Annabel Taylor welcomed attendees to the Forum. She expressed her excitement about attending her fourth Forum, the change of location and the upcoming proceedings. Annabel also discussed her new role as Professor in Gendered Violence and welcomed QCDFVR's new director Dr Heather Lovatt. Annabel then went on to introduce Lloyd Kyle, from the Townsville community to provide delegates with an 'Acknowledgement to Country' as Aunty Christine George, a traditional owner had 'sorry business' to attend to.

Lloyd acknowledged the Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba People, past and present, and wished delegates well over the next two days. He also asked delegates for one minute silence in honour of Aunty Christine's father. Annabel returned to the stage with thanks, and introduced Heather who went on to introduce herself and welcome delegates. Heather then introduced organising committee members Jamie Anderson, Esme Fewquandie, Lloyd Kyle, Randal Ross and Khrishna Wyles (who was not in attendance due to 'sorry business'), welcomed them to the stage and presented them with a small gift of thanks.

Heather introduced Karla McGrady.

Keynote presentation: Karla McGrady | Our Watch

Violence Against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women: a new national resource to support primary prevention.

Karla McGrady is Senior Policy Advisor at Our Watch, an independent, national organisation working to prevent violence against women. Karla's presentation focused on recently completed research and consultation on a project developing a resource on preventing violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. This project is designed to contribute to the development of culturally safe and appropriate solutions to the prevention of violence against women.

After a brief tea break, Jamie welcomed attendees back for Charlie King's presentation.

Keynote presentation: Charlie King | No More Campaign

Indigenous Family Violence - what works?

Charlie King is an Indigenous Australian sports broadcaster and anti-family violence campaigner. He is a Gurindji Australian, descendant of his mother, Ningardi, a Gurindji woman of central/western Northern Territory. Mr King has worked most of his life seeking to improve the lives of Indigenous people. He has held many positions in Human Services from 1979 to present. Amongst other positions, he has been a Youth Worker, a Juvenile Justice Worker, a Child Protection Officer in a Youth Service and a Juvenile Justice Manager. In 2006, Mr King consulted with over 30 Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory about the role of men in reducing the high levels of Child Protection and Family Violence. This consultation led to the founding of the NO MORE campaign - a campaign that called for "No More" by Indigenous male elders and for all Australians to link up and say No More. Charlie shared his experience and ongoing work with forum delegates.

After lunch delegates were asked to choose two out of four yarning circles to attend throughout the afternoon. Following is an outline of each of these yarning circles.

Yarning Circle Presentations

Victims need practical support - Theresa Mace & Rachael Lorenz | Act for Kids

This yarning circle focused on the need for practical support for clients. In their combined experience, Theresa and Rachael noticed that there is lots of funding available for counselling and DVO service/court support, which many Indigenous women cannot or will not utilise due to cultural or access factors. They believe that practical support is most important for Indigenous clients who have been victimised by an abuser. After a DV relationship women often lack proactive skills as these have been disabled by the perpetrator. Help to navigate services- highlighting the importance of

advocacy with other services when working with the victims of long term abuse as these women's ability to fight for their rights has been compromised. A common term often heard is 'women are the experts in their own lives'. They argue that although these women have shown expert survival skills, their skills are around their and their children's survival, not around the other 'higher order' things such as friendship, esteem and self-awareness. Using Maslow's hierarchy of needs as an example, a victim of violence may hover around the bottom levels (basic survival needs), and until safety is reached no further levels will be achieved.

Tiddas Domestic Violence Support Group - Enid Surha | Queensland Health & Florence Onus | Healing Waters

Enid and Florence talked about the Tiddas DV Support group that has been running since 2012. They explained that the intention of the group is to support and educate Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women who are currently in, have been in, and/or are deciding to leave a domestic and family violence relationship. The group has grown from only a handful of women attending to over 15+ on a weekly basis getting support, encouragement and strength from other women who are in similar situations and can relate to each other. The group has access to the various services in Townsville to assist them with their family matters and are also educated in the area of Domestic and Family Violence and have access to solicitors for legal advice on their situations. Women come along to yarn about their experience and to discuss their complex relationships in a safe, secure calm and confidential environment.

The dynamics of DV and DV interventions in a remote Indigenous community - Nancy Wilson | Junkuri Laka & Farrah Linden | Mission Australia

Nancy and Farrah shared their observations of how many of the "mainstream" understandings of DFV and its dynamics do not fit in the practical realities of the phenomenon as it occurs in the environment of a small isolated and very remote community such as Mornington Island. As a consequence, many of the tools and understandings do not fit very well either. Working at the coal face on Mornington Island brings home the scale of this gap. In their yarning circle they reflected on how they experience these differences, and how the way they work is at times, apparently at odds with accepted "dogma". They showed their work in DFV on Mornington using a slide show and talked about the differences they observe. They also presented some statistics, examples and case studies, before engaging with delegates.

Healing Our Way - Aunty Peggy Tidyman | Murrigunyah Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation

Aunty Peggy explained that Healing Our Way is a cultural framework that is reclaiming and evolving the age old tradition of sharing story, song and aspects of ceremony to develop deeper communication and connection with our past and today's diverse community needs. The yarning can be about protocol, domestic and family violence, sexual violence, identity, behaviour, bullying, respect, responsibility etc. A wide range of issues affecting the whole family/community can be addressed. The strength of the circles is that they address values, attitudes and skills within a structured, safe and supportive cultural framework. Healing Our Way is a contemporary look at learning traditional ways of communication and adapting cultural and spiritual healing into our current everyday lifestyle. The framework is essentially a process by which you can sit and talk and share ideas about issues. Healing Our Way aims at enhancing cultural knowledge through listening to Elders sharing wisdom about both cultural and spiritual healing. Healing Our Way is a cultural model that provides participants with the opportunity to walk back in time with our ancestors and learn the old ways of healing, deep listening and spiritual connection. Participants learnt how to incorporate the four elements of fire, earth, water and air into their everyday life, identify specific issues affecting them and work through a process to create an environment where women, children and families can feel supported in risk-taking, by having the conversations that seek out each other's strengths and are solution focused.

FEEDBACK FROM DAY ONE

Are you from Queensland?

Yes	93%
No	7%
Total	100.00%

Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

Yes	66%
No	34%
Total	100.00%

Do you or your workplace offer services predominantly to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People?

Yes	74%
No	26%
Total	100.00%

Did you learn new things at today's Forum sessions?

Strongly agree	29.7%
Agree	69.3%
Don't agree	1%
Total	100.00%

I can use what I learnt today in my own work (paid or voluntary).

Strongly agree	60%
Agree	40%
Don't agree	0%
Total	100.00%

The best thing/s about today's forum sessions was/were

- Charlie King's Presentation, no campaign, inspirational, showing hope for future successes
- Yarning Circle, excellent, enjoyable, healing
- Healing our way
- Meeting People exchanging ideas, challenging how things have always been done of DV was the first time a community spoke about their issues
- Mornington Island Presentation
- Some tips about dynamics of working in Indigenous communities
- Spirit Cards and the process of healing telling it from a Community's view
- The honesty and openness of the presenters. Solutions
- Understanding deeper struggles of Aboriginal people
- The Passion and dedication of the presenters
- Auntie Peggy was great. Amazing
- Both the electives and keynote speakers provided theoretical and practical gems that I can apply in my role.
- Connecting and learning and being inspired.
- That I can now go and bat for a women's shelter in my community, after hearing about smaller or similar sized communities have a shelter and how to make it work.

Thursday 17th May 2018

Welcome

Heather welcomed the delegation to day two of the Forum and introduced the workshop facilitators Ms Katrina D'Angelo and Associate Professor Jenine Godwin-Thompson from SNAICC.

Workshop 1: Working with Children & Young People

This workshop focused on ways of working with children and young people who experience family violence in their immediate or extended family, and either directly or indirectly. The workshop is designed to provide the opportunity for participants to share their experience in keeping those who are most vulnerable at the centre of our family violence work.

Workshop 2: Working with Women

This workshop focused on women as those who experience the most family violence and with the most severe or deadly outcomes. The struggles and tensions involved when working primarily with the women who experience violence, along with consideration of the additional protective factors required to ensure the safety of her children will also be explored.

Workshop 3: Working with Men

The workshop focused on the critical role of working with men who use violence in the home and ways to change behaviour, while taking their needs into account in regard to building strengths, identity and positive roles. This involved helping men take responsibility to change their behaviour and being accountable for their use of violence and its impact on themselves, their partners and their children.

All workshops were interactive and engaged delegates to participate in a variety of tasks and activities.

FEEDBACK FROM DAY TWO

How did you hear about the forum?

Don't Know	2%
Email	93%
Website	1%
QCDFVRe@der	0%
Referral	0%
Other	4%
Total	100%

What was your main reason for attending?

New knowledge	71%
Networking	12%
Speakers	4%
All of the above	9%
Other	4
Total	100%

Did the forum live up to your reason for attending?

Yes, fully	36%
Yes, mostly	57%
No	7%
Total	100%

Over the two days, which speaker's or sessions did you find most interesting?

- 1st day sessions and morning session
- 2 days should have been structured differently. 2nd days full on split so some of yarns over 2 days between yarns and workshops.
- All was good - outstanding Uncle Charlie. SNAICC
- Both days; Dr Jenine Godwin and Katrina D'Angelo and all speakers
- Charlie King - amazing and engaging! His videos of NT communities are good. Practical program
- Learning about other services in the yarning circles. Sharing their knowledge and their tools
- Hearing peoples story and strong idea. Alternative view of history to mainstream story
- Witnessing how many people attended and how passionate they were discussing DV issues that is destroying our culture, healing presentation was refreshing and provided strategies to heal and bring our people back to culture
- As above and networking. Loved the men's contribution in the last session, was interesting to hear their perspective.
- The empowerment, if anything at all is taken away it will be much helpful to my career
- Session with Katrina and Jenine from SNAICC
- Mornington Islands yarning circle where they honestly talked about what is really happening and taking responsibility and acceptance themselves. Seeing a great turnout of Murri's and Thursday Island people and organisations, from all over - excellent
- Yarning circle and sharing story (real life story and avoidance)

Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Forum delegates come from all over Queensland and Australia...



**2018
QIFVP**



We sincerely thank our delegates, presenters and facilitators
for attending the 2018 Queensland Indigenous Family
Violence Prevention Forum.



CONTACT US

QCDFVR

CQUniversity Mackay

PO Box 135, Mackay MC, 4741

P: 07 4940 3320

E: qcdfvronline@cqu.edu.au

W: www.noviolence.org.au