

The Shed

By Teddy Hart and Sandra Kelty



Acknowledgment of Country

- I acknowledge the land we are standing on and the custodians of this country. I honour with respect the Elders both past and present, and offer a special welcome to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here with us today. This is Aboriginal land and I am grateful to be here.

The Shed

- Non-Judgmental drop in centre for men;
- Funded by The Dept of Health and Aging;
- Joint partnership between The Holy Family Church and The University of Western Sydney;
- Provide support to men of all ages;
- Provides outreach service linking people to people;
- Wednesday morning P+P reporting centre;
- Trying hard to brake down the barriers that exist for Aboriginal people accessing mainstream services;

Probation and Parole Reporting Centre



Cultural Safety

- *An environment that is spiritually, socially and emotionally safe, as well as physically safe for people; where there is no assault, challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are and what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience of learning together.* Williams (1999)

In other words



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- A culturally safe place is a place where people can gather and not be afraid to identify as being of a particular culture. It is a place where a person's culture is not ridiculed but where cultural knowledge and experiences are valued and respected.

Main Issues

- Emotional well-being issues;
- Mental Health;
- Risk Assessments;
- Drug and alcohol;
- Integration;
- Prison;
- Circle sentencing;
- Mainstream court;
- Housing and centre link issues;
- Family Violence;



Ways of working in the community

- Teddy
- Referral system;
- Engaging community;
- Practical support;
- Refer to other agencies;
- Cultural support;
- “The go between” the Aboriginal community and mainstream services;
- Sandra and I meet in the middle
- Sandra
- Referral system;
- Vouching;
- Narrative style of assessment;
- Sit outside on a log;
- No paperwork;
- “The go between” mainstream health services and the Aboriginal community;
- Ted and I meet in the middle

Place of Education



Case Study

- *Mr T is a 50 yrs old Aboriginal man with a lengthy criminal history. His crimes include serious assaults Mr T is a 50 yrs old Aboriginal man with and a previous conviction of manslaughter. Mr T re-offends his wife takes out an AVO on him. Mr T moves from the country to Mt Druitt to stay with his son. Mr T's son referred Mr T to The Shed for assistance and support.*

Mr T's main issues

- Separation and loss of family respect;
- Potential for violence when intoxicated;
- Increased anxiety due to pending imprisonment;
- Increased alcohol intake;
- Depression and worry;
- Shame;
- ? Prison;



At The Shed



- Alcohol counselling;
- Mental Health and Risk Assessment;
- Generalise counselling and support to relieve his anxiety and worry;
- Teddy, Marrin Weejali, Mr T and Sandra liaise with P+P for his pre-sentence report;



Outcome of Interventions

- 2 year suspended sentence;
- Full-time employment;
- Family back together;
- Shame was replaced with pride and self worth;









What I've learnt from working with Aboriginal people.

- 'I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life goes on, and it will be better tomorrow.'
- 'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'
- 'I've learned I still have a lot to learn.'