Abstract

This yarning circle explores group AOD work for men in the Central Desert, drawing on lived experience of alcohol and other drug use, mental health challenges and the use of violence. The discussion will examine the complexities of applying Western psychological models within Central Australian contexts, including the cultural, social and systemic barriers that can limit their effectiveness. It will highlight the importance of adapting practice to local communities, valuing lived experience and cultural knowledge, and using bi-cultural pairing to strengthen engagement, trust and understanding. The session will share practical reflections on delivering safer, more culturally responsive group work.