

## Holding Men

### Kanyirninpa and the health of young Aboriginal men

**Brian F McCoy**

#### ENDORSEMENT

*This is a very important, unique scholarly work. It adds much to our limited understanding of the social determinants Aboriginal men's health.*

Dr Graham Henderson, Visiting Research Fellow, AIATSIS  
[Endorsements to come from Professors Fred Myers, and Ian Anderson.]

#### DESCRIPTION

This is an easily readable book that explores how Indigenous men understand their lives, their health and their culture.

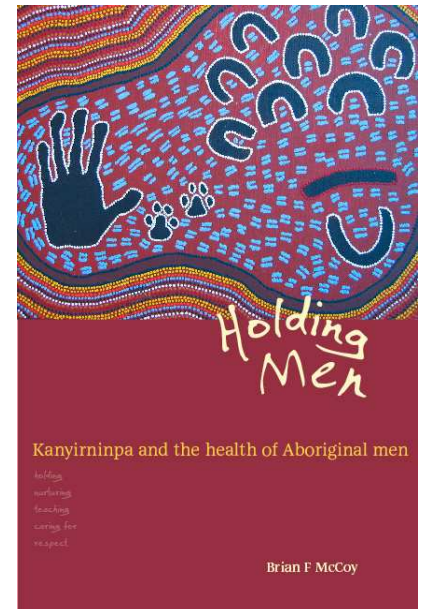
Using conversations, stories and art, the author shows how Kimberley desert communities have a cultural value and relationship described as kanyirninpa or holding.

The author uses examples from Australian Rules football, petrol sniffing and imprisonment to reveal the possibilities for lasting improvements to men's health based on kanyirninpa's expression of deep and enduring cultural values and relationships.

While young Indigenous men's lives remains vulnerable in a rapidly changing world, the author believes that an understanding of kanyirninpa (one of the key values that has sustained Aboriginal desert life for centuries) may provide the hope of change and better health for all. It also offers insights for all who wish to 'grow up' their young people.

#### AUTHOR

Brian McCoy is an ordained Jesuit priest who has spent nearly four decades living and working in Indigenous communities in Australia and overseas. He has been priest, football coach, health researcher, ambulance officer, detention centre chaplain and adult educator and was a Research Officer in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Previously published *Living and Working Cross-Culturally* (1992), currently being republished, with Pat Dodson.



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#### SELLING POINTS

- **Topical:** Aboriginal health is the subject of much scrutiny but little knowledge. A key academic title for 2008.
- **New information:** Provides Indigenous perspectives on Aboriginal men's lives and culture.
- **Positive approach:** Offers insights into key health and cultural foundations including the possibilities for sport, substance abuse and incarceration rates.
- **Accessibly written** with rich descriptions, to allow for a wide readership.
- **Includes** men's paintings describing their journeys to health and strength.