

# Aboriginal Fathering Project

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12<sup>th</sup> January 12, 2016

## 1. Project Overview

- 1.1. There is limited documented knowledge about how Aboriginal men's programs are addressing the complex issues of fathering, family violence and abuse. Furthermore, little is known about the parenting relationship the men attending the programs have with their children in the context of family violence, mental health, and substance abuse.
- 1.2. The 'Aboriginal Fathering Project' is embedded within a larger national research funded project entitled 'Fathering Challenges' which is jointly conducted by the University of Melbourne, Curtin University, and the University of South Australia in collaboration with 23 government and non-government organisations. The Aboriginal Fathering Project has partnered with six Aboriginal organisations to guide the research agenda: Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC), The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), Healing Foundation, Children's Protection Society, Relationships Australia Victoria and Ngwala Willumbong Co-operative Ltd.
- 1.3. The project has been funded to run between April 2015- March 2017. The project team are in the final stages of completing interviews with program managers and coordinators of Aboriginal men's program.

## 2. Project Stages

- 2.1. The research project has three distinct focus areas
  - A review of current literature pertaining to knowledge of the nature and efficacy of Aboriginal specific MBC, fathering, men's group and healing programs
  - Interviews/yarning sessions/focus groups with identified program coordinators of Aboriginal specific programs that address family violence
  - Interviews/yarning sessions/focus groups with men who are attending Aboriginal specific MBC, fathering, men's group and healing programs.

### 3. Anticipated Project Outcomes

- 3.1. An important caveat to this research project pertains to the fact that it will not evaluate any programs
- 3.2. It is anticipated that the findings from the project will help form;
  - Foundational knowledge about how Aboriginal men's programs are addressing issues of fathering, violence and abuse
  - Foundational knowledge about how and under what circumstances Aboriginal men who have used family violence are parenting
  - Aboriginal women's perspectives on interventions which support healing and fathering where there has been family violence
  - Practice recommendations for the development and design of Aboriginal specific programs to address issues of fathering, violence and abuse

**Research Themes:** Service responses and interventions

**Key Words:** Perpetrator Interventions, Children, & Aboriginal Issues