

Moorditj Koolankas, Moorditij Moort (Strong Children, Strong Families)

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Most research projects aiming to capture the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in specific communities are often commissioned and carried out by non-Indigenous organisations and researchers. Capturing the voices of Aboriginal people tends to be significantly hindered by the researchers' lack of cultural capital and responsiveness.

This presentation reflects Aboriginal families from an urban perspective about their social emotional and overall health and wellbeing needs and aspirations for growing strong children in their community. The project was led and delivered by strong Noongar people from the community that comes with cultural knowledge and wisdom to ensure the research practices were conducted in a culturally appropriate manner that centred on cultural capital and relational ways of knowing, doing and being. Cultural governance and protocols became the guiding principles of the project.

The Moorditj Koolankas Moorditij Moort research team would like to share their journey of truth and liberation, enabling the community to have control and ownership of the research. This project has impacted the researchers and the organisation to see more clearly the richness and importance of culture, resilience and the determination of families and the community to create strong pathways for community kids to have a quality of life.