Reframing Discourse in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing

William Fogarty, Melissa Lovell, Juleigh Langenberg, Mary-Jane Heron, Michael Davis, Hannah Bulloch and Siobhan McDonnell
‘Show a people as one thing, only one thing, over and over again, and that is what they become’

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Danger of a Single Story
“Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign. But stories can also be used to empower, and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people. But stories can also repair that broken dignity.”

– Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Deficit Discourse and Indigenous Health
How narrative framings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are reproduced in policy
William Fogarty, Hannah Bulloch, Slobhan McDonnell and Michael Davis
National Centre for Indigenous Studies, The Australian National University

Deficit Discourse and Strengths-based Approaches
Changing the narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing
William Fogarty, Melissa Lovell, Juleigh Langenbarg and Mary-Jane Heron
National Centre for Indigenous Studies, The Australian National University
Deficit Discourse

Mode of language, which consistently frames Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity in a narrative of negativity, deficiency and disempowerment

Fforde et al. 2013
Impact of Deficit Discourse
‘The way we think speak, hear and understand the world coalesce to construct our realities’

Professor Mick Dodson, 2017
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Research Method

- Desk-based review
- Systematic review
  - 80 peer reviewed
  - 120 grey literature
  - < 130 websites
- Critical Discourse Analysis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths-based approaches</th>
<th>Key elements</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. Asset-based</strong></td>
<td>Utilises existing positive attributes, characteristics and resources of a person and/or community</td>
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<td><strong>2. Resilience</strong></td>
<td>The ability to withstand adverse circumstances through mental, emotional, social, spiritual strength</td>
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<td><strong>3. ‘Cultural appropriateness’</strong></td>
<td>The tailoring of programs, resources and health care to privilege cultural aspects of Indigeneity</td>
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<td><strong>4. Social determinants of health &amp; ecological theories</strong></td>
<td>Factors or conditions that can be converted to metrics for estimating likelihood of disease or ill-health in the population</td>
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<td><strong>5. Protective factors</strong></td>
<td>Non-physical and non-medical elements that counteract or mitigate the effects of adversity</td>
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<td><strong>6. Empowerment</strong></td>
<td>Focuses on self-determination and abilities rather than limiting factors, such as poor physical health</td>
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<td><strong>7. Holistic approaches</strong></td>
<td>Privilege Indigenous ways of knowing and being</td>
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<td><strong>8. Wellness and wellbeing</strong></td>
<td>Measuring health in a wider range of metrics than physical illness or disease, usually including mental, social emotional, spiritual and communal wellness</td>
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<td><strong>9. Strengths-based counselling approaches &amp; positive psychology</strong></td>
<td>Prioritises capabilities, talents, competencies, hope, resources, optimism &amp; autonomy of individ &amp; communities when remedying challenging circumstances</td>
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<td><strong>10. Decolonisation methodology</strong></td>
<td>A broad methodology proactively shifting the Western and European worldview to Indigenous understandings</td>
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<td><strong>11. Salutogenesis</strong></td>
<td>Focuses on the asses and origins of health rather than deficits of ill healt – shifts from a pathologising paradigm</td>
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Case Studies
Ngangkari Program

TRADITIONAL HEALERS of Central Australia: Ngangkari

Nganyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women’s Council Aboriginal Corporation

© NPY Women’s Council
WA Indigenous Storybook

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS STORYBOOK

CELEBRATING & SHARING GOOD NEWS STORIES

KANYIRRNIPA JUKURRPA

ORGANISATION NAME: Kanyirrnipa Jukurrpa

CONTACT PERSON:
Zan King

EMAIL / WEBSITE:
zking@kj.org.au / www.kj.org.au

PROGRAM / PROJECT PARTNERS: Martu Leadership program

KEY STAFF / PEOPLE INVOLVED:
Sue Dowensett, Peter Johnson, Muski Taylor

KEY WORDS:
Working two ways, rangers, leaders, culture, Country

About Kanyirrnipa Jukurrpa...

Kanyirrnipa Jukurrpa (KJ) was established in 2005 to assist Martu in looking after culture and Country and to ensure that Martu’s ongoing connection with Country would remain strong. Over time, KJ has broadened its scope to focus on working with Martu to build strong, resilient communities with the following core objectives to support Martu to look after culture and Country, to build a sustainable economy in the Martu communities and to build pathways for young Martu to healthy futures.

To meet these objectives, KJ has developed an integrated suite of programs including cultural and heritage, land management, communications and social programs.

About the Storytellers...

Muski Taylor

Muski Taylor was born in 1945 at Wayalturinga, a rock shelter on the side of the Peredew Lakes. His family walked across the entire Great Sandy Desert, north to Janda Springs and south to Porongurup. His family particularly walked around the Karri Forest National Park area between Porongurup and Punamini and the Southern Gulf on the Peredew Lakes. His family group was large, with fourteen times three times. His siblings included Nita and Willie Taylor who lived with Muski in Porongurup. Muski is a very senior Law man and has encyclopaedic knowledge of Martu Law, songs and customs, waterholes and Martu walking tracks, flora and fauna of the desert and Martu family histories. Muski works as the Senior Cultural Advisor for KJ providing invaluable advice and guidance.

Sue Downssett

Sue Dowensett has been working with the Martu people of the Western Desert since 1987. Sue trained as an anthropologist and has been chiefly working with the Martu to preserve many forms of cultural knowledge and to foster cultural knowledge transfer to young Martu. Sue has a deep knowledge of Martu history and a broad knowledge of Martu society and Country.

Peter Johnson

Peter has been working with Martu since 2003. He was the founding CEO of KJ. With Muski Taylor KJ and Martu Board of Directors, he and Sue oversaw its growth from foundation to its current scale. He is chiefly involved in governance and social programs, including the Martu Leadership Program, as well as all cultural programs.
#IHMayDay: 1 day of Twitter action, 15+ hours on Indigenous health issues. 26m impressions, trending No 1 nationally

Editor: Marie McInerney  Author: on May 04, 2014

It was surely what Twitter was made for – a national day of Twitter action that had discussions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health issues trending nationally scoring nearly... Read more »

On transforming conversations around Indigenous health -

#IHMayDay

Editor: Melissa Sweet  Author: on May 11, 2014
In: #IHMayDay 2014, health and medical research, Indigenous health

One of the clear themes from the recent #IHMayDay Twitter-fest was the value of changing the questions asked and the stories told about the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pe... Read more »
Findings

- 2 reasons for adopting strengths-based approaches
- Not an antidote to deficit discourse
Thank you

Deficit Discourse and Strengths-based Approaches

Deficit Discourse and Indigenous Health

Summary Report