**Connected Parenting - Parenting is not designed to be done in isolation**

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The Connected Parenting Resources were developed by St John of God (SJG) Social Outreach, part of St John of God Health Care.

The resources were designed in response to an identified need for a culturally secure and sensitive parenting resource that incorporates the Circle of Security (COS) principles and recognises the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural values. The development process was guided by, and in collaboration with, an Interagency Reference Group, comprised of senior Indigenous health and education practitioners, researchers, managers, and the COS developers.

The Connected Parenting resources are based on knowledge and understanding of parent-infant attachment within Aboriginal, cultural and historical contexts. Connected Parenting The Big Picture emphasises the connected nature of Indigenous parenting and the importance of culture, spirituality, connection to country, kinship and family to the parenting process. The Connected Parenting Coming Together resource explores the concepts of self esteem, respect, trust and strength in relation to becoming a person within a family. The resources recognise that parenting is not designed to be done in isolation.

They are currently in use with Indigenous families across Australia.

In 2018 SJG Social Outreach and the Western Australian Child and Adolescent Health Service developed an e-learning package, which incorporates the Connected Parenting resources to support health workers and other professionals caring for Indigenous families, to encourage and support positive parenting and early childhood outcomes.  It promotes a strengths based approach to support Indigenous parents/carers to ensure their children reach their full potential.

In this presentation we will explore how the eLearning package and resources, can be used and incorporated into programs to support health, education and any professionals working with Indigenous families to empower Indigenous parents.