

Dreaming of a Culturally Safe Space at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

PRESENTER: Wendy Williams

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Background:

My name is Wendy Williams and I'm a proud Wiradjuri woman and I'm the Aboriginal Health Worker for St Vincent's Hospital.

I started in the Hospital as a Mental Health Peer Worker But my passion has always been Drug and Alcohol. As I have plenty of lived-in experience in this field.

Project Details:

Is to have a Culturally Safe space for my client's to be able to engage with our services in a less clinical space. It's so we can get more clients wanting to engage with our services because of intergenerational trauma and trust issues with government. We want spaces that are off hospital grounds, where we can imagine service being delivered differently. A space to meet where our culture is put at the front of how we connect with mob in our way.

So, we can facilitate planned Yarn Smart Recovery meetings in this space and also hold yarning circles around what the patients would like in this space. It should be space designed collaboratively servicing the community so that we can learn what supports are needed. Aiming to get different local services to come and do workshops around these areas as well.

Wrap-ups/Learning:

We have a new community space (Greenpark Project) that is on the agenda for opening within the next twelve months. I'd really like to work closely with the Project Manager, yarn with mob, learn more from what's already in community and make sure that we get the space we deserve.