




Save the Children

Working together to Strengthen
Communities, Children and
Young People



Philosophical Framework

- Self determination of Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal people.
- Children have the right to be brought up strong in culture and in their community.
- Programs and agencies should be Aboriginal owned and controlled.
- Enable all Aboriginal communities & families to have strength & capacity to nurture and support their children.



Philosophical Framework

“SNAICC believes that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australian citizens, have a right to expect that all government funded and supported programs within the community services sector will be committed to culturally respectful service delivery and culturally safe practices.....As such service providers should work respectfully, openly and collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations and agencies to define, develop and deliver services and programs in a culturally respectful manner”

Philosophical Framework

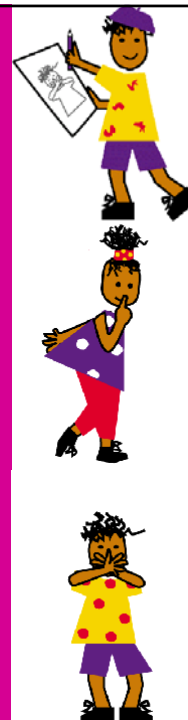
- Respect for Aboriginal culture and self-determination is not just a right.
- International research and practice demonstrates the importance of Aboriginal self-determination and the resilience of culture as best practice.
- A recent study from Canada by Michael Chandler and Travis Proulx for the International Academy for Suicide Research has pointed out that as measures for self-determination and culturally-based services increase in Aboriginal communities, youth suicide dramatically decreases. As you can see – the more Nation or tribal groups – here referred to as ‘bands’ – have control over and cultural input into governance, health, education, policing, resources and seeking title to land – the lesser the incidence of youth suicide.

Research and Practice

- Being on your own land, having a form of self-government, having Aboriginal health services and policing; all combine to create a sense that there is not only a proud past – but a promising future for young people.
- This is the opposite of mainstreaming. Assimilation and mainstreaming is not only morally wrong, it doesn't work. All the evidence proves this.
- I would suggest that self-determination is the most critical social determinant of Aboriginal health and wellbeing.
- Muriel Bamblett QCOSS 2008

How we support the philosophical framework

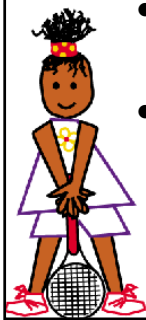
- Partnership agreement
- Memorandum of understanding
- Contributions towards management & infrastructure
- Local employment
- Local decision making
- Mentoring & support
- Paid leadership positions
- Planned withdrawals – hand back





Programs & Partnerships

- Darwin Play scheme
- School attendance project
- Future Parents Program – Tiwi & Palmerston
- Wadeye Play scheme & leadership development
- Tennant Creek play scheme



KEY MESSAGES FOR PARTNERSHIPS

- Invitation - Responding
- Getting to know each other – Relationship building
- Understanding our strengths and our limitations – listening and learning
- Working out together what would work
- Designing services responsive to community need and based on community input
- Following through
- Training
- Employment



Nguiu graduation 2008



Young Nguiu men's banner

- Message from young men's to community



Tips for Partnership – What worked

1. Indigenous Trainers – they understood culture – gave a good sense that the organisation understood culture and its importance
2. Employing local people – providing training – growing local knowledge
3. Drawing on the groups knowledge – valuing our experiences – presenting to each other
4. Respect for cultural ways – knowing men's and women's business and adjusting the course to suit
5. Respecting each other – made it a safe place to discuss difficult issues
6. Trainers, community members all stayed together, ate together and took care of each other



6. Early on we developed partnership understanding – ongoing support and mentoring
7. Important for the organisation to visit often and listen to the issues
8. Important to have support and encouragement
9. Both ways learning
10. Working together to solve problems – flexible – keep trying
11. Important to listen to community elders and find solutions that fit for the community
12. Employment of local people meant courses delivered in language

Wadeye Playscheme



Darwin Playscheme



Key Outcomes

- Shared resources & training
- Employment and training of Aboriginal community members
- Development of key partnerships
- Development of research agenda
- New programs & contributing to responses to Young People children & families



Key Outcomes



- Children seeing strong Aboriginal women & men talking out about child abuse and domestic violence.
- Children being provided responses by local community members with a strong cultural understanding.
- Children increasing their school attendance without coercion
- Parents participating in education and development of children with renewed pride