

In Finding Solutions to Violence No Two Towns are the Same

Community Safety Research Project

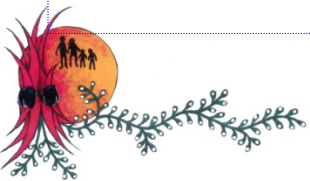
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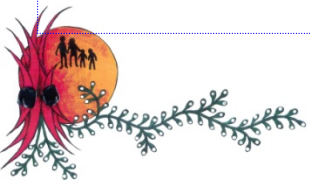
SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY CONCERN ABOUT VIOLENCE

1. Understand the causes of violence in 3 Aboriginal communities in Western NSW
2. Identity the emotional and social effects of violence on Aboriginal people
3. Identify programs needed to assist working with families using violence
4. Develop, trial and evaluate a program that assist people suffering from the effects of violence



Interviews

- Interviewed 84 service delivery workers of which 32% identified as Aboriginal
- Presentation is based on analysis of these workers transcripts

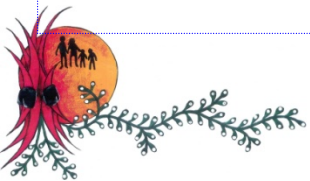


Analysis Matrix

What is violence?	Individual / family	Community response to violence	Social factors impacting	Civic factors impacting	What are the causes? What are the solutions?
Domestic and family violence	Individual / family	Community responses	Social solutions	Civic solutions	
Financial violence	Individual / family	Community responses	Social solutions	Civic solutions	
Social violence	Individual / family	Community responses	Social solutions	Civic solutions	
Violence among young people	Individual / family	Community responses	Social solutions	Civic solutions	

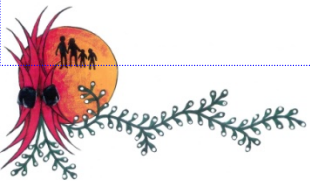
Differences in the Nature of the 3 Communities

- Differs in size & Population
- The availability of work differs markedly
- Services – violence intervention services and policing
- Service delivery-local, visiting
- Infrastructure – housing, facilities and social leadership



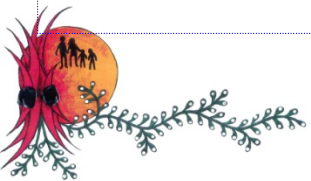
Differences Between Communities: In Terms of Violence

- Degree of violence and perceived acceptance in community of violence
- Hidden nature of domestic and family violence
- Nature of violence among young people
- Degree of violence and its impact on children



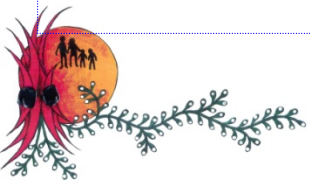
Interpersonal Causes

- Drug and Alcohol (drunken violence) :
 - Self medication
 - Depression
 - Grief and loss
 - Trauma
 - 'Stressed out'



Drunken and Sober Violence

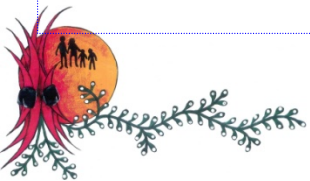
- Drunken violence was often excused by partners, families and communities
- Communication and (Sober violence)
- The communication is not to 'sort things out, it's about blaming'



Environmental factors

Individual's Alcohol and Drug usage decreases when:

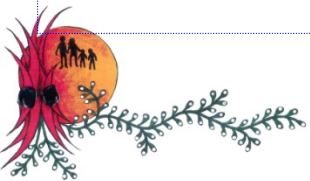
- Work
- Football
- Classes
- The environment is healthy



Social Dynamics

Negative social dynamics

- Impact of addiction
- Drinking circles
- Social support for change



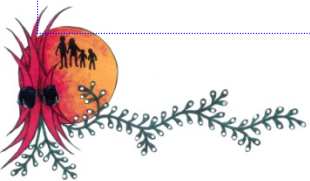
Community Context and Function of Violence

Context:

- Loss of 'accepted rules' around violence
- No fear of the law

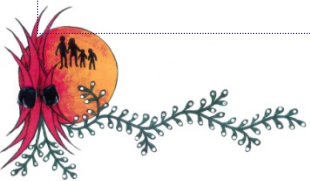
Functions:

- Increased status
- Excitement



The Functions of Violence

- Restores a sense of self:
 - Power and control over others
 - Deals with tall poppies
- Emotional release
- Affirmation of relationships (Jealousy)
- Fighting is condoned and anticipated



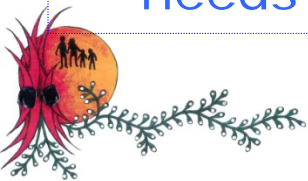
Difference in Perspectives

Aboriginal Workers:

- Many young Aboriginal workers spoke of emotional, verbal abuse 'the scars last longer'
- Involves and impacts everyone
- Cultural obligations and community context
- Awareness of intergenerational tensions & perspectives on violence
- Child concerns strong – needs further study

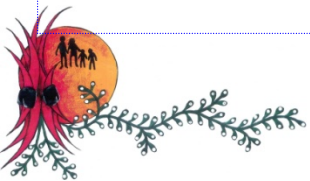
Non-Aboriginal:

- Some believe that only physical violence is recognised by the Aboriginal community
- Normalised and people desensitised
- Male against female
- Controlling behaviour



Transferable Lessons

1. Social health indicators
2. Be wary of own assumptions
3. Listen to Aboriginal viewpoints
(community specific, gender and generational)
4. Family and community approach
5. Sustainable service delivery





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