

Intergenerational trauma and family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities: State of knowledge and implications for policy and practice

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ANROWS 2ND NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

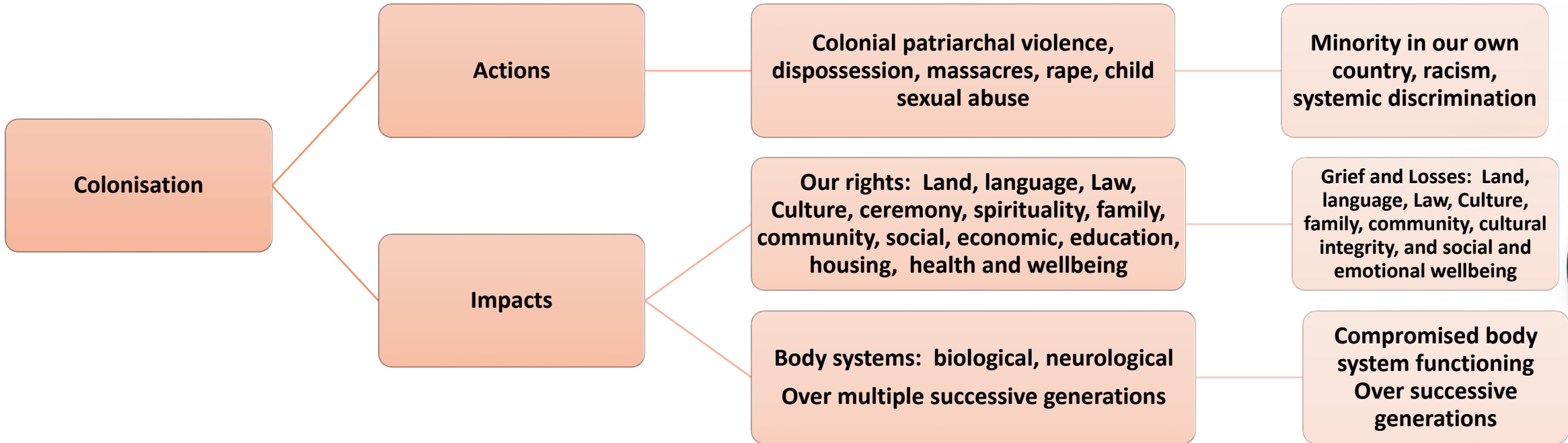
ACTING ON EVIDENCE

Knowledge. Response. Prevention.

15-17 May 2018 · Sofitel Sydney Wentworth

Intergenerational trauma and family violence: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Intergenerational trauma and family violence: OUR STORY OF TRAUMA, OUR TRUTH



Intergenerational trauma and family violence: State of knowledge

- Early childhood trauma creates

“... the blueprint in the body that influences every system in the body from immunity to the expression and regulation of emotions, to nervous system resilience, communication, intelligence, and self-regulatory mechanisms such as body temperature regulation and hormone production” (Levine & Kline, 2007, p.34).

We have had successive generations of our people impacted

Intergenerational trauma and family violence: Implications for Policy

OUTCOME AREAS

1. Communities are safe and free from violence
2. Relationships are respectful
3. Indigenous communities are strengthened
4. Services meet the needs of women and children experiencing violence
5. Justice responses are effective
6. Perpetrators are held to account

IMPLICATIONS

- How do approaches to Policy development consciously attend to and include our full story of intergenerational trauma as the foundational story (or theory) on which policies and responses are devised?

Intergenerational trauma and family violence: Implications for Practice

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Context and Generational change

Early childhood - Adverse Childhood Experiences Study ACE – (US)

Epigenetics - generational transmission of SEWB/Stressors issues, safe healthy pregnancy

Generational change - even if jail the man, damage done to kids, grandkids..

FITS – 2-12x stressors of mainstream – sustained over time , MVA Cape layers of trauma

WA kids in detention - 89% cognitive, FASD

But....also many protective factors - prosocial relationships, extended family, culture - build on eg Fits vs LSAC carers

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- There is a cumulative impact of ACEs. Compared to someone with no ACEs, someone with 4 or more is more likely to experience a range of negative outcomes in adulthood. *For example, they are 16 times more likely to perpetrate violence and 20 times more likely to be incarcerated at some point in their lifetime.*
- *Many people experience ACEs but go on to lead productive and healthy lives. Protective factors (i.e. that mitigate risks), such as one or more stable caring child-adult relationship, feeling you can overcome hardship and guide your own destiny, feeling involved and connected with others, and having the skills to manage your own behaviour and emotions can build resilience, which allows individuals to grow and endure crisis and stress.* Enhancing these protective factors, and taking a trauma-informed approach (i.e. understanding and integrating knowledge on the trauma a person has experienced) in response to individuals experiencing ACEs including DVA, has been shown to mitigate and prevent negative outcomes.
- Bellis, M.A., et al. (2016). Adverse Childhood Experiences and their impact on health-harming behaviours in the Welsh adult population. Cardiff: Public Health Wales NHS Trust. Available from <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/88504>, Felletti ACE.

Primary P

- Healing/Trauma based (informed) men's and women's programs, PHC - community based, smoking/traditional healers, country, lawmen/leaders
- Early interventions systematic – children exposed DV, bereavement, grief loss (Wangetti) (TSS)
- ***Cultural determinants*** – dose response SEWB (Lovett, R 2018)
- Paternal and Child Health - safe loving, recruitment - AN smoking, alcohol
- Power and control – structural issues as well - in big picture (Sen/DRIP) Macro- Uluru Statement

Secondary P

- (White) Ochre Day – MG – Daniel Fischer - responsibility/accountability
- Healing, support to change - Mornington Island Men's, Mapoon Men's group, Yarrabah, Kowanyama, Aurukun.....unfunded/ not incorporated.
- Un-normalise violence
- Noongar Men's Manual WA
- Mibbinbah, Red Dust Healing etc – stopping the cycle.
- Education of generational change - men can be more influential than any program.
- Family Protector -Warriors make Safe families, loving hands, loving dads - (Cape data - reason for quitting)
- Family Protector Program

Tertiary P

- Our men our healing NT - reported 50% reduction in recidivism
- Take the man out of house not the women and children (with security arrangements/resources etc)
- Men's place - diversionary, cultural, elders.
- LG – hope, empowerment, warriors, emotional regulation, psycho-education, FASD/ADHD etc
- Men's group's - setting standards/norms, supporting perp programs, if uncles/brothers say you need to change - you better fkn change bros – not police, prisons or SW's/psychologists – white law is pretty inconsistent (DVO, fines)
- There is little support to do this work (advisor) and in my experience in the last 20 years, men have been trying to address this themselves but we don't care we keep going.