

DELIVERING ELDER- AND COMMUNITY-LED ABORIGINAL EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH: LESSONS FROM THE NGULLUK KOOLUNGA NGULLUK KOORT PROJECT

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BACKGROUND AND WHAT WE DID

- Aboriginal peoples have a holistic view of health that goes beyond individual physical and wellbeing to include aspects of culture, spirituality, language, connection to land, and the social, emotional, and cultural wellbeing of family and community.
- We need a culturally appropriate fit between the values, needs and expectations of Aboriginal parents, Koolunga and families, and the resources and services that are available.
- We need to reframe early childhood service provision from an Aboriginal worldview: one that focuses on relationships and recognises the importance of family, community and connection to country, focussing on trust and relationship building.

We used a participatory action research method, incorporating an Aboriginal worldview and knowledge framework and held our first meeting in 2016, attended by 51 Elders from across the Perth metropolitan area.

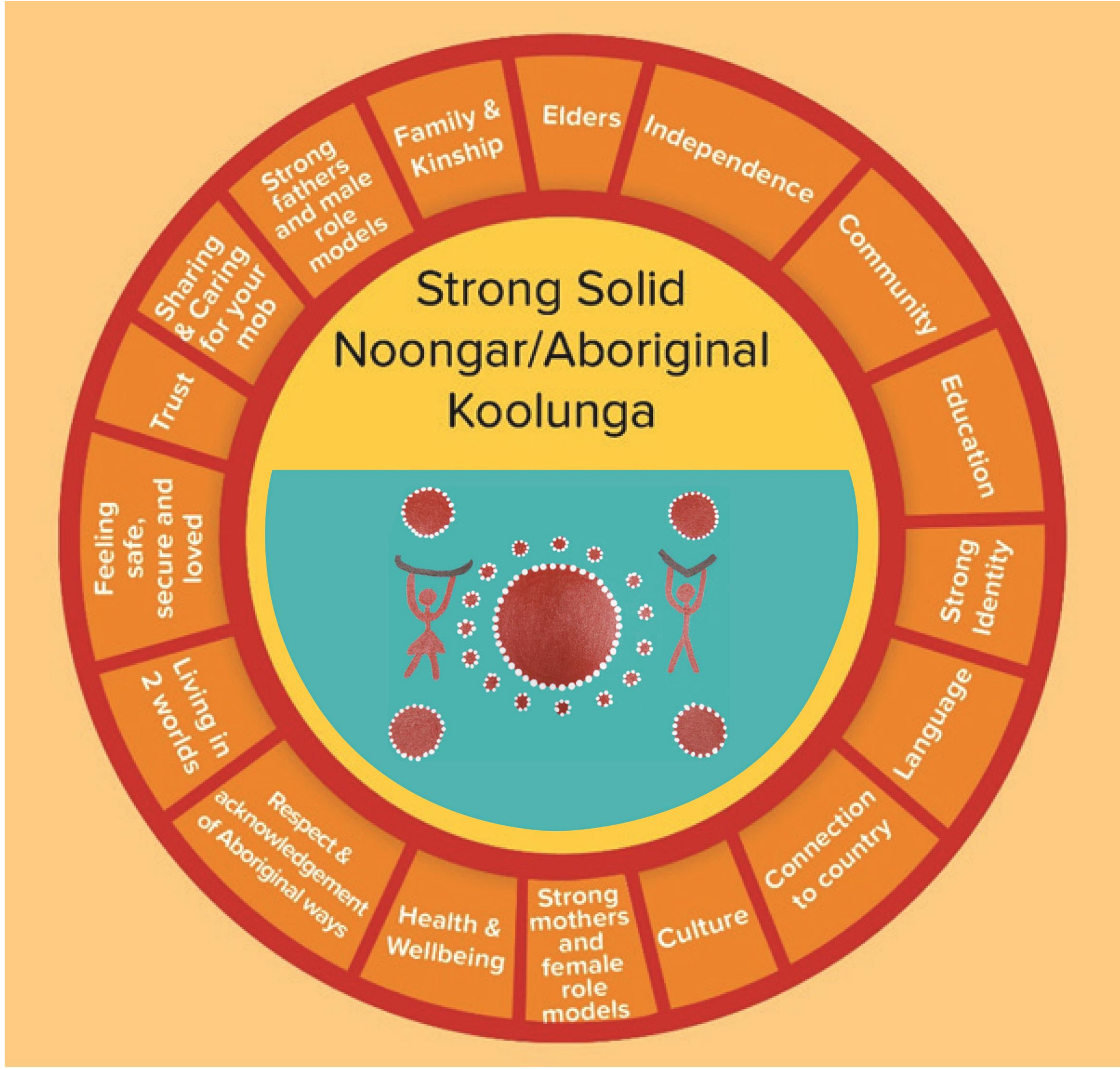
- The Elders unanimously provided support for the project and suggested a name.
- The Elders told us that the metro area could be approached as four regions: South-East (Belmont to Armadale), North-East (Midland/Swan Area), North-West (Perth City to Two Rocks), and South-West (Fremantle to Rockingham).
- We proposed, and the Elders supported the formation of an Elder/co-researcher group.
- The Elders told us that, where possible, a male and female Elder should be included from each region.
- We invited Elders to submit expressions of interest to form this group.

We had many meetings, widely engaging Elders and Aboriginal community members from across the four regions of Perth and other stakeholders to assist us to identify our research priorities, ethical design, research activity and research evaluation. At these meetings, we asked:

What are the moorditj [good] things that are important in raising strong, solid young kids?
What things might get in the way of Aboriginal kids growing up solid in Perth?
What things help Aboriginal kids grow up solid - resilient, confident, happy, healthy?

WHAT THE ELDERS TOLD US

Things that help grow up solid kids



Things that get in the way for growing up solid kids



ELDER-IDENTIFIED PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

