Promoting a Social and Cultural Determinants Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

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PM IAC

ToR: PURPOSE

The Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council (the 'Council') will provide advice to the Government on Indigenous affairs, and will focus on practical changes to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

ToR: ROLE

The Council will provide ongoing advice to the Government on emerging policy and implementation issues related to Indigenous affairs including, but not limited to:

- improving school attendance and educational attainment
- creating lasting employment opportunities in the real economy
- reviewing land ownership and other drivers of economic development
- preserving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures
- building reconciliation and creating a new partnership between black and white Australians

ROLE

- empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including through more flexible and outcome-focused programme design and delivery

- building the capacity of communities, service providers and governments

- promoting better evaluation to inform government decision-making

- supporting greater shared responsibility and reducing dependence on government within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

- achieving constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

ROLE

- The Council will engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including existing Indigenous advocacy bodies, to ensure that the Government has access to a diversity of views. The Council will also engage with other individuals and organisations, as relevant to the Government's agenda.

- The Government may request the Council to provide advice on specific policy and programme effectiveness, to help ensure that Indigenous programmes achieve real, positive change in the lives of Aboriginal people.

- The Council will report annually to the Government on its activities, via letter to the Prime Minister.

Working Parties

3 major priorities

1. School attendance

2. Economic independence

3. Community safety

- Working parties established to coordinate efforts of IAC relevant to these priorities

- More inclusive 'interpretations'

- Emphasis on fundamental underpinnings e.g. HEALTH

- Public health and social determinants approach

The Social Determinants

- Social environments within which we are born, grow, live, work, age

- Focused on deprivation and outcomes, social gradient

- Influenced by distribution of money, power, resources at global, national, local levels

- SDH responsible for inequalities

Social Determinants of Health

Although widely accepted and broadly researched, the social determinants approach to health and wellbeing appear to reflect a **deficit perspective** – demonstrating poorer health outcomes for those from lower socioeconomic populations, with lower educational attainment, long term unemployment and welfare dependency and intergenerational disadvantage.

Cultural Determinants of Health

The cultural determinants of health originate from and promote a **strength based** perspective, acknowledging that stronger connections to culture and country build stronger individual and collective identities, a sense of self-esteem, resilience, and improved outcomes across the other determinants of health including education, economic stability and community safety.

Cultural Determinants of Health

Exploring and articulating the cultural determinants of health acknowledges the extensive and well-established knowledge networks that exist within communities, the ACCHS movement, human rights and social justice sectors.

Consistent with the thematic approach to the Articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), cultural determinants include, but are not limited to:

- Self-determination;

- Freedom from discrimination;

- Individual and collective rights;

- Freedom from assimilation and destruction of culture;

- Protection from removal/relocation;

- Connection to, custodianship, and utilisation of country and traditional lands;

- Reclamation, revitalisation, preservation and promotion of language and cultural practices;

- Protection and promotion of Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Intellectual Property; and

- Understanding of lore, law and traditional roles and responsibilities.

See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/61/53), part one, chap. II, sect. A.
NACCHO Intervention on Indigenous Health Equality to the 12th Session of the UNPFII, New York, May 2013.

Relevance

- A 'social and cultural determinants' approach recognises that there are many drivers of ill-health that lie outside the direct responsibility of the health sector and which therefore require a collaborative, inter-sectoral approach;

- There is an increasing body of evidence demonstrating that protection and promotion of traditional knowledge, family, culture and kinship contribute to community cohesion and personal resilience;

- Current studies show that strong cultural links and practices improve outcomes across the SDH

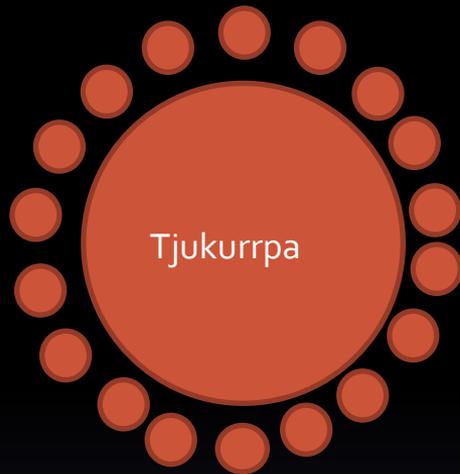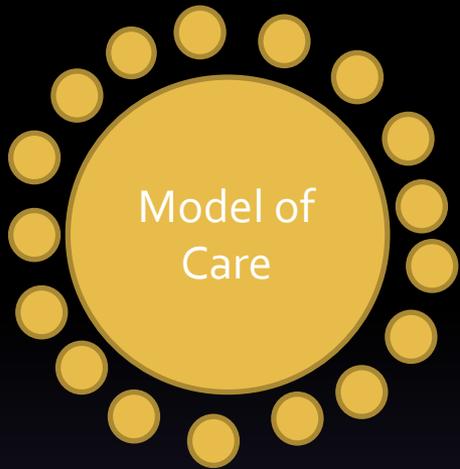- Indigenous perspective enriches practice for all

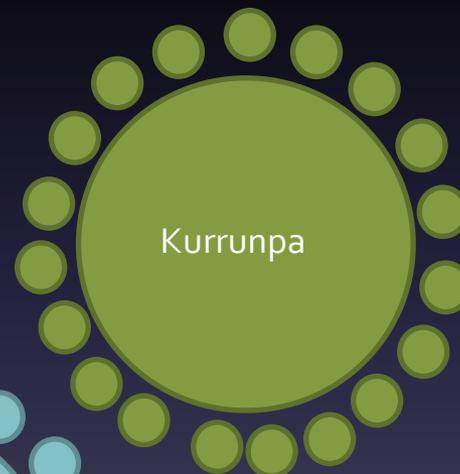| Cultural Determinants Human Rights		Domain
Self Determination	UDHR; UNDRIP	HR, law and justice, social inclusion
Freedom from discrimination	ICERD; ICESCR	Politics, service delivery, social policy, law and justice
Individual and Collective Rights	UNDRIP; ICCPR	Law and justice, employment, economics, social policy
Freedom from assimilation and destruction of culture	ILO Convention (No. 169) on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples; ICCPR	Law and justice, service delivery, social policy, politics, education
Protection from removal/relocation	CRC; ICERD; UNDRIP	Law and justice, service delivery
Connection to, custodianship and utilisation of country and traditional lands	ILO Convention; ICESCR; Convention on Biological Diversity	Native Title and land rights, environment
Reclamation, revitalisation, preservation and promotion of language and cultural practices	CRC; ICESCR	Education, employment
Protection and promotion of TK, IIP	ILO Convention; UD Bioethics and Human Rights	Law and justice, ethics
Understanding of lore, law, traditional roles and responsibilities	UNDRIP	Education

Determinant	Example	Indicator/Measures (for example)
Self Determination	ACCH sector	The number of new and established CCHS
Freedom from discrimination	3AQ culturally safe services	Zero tolerance policies Increased number of social initiatives Decreased number of complaints to AHRC
Recognition of individual and collective rights	Citizenship, cultural rights, human rights Some knowledge cannot be individually owned e.g. genetic/biological information	Australia incorporates Articles of international HR instruments in domestic legislation; Constitutional reform – does not allow Cth to enact racist legislation; Compulsory research agreements that ensure legal and ethical protections, addressing self determination, priority setting, benefit sharing
Freedom from assimilation and destruction of culture	Inclusive policies and resourcing	National curriculum 1 + 2 schools addressing history, Indigenous culture Policy impact assessments Political representation

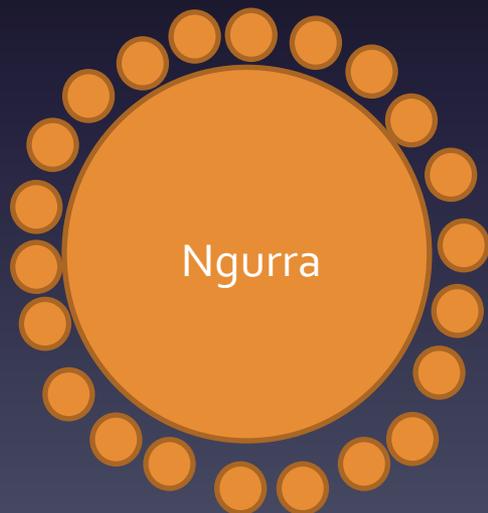| Determinant	Example	Indicator/Measures
Protection from removal/relocation	Birthing Dialysis Education Ongoing removal of children	Develop a model of service delivery, funded to provide co-located 1/2/3 services The number of ACCHS supported to provide comprehensive co-located care
Connection to, custodianship, and utilisation of country and traditional lands	Formal acknowledgement and validation of cultural knowledge and practices Upscaling Indigenous enterprises	Increased number of Rangers and trainees More micro-financing initiatives/opportunities Native Title determinations Heritage and national park orders
Reclamation, revitalisation, preservation and promotion of language and cultural practices	AIATSIS APY Women's Council	Language education courses Employment of cultural educators Funded local cultural education initiatives Network of CIS
Protection and promotion of TK and IIP	International HR instruments and agencies UNPFII, ECOSOC, UNESCO	Domestic legislation (Cth) Ethical guidelines and legal protections – custodianship of traditional/cultural language, songs, stories, images, designs, biological material Authority to negotiate benefit

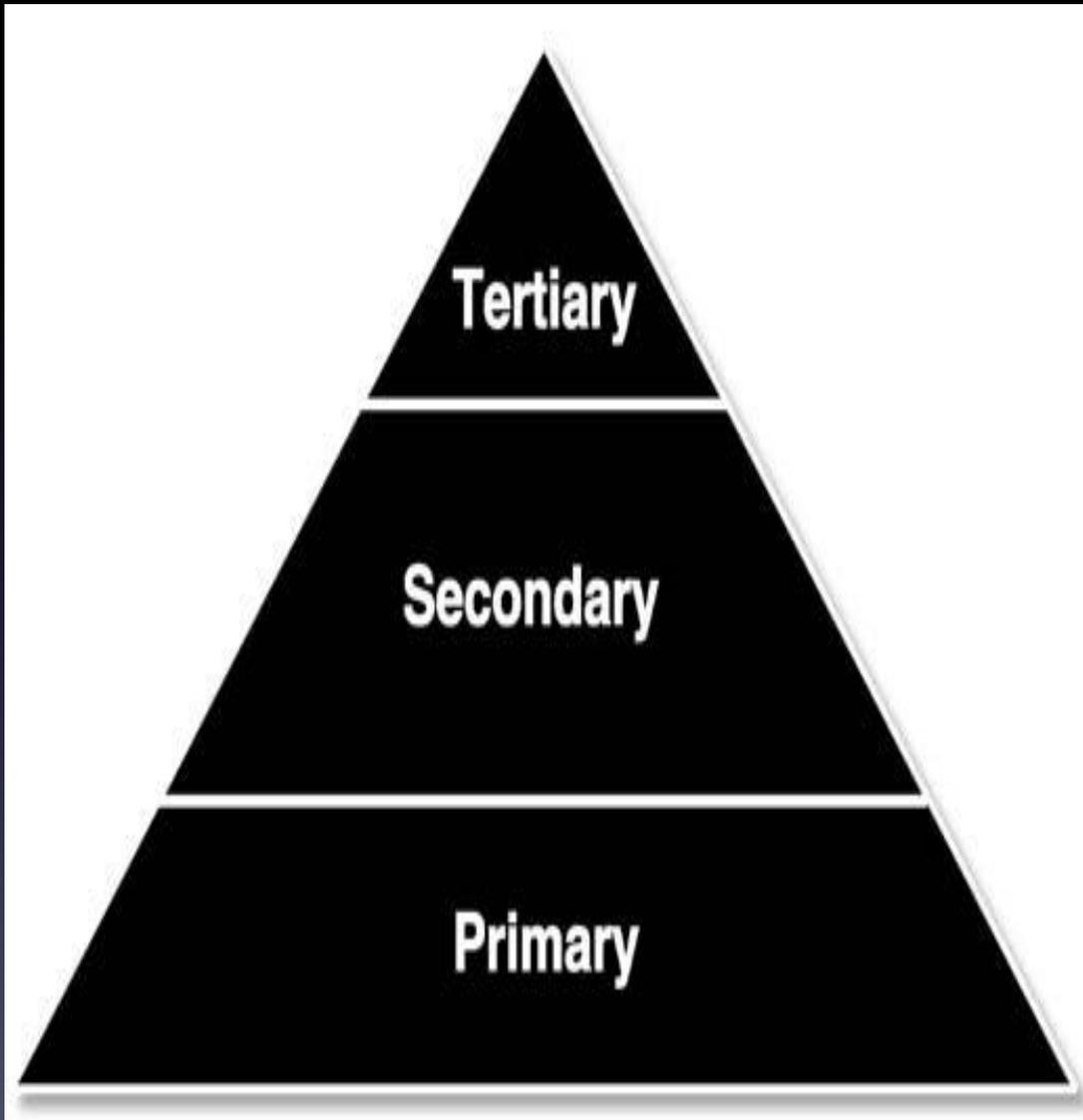| Determinant	Example	Indicators/Measure
Understanding of lore, law, and traditional roles and responsibilities	Not lazy, addicts, wife beaters, child abusers Strong, resilient Surviving in difficult environments, strict social structures, clear social roles	Men's cultural education network – NACCHO and member services

Model of
Care

Tjukurrpa

Lore
Law
Continuity

KANYINI

Kurrunpa

Spirit
Soul

Ngurra

Land
Home
Country
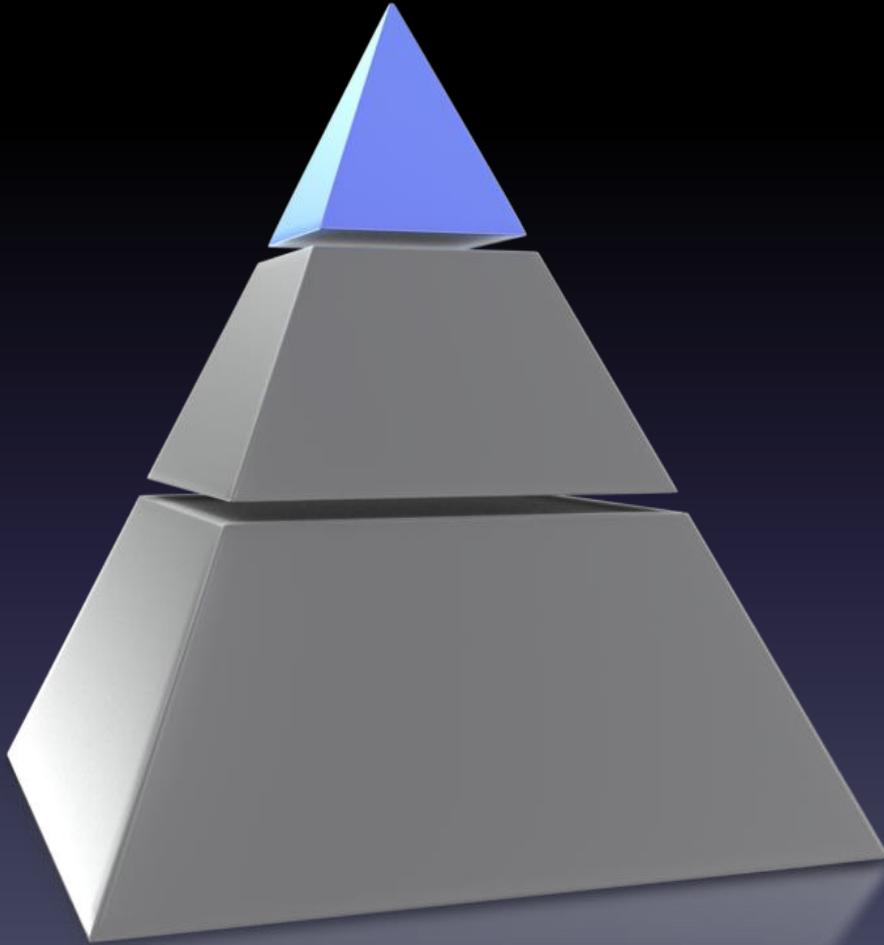
Walytja

Family
Community
Humanity

Public Health Prevention Model

Public Health Model	Actions and Interventions
Tertiary Prevention	Recovery and rehabilitation; intensive regulatory controls
Secondary Prevention	Identifying at risk children and families; culturally valid and validated assessment tools; coordination across diverse portfolios; legislation; increasing regulation
Primary Prevention	Public education and awareness campaigns; empower for zero tolerance

Additional Dimension/s

3D Capacity
Community and Family – parenting, bonding, minimise risk factors, access services, identify and act
Childhood development – mastery, resilience, positive adolescent transitions, innate qualities
Safe environments for growth and development – school, sport, social, urban planning
Address modifiable risk
Workforce

Developing a conceptual framework

Domains	Principles	Actions
Cultural	Privileging Aboriginal knowledge, child rearing practices, social roles and responsibilities Foundation for strength based approach	Cultural immersion initiatives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, leadership in sector Culturally competent CP practitioners Parenting programs
Politics	The protection of children from sexual abuse is a non-negotiable social priority	Bipartisan commitment
Policy and Practice	Best Interests of the Child	Children in all policies approach Impact Assessments translation from research/exemplars to evidence based best practice
Justice and law	Responsive regulation Rationalise legislation – Cth standards, jurisdictional interpretation	Increasing intensity of interventions – broad social protections; powers of departments, services; assessment; removal of perpetrators; placement of children; incarceration
Capacity and capabilities	Improved social and professional understanding of child protection issues Empower communities toward zero tolerance for child sexual abuse Focus on modifiable risk factors Minimising stigma	Broad social education; targeted issues literacy; open social discourse; empower children and adolescents; accessible services; workforce training and specialisation (multi, interdisciplinary)