

Honouring Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander voices in healing family violence online course

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this resource may contain images or names of people who have passed away.

Family violence interventions must be strengths-based and led, developed and driven by Community if they're to succeed.

About this course

This course was co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners and community members. This trauma-informed and hope-inspired approach can help you develop trusting relationships with First Nations families, allowing space for sharing their stories and taking the lead in their healing journey.

In this course, you'll focus on reinforcing connections, strengths and skills through the support you provide to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders experiencing family violence. You'll be encouraged to think about the whole family – their hopes, aspirations, strengths and stories of connection, as well as the individual and collective challenges they've faced.

You'll explore how the impact of colonisation, racism, the forced removal of children, and other intergenerational traumas have led to the high rates of family violence seen in First Nations communities today. You'll also learn how to set aside your own unconscious biases and hold space for families' feelings of shame, while remaining compassionate, direct, honest and clear in your conversations.

Why was this course developed?

While family violence affects all Australians, it is the single biggest driver of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child removal. Early identification and prevention approaches are vital to ensure First Nations children and families can



live in safety. But many non-Indigenous practitioners lack the confidence to ask questions about parents' lives and experiences of violence and adversity.

In this course, you'll learn how to overcome your fears to work in proactive, culturally-sensitive ways with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents. The more confident and skilled you are in engaging with families, the more likely parents will be to disclose their concerns around family violence to you.

How was this course developed?

This course was developed in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners and families with lived experience of family violence.

Who is this course for?

This course will benefit non-Indigenous practitioners in mainstream health, education and social and community services working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families experiencing family violence.

What is included in the course?

This course features video interviews with experts and fictional scenarios, along with reading materials and reflective activities. It is designed to be undertaken individually, but can also be used as a prompt for conversations between colleagues.