



Culturally Safe Partnerships to Support Optimal Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Children

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A qualitative study in the Goldfields region of Western Australia

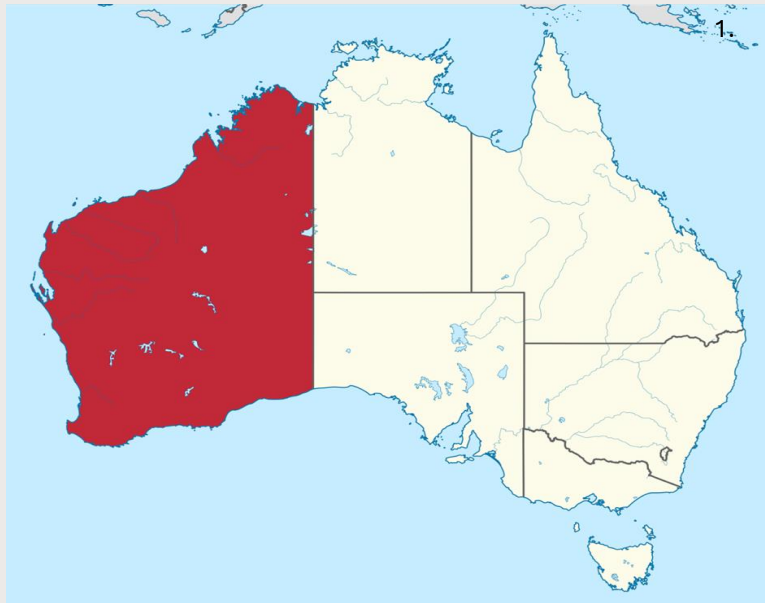
I would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal people of the land from which I speak today. This research has been informed predominantly by the Wangkatja people of the northern Goldfields and Noongar people of the southern Goldfields. It is with respect for the knowledge, guidance and input that this project has received from elders, community leaders , caregivers and families that I present the findings today.



Brief Bio

- Family
- Professional
- Academic

Western Australia



Major Centres	Population	Distance From Perth
Kalgoorlie	28,196	595km
Leonora	1,072	830km
Laverton	440	954km
Norseman	1,058	721km
Esperance	9,365	730km
Ravensthorpe	348	540km

Aim

The aim of this research is to highlight the views of primary caregivers of Aboriginal pre-school aged children, Aboriginal community leaders, Aboriginal Health Professionals, Community Health Nurses, Medical Professionals, and Allied Health staff regarding the way that Community Health Nurses adopt a partnership approach to care.

Ethics Approvals

WACHS Research Ethics Committee (RGS 1394)

Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (WAAHEC) (HREC 894)

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HRE2019-0202)



Background

- The partnership approach to care has been adopted in Australia and internationally as an approach promoting engagement and participation of families ¹
- In the WA Aboriginal Health & Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030 partnership is one of the guiding principles to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people ¹
- Much that has been written about the health and social situation of Aboriginal people in Australia has been negative and derogatory ²
- Despite much negativity surrounding Aboriginal culture there are many positive aspects to be promoted

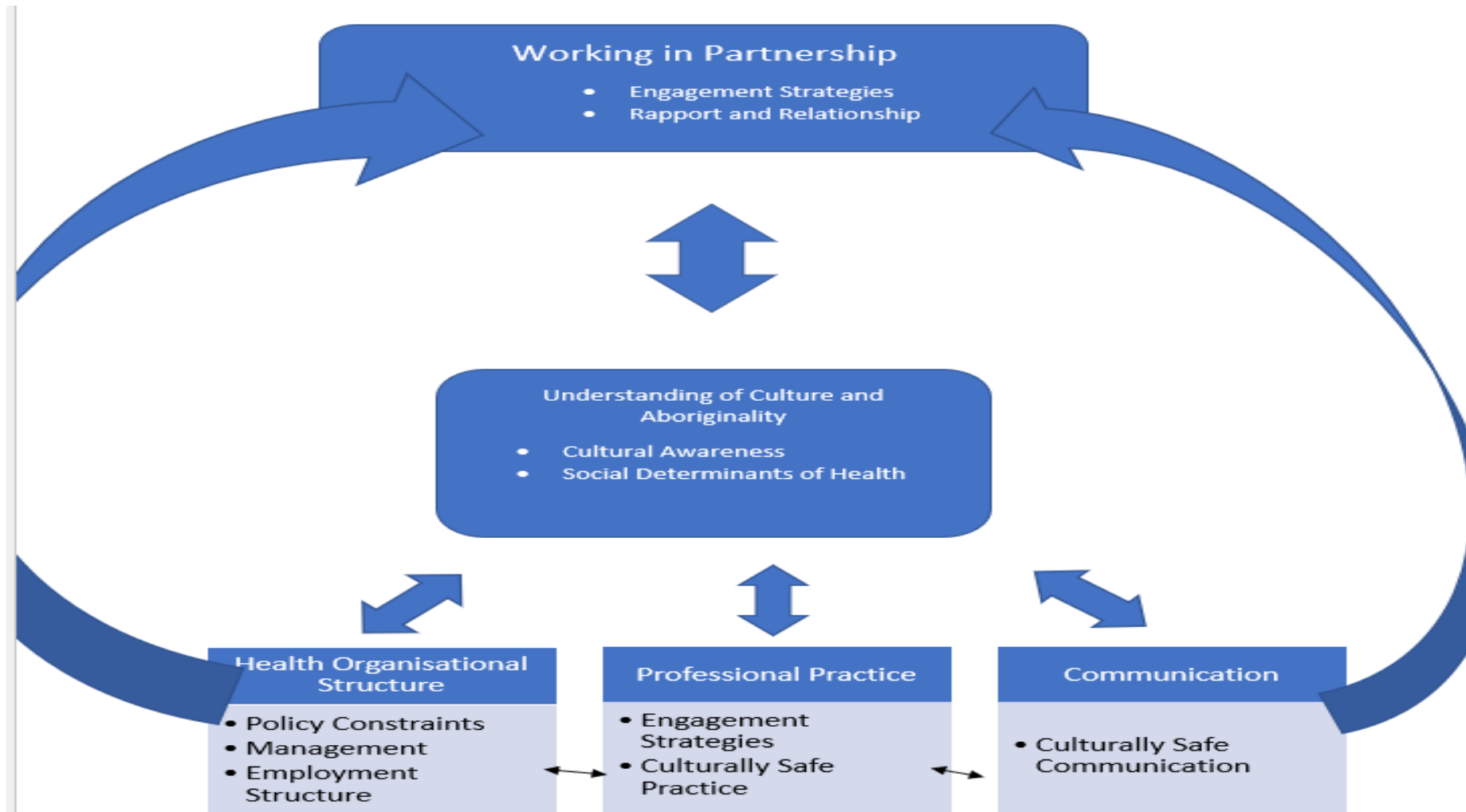
Methodology

- Contextualist approach
- Aboriginal Reference Group
- Reflexive journaling
- Study participants: primary caregivers, Aboriginal community leaders, community health staff, including CHN and Aboriginal Health Workers, and medical and allied health professionals.
- Focus groups and interviews
- Inductive thematic analysis ³
- Feedback to participants and Aboriginal Reference Group

Summary of Results

Themes	Sub-themes
1. Understanding Culture and Aboriginality	1.1 Cultural Awareness 1.2 Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) 1.3 Importance of Developing Rapport and Relationships
2. Health Organisational Structure	2.1 Policy Constraints 2.2 Management 2.3 Employment Structure
3. Professional Practice	3.1 Engagement Strategies 3.2 Culturally Safe Practice
4. Communication	4.1 Culturally Safe Communication

Shaping of a Framework



Cultural Safety and Partnership

- The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has included cultural safety in the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics for nursing and medical professionals
- Clinicians are struggling to understand how to apply the concept
- Academics are seeking practical examples and resources to support the teaching of cultural safety

Cultural Safety and Partnership

- Cultural safety refers to the creation of spiritually, socially, and emotionally safe environments
- It involves the recognition and respect of cultural diversity
- There is an understanding that only the person and/or their family can determine what is culturally safe and respectful
- These factors align with the features of partnership
 - Mutual goal setting
 - Strengths based
 - Open communication and listening

Publications

- Santos, N. S. dos, Kendall, G., & Munns, A. (2018). Applying the partnership model of care to facilitate health and wellbeing of preschool aged Aboriginal children. *Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal*, 26(4), 36.
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