Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice (First Edition)

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Abstract

Published in 2014, Working Together was funded by the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Kulunga Research Network (now Kulunga Aboriginal Research and Development Unit), and Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (now Telethon Kids Institute) in collaboration with the University of Western Australia.

This 2nd edition is intended for staff and students and all health practitioners working in areas that support Indigenous mental health and wellbeing. It includes several new chapters and provides a high quality, comprehensive examination of issues and strategies influencing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and social and emotional wellbeing. It examines issues across the life course, with a greater focus on children and young people; the significant impacts of mental health in the justice system; the cultural determinants of social and emotional wellbeing and intellectual and developmental disabilities. It includes holistic models of care, as well as interdisciplinary and inter-professional approaches and working with carers to deliver an even more robust text and resource.

The Editors acknowledge the important contribution of the late Dr Nola Purdie in the first edition of the book.


Foreword by Tom Calma. The first edition of this book was funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and was developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research, the Kulunga Research Network (now Kulunga Aboriginal Research and Development Unit), and Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (now Telethon Kids Institute).

This book on the mental health and wellbeing principles and practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, is designed for practitioners and mental health workers as
Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) populations, community prevalence surveys report that 4-16% of these populations meet diagnostic criteria for personality disorder (Parker & Milroy, 2010). Based on hospital data from 2005-06 (Pink & Allbon, 2008), the ratio of Indigenous men with personality disorder compared to non-Indigenous men was 1.8:1. Based on the key principle of self-determination, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in mental health is paving the way for improving the health and wellbeing of First Peoples (Dudgeon and Bray, 2017, Dudgeon et al., 2014, Dudgeon et al., 2000). There were significant organizational barriers to uptake resulting from procedural and administrative problems, demanding workloads, prohibitive policies, and a lack of fit between the organizational culture and the introduction of new technologies. Personal barriers included participant beliefs about the applicability of e-MH to certain populations, and workers’ lack of confidence and skills. Article in Working together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and wellbeing principles and practice Dudgeon, P et al. Working together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and wellbeing principles and practice 2014. Article in Med Care Harris, KM et al. Med Care 2005.