



Sharing Stories ~ Artwork by Karen Maber

What do Aboriginal parents and families want from parenting programs?

Flexibility practical/concrete not a lot of theory relationships opportunity to meet with family and community clear about roles/jobs
 feeling safe in programs listen and respect 'family' has different meanings understanding culture engage in culture
 break down the barriers genuine participation it takes a village to raise a child do we really know what parents want? transport
 to share their stories and knowledge don't want structured approach connectedness with others engagement teenagers support
 food child-minding programs for young mothers support for parents not just parenting to cope with raising children trust
 family support (extended family) practical supports (art, game play, hands on) alleviate fears of children being removed encouragement
 culturally appropriate facilitators knowing where to access services ask parents what they want before and after the parenting program
 acknowledge strengths non-judgemental gaining trust, building rapport making contact with Elders consult with community
 often Aboriginal people feel targeted building cultural capacity alongside of parenting capacity giving ownership to the group
 co-facilitation with community Elder to promote relationships programs aimed at parents' needs not the needs of funding bodies
 support from peers, other young mums/parents information and education inclusiveness of other family members include fathers
 hands on practical activities outings and community engagement understanding of intergenerational trauma flexibility and
 recognition around role of parent/extended family understanding of complexity and diversity consultation extended beyond Elders,
 include young parents safe environment communication with community and services parenting programs need to be holistic, grass
 roots program to give space for parents to talk about their childhood experiences more hands on with children/baby care awareness
 and access to wider support networks and development of ongoing relationships/connections with community programs to help parents
 understand the attachment and bonding with their children consistency of staff supporting families culturally sensitive and responsive
 to the needs of Aboriginal families get on board a supportive Aboriginal person who will encourage others to attend Aboriginal people
 need good ongoing support use '8 Aboriginal ways of learning' resource consult with Aboriginal families connections with community

'Group Conversations' collated by FWTDP from WSCF 'A Stronger Voice for Aboriginal Families' Forum held on 24th September 2013



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How can family work promote healing and recovery from trauma?

Building relationships is key to working with Aboriginal families Pride in culture pride in history longest surviving people
embrace community teaching through stories a road of imagination many mothers, many fathers, a community spirit identity
can we ever recover from trauma or should we be trying to prevent future trauma family is important link in cycle to stop transmission
of intergenerational trauma create support networks training to understand trauma first Aboriginal trauma - specific, different
understanding upfront about Aboriginal trauma trauma still filters through generations sharing stories promotes healing pride
acknowledge trauma - social/community action - doesn't fix problem but starts healing process acknowledge power, resilience, ability to
get through trauma cultural knowledge acknowledgement trust respect a place to grow our culture transparent
understanding your own past facing your own fears mindset shifting from impossible to possible interactive being positive role
models client focused approach building strong relationships between service provider and client non-judgemental not outcomes
based support and group work opportunity to share their stories and be listened to role modelling collaboration
healing and acknowledgement of culture is separate empowerment ownership acknowledging generational histories equal rights
strengths based approach multi-generational approach support beyond programs connection with community and land
linking families with support networks Elders are important resource within the Aboriginal community bring communities together
support each other need to think about long term approaches to parenting support acknowledging pain from the past past experiences
intervention - how it come about - positive or negative referral exploring values begin conversation about trauma feeling connected
with culture trust - to feel comfortable to open up and be honest to obtain help if necessary need to walk alongside families hope
similar experiences to share everyone has a story to acknowledge recognise each individual's story respect community support
healing from dispossession and loss of culture justice it takes time