

“WE WEAR MULTIPLE HATS”: NAVIGATING MULTIPLE ROLES IN RELATION TO ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE AMONG ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

MEGAN WILLIAMS¹ BIANCA SCHMID²

¹*Graduate School of Health, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia,* ²*School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales, Australia*

Presenters' email: Megan.Williams@uts.edu.au

Introduction / Issues: We benefit very much from the caregiving practices and knowledges of Aboriginal people. In this presentation we describe and celebrate this caregiving, which often happens through multiple roles – the many hats we and other Aboriginal people have in relation to alcohol and drug use experience, support, research and advocacy.

Method / Approach: We synthesise diverse insights from service delivery experiences and research projects including *Barraminya*, *Mibbinbah Mad Bastards*, *Aboriginal Family Wellbeing Program*, *#JustJustice* and the *Ted Noffs Foundation*.

Key Findings: Professional healthcare and social work training asserts the need for strong boundaries around personal experiences, relationships and perspectives, to avoid influencing service delivery and client engagement. However, Aboriginal people's multiple roles often provide an 'insider' and personal view which can be an asset in then providing timely, sensitive and informed care.

Discussions and Conclusions: Rather than view multiple roles as a threat or challenge to quality care, we instead explore how Aboriginal people mitigate risks and what critical success factors occur in Aboriginal-led service delivery and caregiving. We argue that Aboriginal people's leadership, holistic and intergenerational care are beneficial for people from all cultures.

Implications for Practice or Policy: Aboriginal people use well-developed strategies to mitigate risks with multiple roles including critical reflection, spirituality, peer support and working in partnerships. In describing these, we question blockages mainstream training and service delivery have for incorporating Aboriginal knowledges and practices.

Implications for Translational Research: Further, rather than viewing Aboriginal peoples' multiple roles in caregiving and in research as threatening objectivity, we instead reframe Aboriginal ways as enriching current trends in translational research, including multi-disciplinarity, working in partnerships and building capacity of future generations.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

No conflicts of interest to declare. No pharmaceutical grants have been received.