



LOOKING THROUGH AN ABORIGINAL LENS:

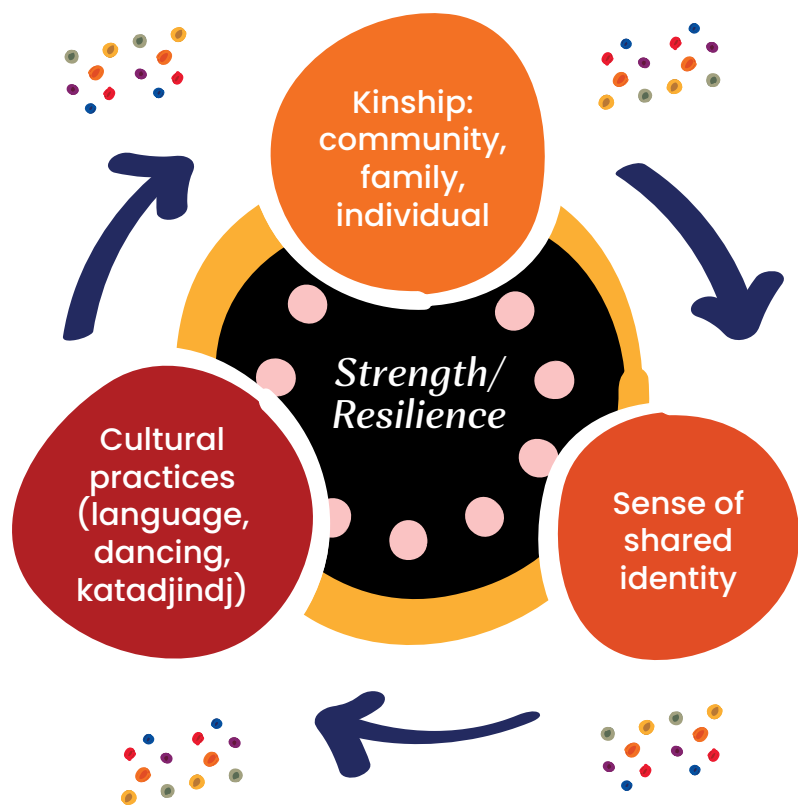
Results Of The Ngalang Moort Wangkiny Project (100 Families Western Australia)

What is Ngalang Moort Wangkiny?

Ngalang Moort Wangkiny is Noongar for “Our People Yarning”, and it’s the name of a research project that worked with Indigenous people from Perth who were experiencing ongoing hardship (and was embedded in a wider project on hardship called 100 Families). The project was led by Aboriginal researchers, with the team trying to understand people’s everyday experiences of hardship, as well as using those people’s voices and stories to advocate for positive and meaningful change. But even though their lives were hard, we also looked at positive aspects, and we found there was a lot of strength and resilience for Indigenous people that isn’t always recognised.

Strengths and Resilience

The stories shared with us were sometimes sad, but we also saw and heard about strength through family, culture, and community. Kinship and family connected people, and cultures of sharing meant that people often had someone to rely on when they needed it most. On a measure of resilience, the Indigenous people in Ngalang Moort Wangkiny most often had higher scores than non-Indigenous people (from 100 Families), again pointing to Indigenous strengths. Language was another strength that connected people to each other and to land, and there are active efforts to support and teach language, which is also growing in schools.



Key aspects of Aboriginal strength and resilience (katadjindj is “deep listening”).

Services and barriers

People in hardship need access to services, and the most commonly accessed services were for food and health, with levels of food insecurity unfortunately being high. Oftentimes though there were barriers to access (like transport). While we heard about a lot of new services and community organisations coming up, in general people wanted services to be easier to access, and less complicated.

What needs to happen for positive change?

People spoke about increases in the number of Aboriginal-led organisations, which is a positive sign and has strong government support. Similarly, government policies are aiming for change across many areas, but to really effect change we found that organisations and programs need to engage with Aboriginal strengths and promote Aboriginal culture, which will entail new ways of working and forming relationships.



Glenda Kickett, leader of the Ngalang Moort Wangkiny Project

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