Cultural awareness and security in treatment – Danny and Jonathan Ford

Healing our people, our way
Our mob

ABORIGINAL GROUPS OF THE SOUTH WEST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Healing our people, our way
Why are our mob affected to a greater degree?
Prior to contact?

Healing our people, our way
Indigenous laws & customs - traditional rights & interests

- Land Management practices
- Totemism - links with nature
- Protection & maintenance of sacred sites & objects
- Social Organisation - Roles & responsibilities
- Technology
- Physical access for hunting & gathering
- Education through - Stories, song, art, dance
- Performing Ceremonies
- Carrying out rituals
- Shelter
- Carry out Social Control

Healing our people, our way
Prior to contact?

Healing our people, our way
Prior to contact?

Nyoongar Kinship System
(Nyitiny) (cold-ice Age from the beginning)

Balaruk ———— Didaruk
Narganuk ———— Tondaruk

Wardong — Muut (Crow)

Munitij — Muut (White Cockatoo)

Marriage

Rights of Passage
Avoidance

Patrilineal — Fathers bloodline

System began to fade out in 1930’s
4 generations before cycle repeats itself
4 skin groups

Children

Healing our people, our way
Prior to contact?

Walpírí Skin Names

Healing our people, our way
Why are our mob affected to a greater degree?
1905 to mid 1970’s
Generation upon generation

1905 Act?

Healing our people, our way
Exclusion and segregation

Healing our people, our way
1905 Act?

Exclusion and segregation
Psychologically and emotionally
smashed

Healing our people, our way
Stolen generation

Healing our people, our way
Stolen generation

Early childhood development

1905 Act?

Healing our people, our way
1905 Act?

Stolen generation
Early childhood development
Welfare dependency

Healing our people, our way
What are the impacts?

Engagement in the economy.

Healing our people, our way
Engagement in the economy.
Housing or lack of.

What are the impacts?

Healing our people, our way
What are the impacts?

Engagement in the economy.
Housing or lack of.
Justice system.

Healing our people, our way
Blinkers and blindspots

Ensuring your service is culturally safe for all participants.

Healing our people, our way
Holistic thinking

Services targeted at people indirectly affected by AOD.

Healing our people, our way
Have you:

- Aboriginal engagement strategy

Healing our people, our way
Have you:

- Aboriginal engagement strategy
- Staffing

Healing our people, our way
Have you:

- Aboriginal engagement strategy
- Staffing
- Incorporated Aboriginal cultural practices
Have you:

- Aboriginal engagement strategy
- Staffing
- Incorporated Aboriginal cultural practices
- Environment – connection to culture and country.

Healing our people, our way
Have you:

- Aboriginal engagement strategy
- Staffing
- Incorporated Aboriginal cultural practices
- Environment – connection to culture and country.
- Policies and practices
Have you:

- Aboriginal engagement strategy
- Staffing
- Incorporated Aboriginal cultural practices
- Environment – connection to culture and country.
- Policies and practices
- Cultural awareness
Have you:

- Aboriginal engagement strategy
- Staffing
- Incorporated Aboriginal cultural practices
- Environment – connection to culture and country.
- Policies and practices
- Cultural awareness
- Moving to cultural leadership

Healing our people, our way
Kwinana Rockingham Aboriginal Men’s Group

Men’s Camps

- Taking Elders and young men to country,
- Talking life,
- Teaching culture and creating identities.

Healing our people, our way
Proud of Our Culture and Aware of Our Health:

• Encouraging Men to get their yearly Aboriginal health check from their GP

Healing our people, our way
Family leaders and role models

Men supporting their family by:

- Not drinking
- Not smoking
- Exercising at all ages
- Working or studying
- Eating healthy food.
- Teaching culture.

Healing our people, our way
Comparisons between – Therapeutic communities and Spiritual / cultural healing

Healing our people, our way
How culturally and spiritually safe, culturally competent are you:
How culturally and spiritually safe, culturally competent are:

• you as an individual?
Final challenge

How culturally and spiritually safe, culturally competent is:

• your organisation?

• individual?

Healing our people, our way
Questions?

Danny Ford
Kambarang Services
0418 927 326
dannyford60@westnet.com.au

Healing our people, our way