



# Disrupting traditional evaluation

Embedding Indigenous leadership in routine data collection at two Aboriginal residential alcohol and other drug services

Presented by Dr Katinka van de Ven, Erin Cunningham, Phillip J Tully and Alison Ritter



# Acknowledgement

In the spirit of reconciliation, 360Edge acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We recognise the ongoing impact of colonisation and dispossession. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples joining us today.



## Agenda

- Why this matters
- The Pinangba context
- Pinangba evaluation
- What made it different
- Approach
- Strengthening service quality
- Challenges
- What we have learned



## Why this matters

Western evaluation models focus on individual behaviour change

Aboriginal concepts of health are holistic

Few evaluations of Aboriginal treatment services

Building Aboriginal capacity in evaluation

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# The Pinangba context

Two residential rehabilitation services (Cooktown and Townsville)

92% of clients identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Family centric model of care





# Pinangba service evaluation

## Broader project

Evaluation of Pinangba's family centric model of care

## Today's focus

Embedding Indigenous leadership in routine data collection and build internal capability



# What made this evaluation different?



Building capacity



Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of working in data collection methods



Closing the data feedback loop



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## Phase 1

Administrative client data analysis

Interviews with clients and staff

Workshops with staff

Developing and pilot testing routine data collection system

Training of staff



## Approach

# Approach



## Phase 2

Data collection for evaluation

Reflection meetings

Analysing data

Write up and presenting findings

Stagpole Street  
Drug and Alcohol  
Rehabilitation  
Townsville

## What did we find?



# Strengthening service quality

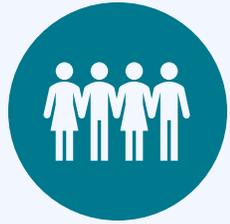
Aboriginal leadership reframed evaluation

Data collection as therapeutic

Staff ownership

Embedding feedback into daily practice





# Strengthening service quality

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## Challenges

Sustaining engagement

Infrastructure barriers

Post treatment follow up difficult

Risk of dependence on single champion

Structural and funding constraints



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**What did we learn?**



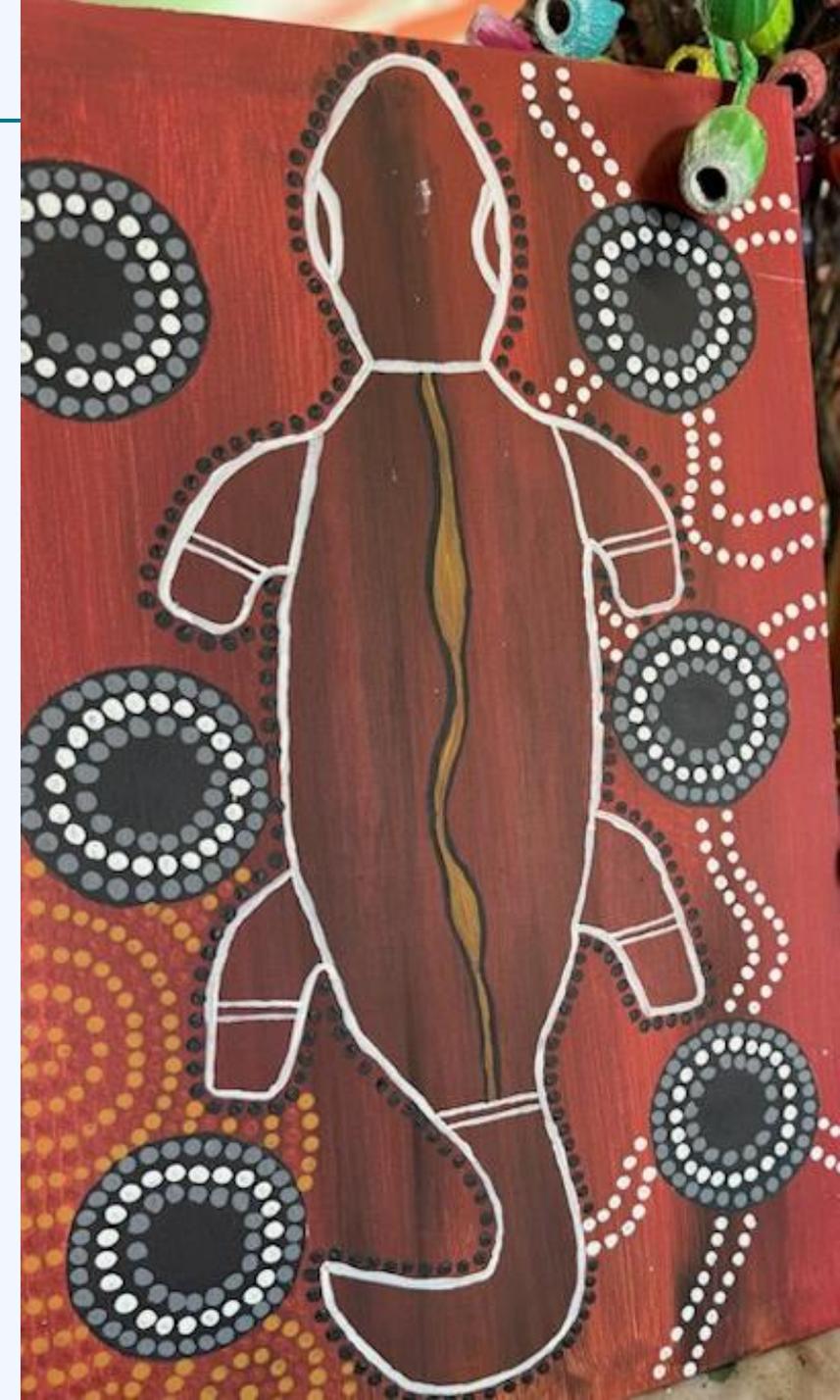
## When culture leads, evaluation transforms

Aboriginal staff and client led

Tools that reflect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and being

Advisory Board

Embedding two-way learning in evaluation





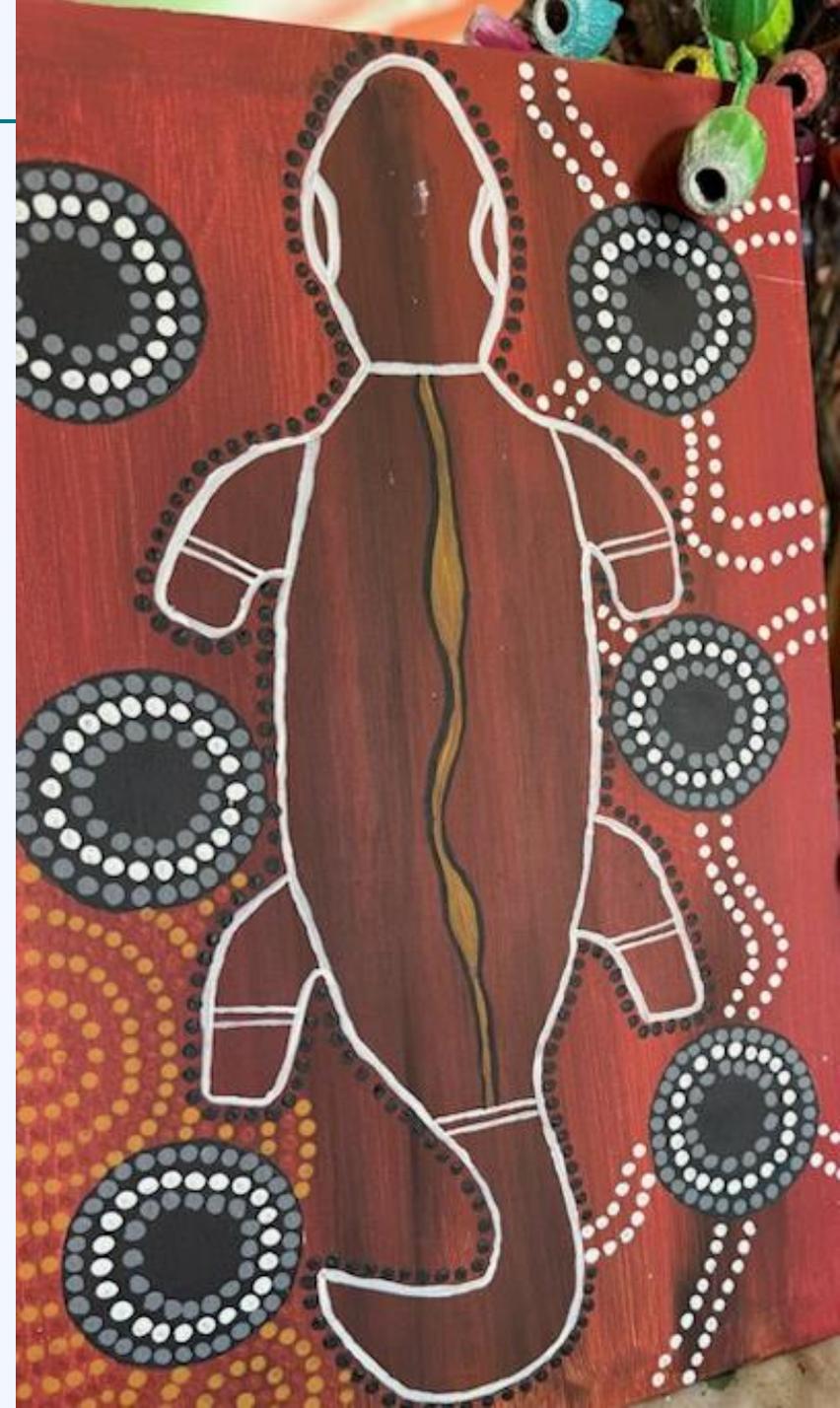
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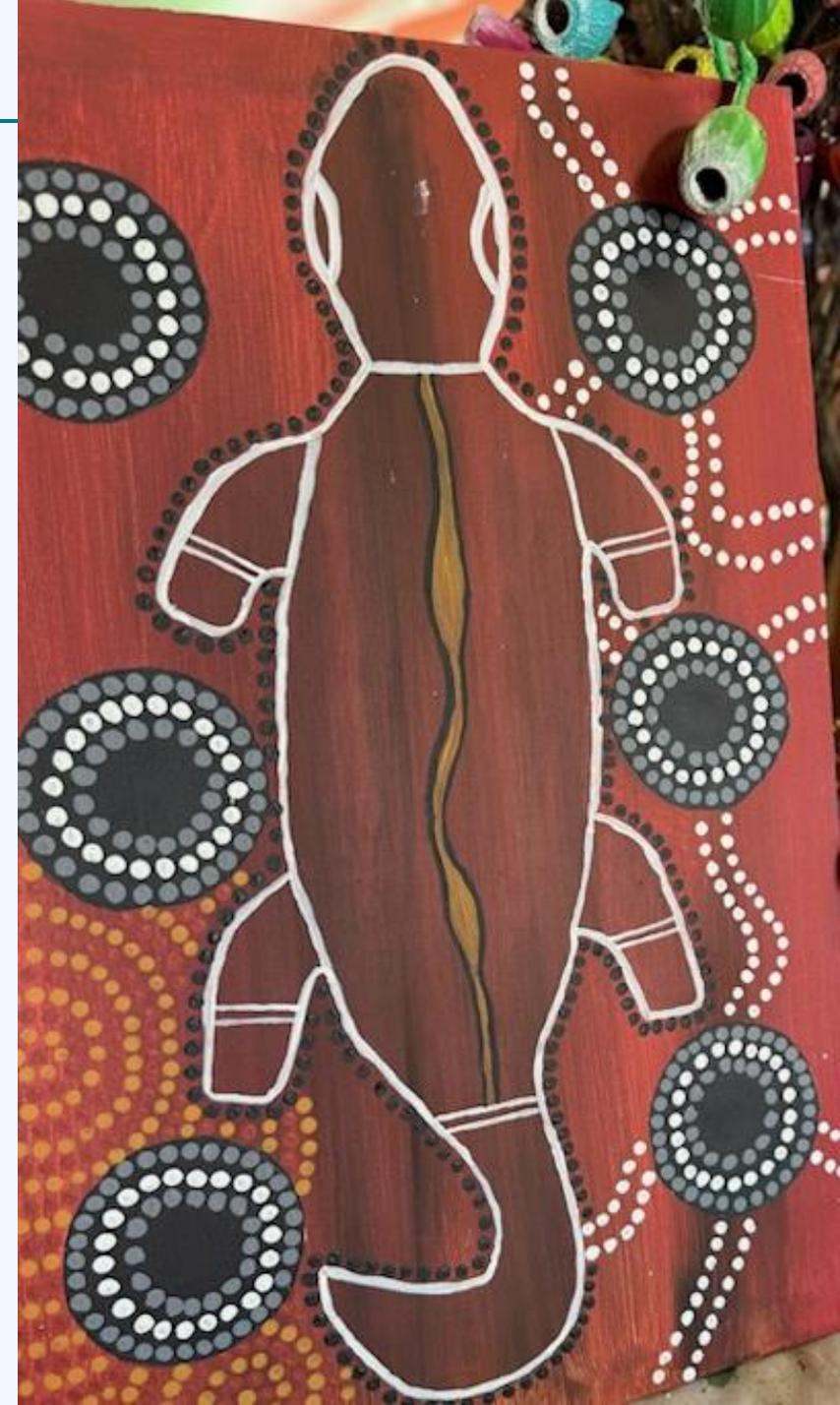
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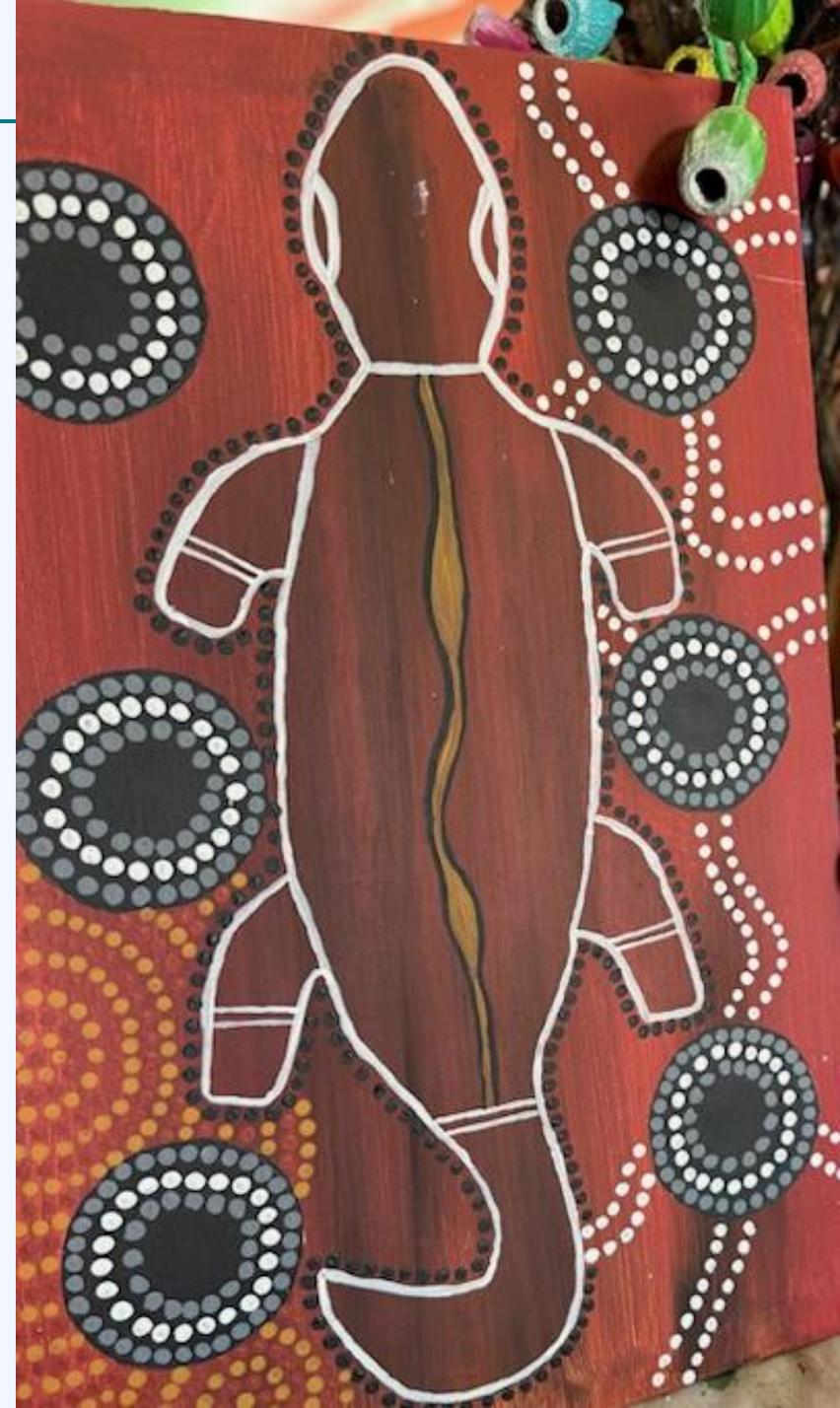
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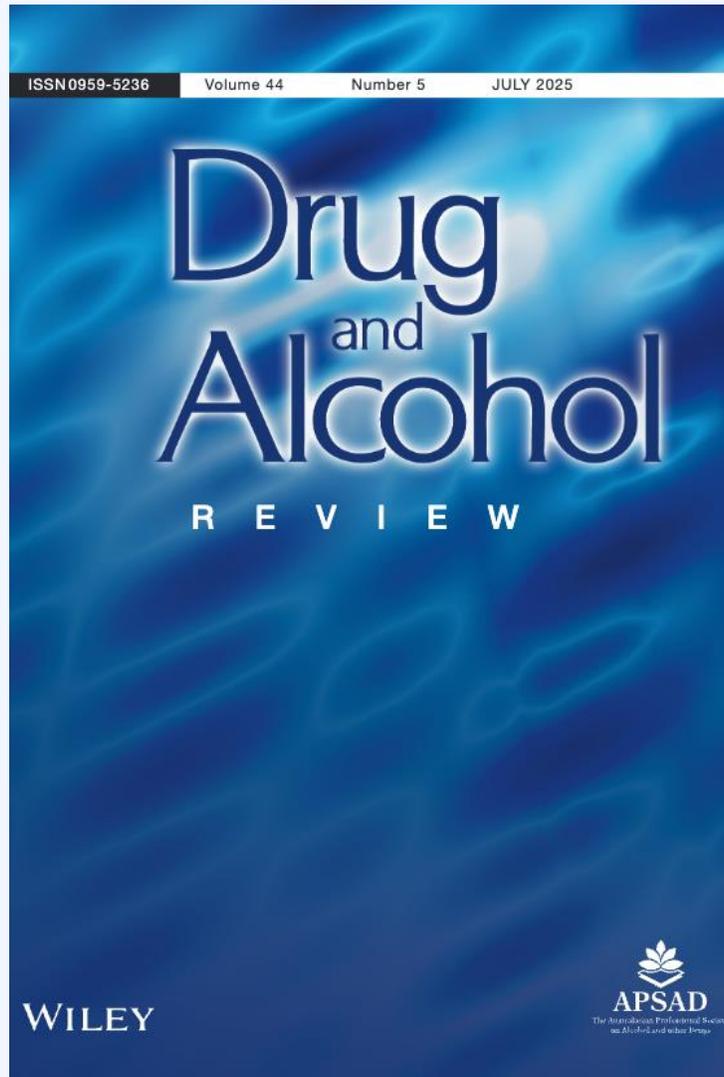
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