“Turn 'em around Healing”:

TeaH A therapeutic model for working with traumatised children

Department of Health Sciences
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Foundations of the model

Western therapeutic models of intervention, when used with Indigenous people who live in remote communities, are highly problematic. This is due to a combination of factors. For example: colonisation; inappropriate service types; Western funding models; and biomedical models of practice. In response, the TeaH model has been developed because it works through principles of community engagement and capacity building.
The TeaH model initially arose out of a collaborative working partnership between Mr Anthony Duwun Lee, a Larrakia artist/Healer and Dr Michelle Moss a qualified creative therapist which was undertaken during a 2009 federally funded Government project.

The model involved a multi-layered approach to providing a therapeutic service to children who live in remote communities, who were traumatised from abuse.

Imbedded within the model are principles of community engagement and capacity building and it is tailored to community need.

The therapeutic model combines Indigenous concepts of spirit and healing within a creative therapies framework.
Outcomes

Increased community dialogue about ways to keep their children safe in their community.

In services with school staff that up-skilled staff in being able to identify and deal with disclosures of child abuse.

Capacity building for Indigenous Teacher’s Aides in ways of presenting difficult topics with a range of age groups.

Providing a culturally appropriate service on community for children who were traumatised from abuse.
The TeaH model

What is unique about the TeaH model is that it enables the provision of a culturally derived therapeutic intervention that involves a synergy of both Aboriginal and Western based healing practices. The proposed pilot study aims to demonstrate the transferability of the TeaH model to other Indigenous communities.
Stage 1

The first stage involved commissioning an artist/puppet maker to create a family of purpose built Indigenous marionettes for both community engagement and to use as a therapeutic tool.
We now have a family of 12 Marionettes including a perpetrator
Marionettes made their debut at the Dust, Diversity and Dedication conference
Meet some of the family
Thank you