

Healing and trauma services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: A scoping review

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1 OBJECTIVES

In response to the 2021 Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, this scoping review aims to identify and describe acceptable and appropriate healing services designed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with experiences of trauma, violence or abuse.

2 METHODS

The review was conducted following PRISMA-ScR and JBI guidelines, of peer-reviewed and grey literature studies published 2012–2023, describing healing services designed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with experiences of trauma, violence or abuse.

Searches were conducted in Medline, EMBASE, PsycINFO, CINAHL, Informit Indigenous Collection, Web of Science and HealthInfoNet.

Data were summarised narratively.

3 RESULTS

Search results

3,196 records screened
112 eligible for inclusion

Scan me for the PRISMA flowchart



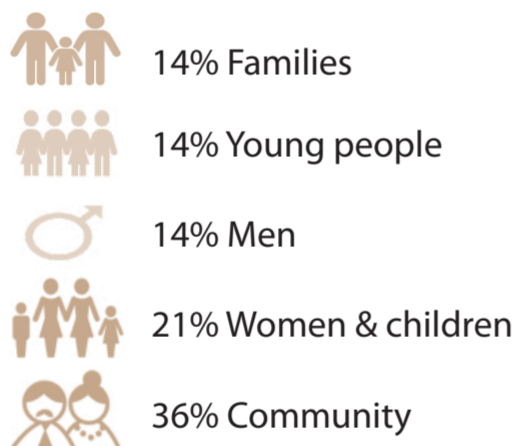
RQ1

What specific services have been developed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing trauma, violence or abuse and associated drivers?

70 services

14 published evaluations

TARGET POPULATION



- Cultural Healing Program (VACCA)
- Men's Healing and Behavioural Change, Bramunh Jaarn, Ngarru Jarranounith Place (Dardi Munwurro)
- Girra Girra Healing Place, Deadly Families, Deadly Young Warriors, Deadly Futures, Deadly Pathways, Deadly Brothers and Deadly Tiddas (Deadly Connections Community Services)
- Sisters Day Out, Dilly Bag, Dilly Bag (Djirra)
- Stronger, Safer Families Outreach Hubs, Aboriginal Women's Safety Contact Service, Taikurirra, Tirra-Apinthi, Intensive Family Support, My Journey, Healing by Art program (KWY Aboriginal Corporation)
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing Service (Mpwelarre Health Aboriginal Corporation)
- Healing Program (Murri School)
- Baya Gawaiy Buga Yani Jandu Yani U, Crisis Response, Marulu, Marnin Studio (MWRC)
- Healing program (NAAJA)
- Wadamba Wilam (Neami National)
- Trauma Assessment, Referral and Rehabilitation Outreach Teams (Ngaora)
- Our Men Our Healing Project (The Healing Foundation)
- Red Dust Healing Program (Red Dust Healing)
- Nabu Aboriginal Family Preservation and Restoration Program, Waminda Counselling Service, Baalang Healing, Case Management Services, Strong Yawa (Waminda)

RQ2

What are the theoretical or conceptual frameworks underpinning these services?

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Acknowledge history and the impacts of colonisation

Be trauma-aware and healing-informed

Prioritise self-determination and empowerment

EVIDENCE-INFORMED SERVICE ELEMENTS

Strength-based

Community-led

Culturally-centred

Collaborative

Flexible, tailored responses for individuals and communities

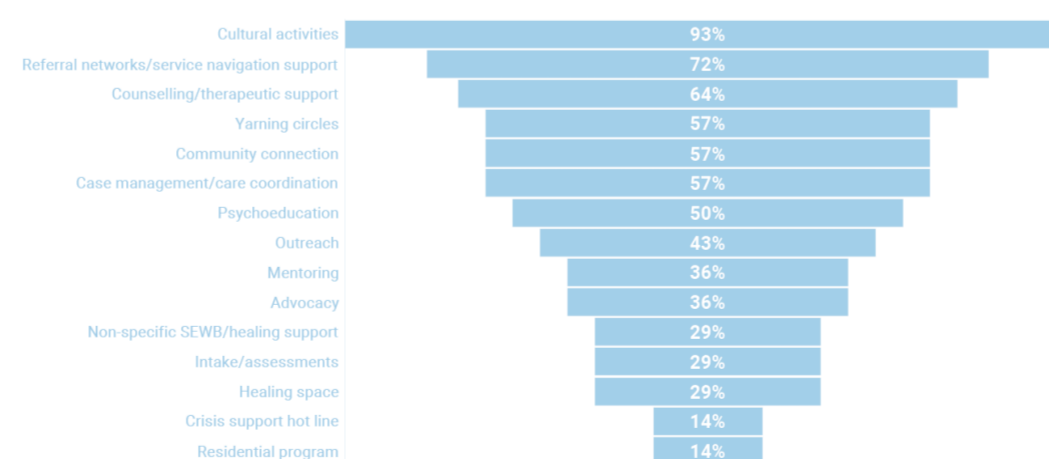
Safe

Preventative, restorative, holistic, wrap-around care communities

Accountable

RQ3

What are the core components of the case study services?



RQ4

Are there any key success factors underpinning delivery?

Enablers: employment of local and Aboriginal staff; integration of cultural safety and connection; adaptation of services to meet local needs.

Barriers: limited funding and resources, lack of physical space.

4 DISCUSSION

All case studies demonstrated the integration of culturally grounded elements, emphasising their critical role in improving health and wellbeing outcomes.

Narrative and qualitative evidence suggests healing programs can be beneficial.

Evidence for how to successfully apply the guiding principles in practice is needed.

Ongoing tension between Western evaluation frameworks and Indigenous worldviews that prioritise holistic, qualitative understandings of healing and success.

5 REFERENCES

Scan me for the reference list



JBI: Joanna Briggs Institute; KWY: Kornar Winmil Yunti; MWRC: Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre; NAAJ: North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency; PRISMA-ScR: Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews; VACCA: Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency.