

AN ABORIGINAL PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH STUDY PROTOCOL

Sharynne Hamilton, Larissa Jones, Millie Penny, Charmaine Pell, Nicole Ilich, Carol Michie, Raewyn Mutch, Melissa O'Donnell, Carrington Shepherd, Brad Farrant

OUR RESEARCH

This is an Elder and community-led research study, working with agency staff and non-Indigenous foster carers from three mainstream out-of-home care (OOHC) agencies: Key Assets Australia, Life Without Barriers and MacKillop Family Services.

We will provide information about cultural connections, and cultural activity and resources for Aboriginal children living in non-Indigenous foster care arrangements.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. To work with Aboriginal Elders and community, alongside stakeholders from OOHC agencies, to provide cultural knowledge, resources and activities to bolster current cultural support plans for Aboriginal children in their care.
2. To work with non-Indigenous foster carers and OOHC agency staff to develop a suite of culturally secure training and workforce support materials.
3. To provide recommendations from the research that can assist address structural challenges to collecting and sharing cultural information for Aboriginal children in care with non-Indigenous foster carers.

OUR RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The study will conduct several rounds of semi-structured focus groups with OOHC agency staff and interviews with non-Indigenous foster carers.

A co-designed ‘Cultural Knowing, Being and Doing’ survey will be conducted at multiple timepoints across the research with OOHC agency staff.

Information about the cultural connections and assets that Aboriginal children in care possess will be collected from their carers using a co-designed Justice Capital Assets, redesigned for this study as the Scale of Cultural Connection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children living in OOHC.

A cultural training program will be co-designed.

We will evaluate the research using multiple sources to assess attendance, participation and research impacts.

OUR RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

