



**WELCOME TO
LEADERSHIP LEGACIES
CREATING WORKPLACES OF CULTURAL SAFETY, CARE & COMPASSION**

Acknowledge we are meeting
on sovereign lands

Deepest respects to Elders
past and present, and to all
Aboriginal resistance warriors
and activists.

Despite invasion and
colonialism, Aboriginal people
have resisted, survived and we
are the the oldest continuing
culture in the world.

We pay respects to all present
today, and also to our
Ancestors and family.



Who we are:
Yamurrah is a collective unlike any that operates across Australia. We are self-determined, and are focused on empowering and uplifting our communities, and those who may be working in the space of trauma, justice, health and education.

We are made up of Social Workers, Counsellors, Lawyers, Academics, Researchers and Educators. Collectively, we have many skills and years of experience – we do this work in solidarity and in the spirit of a community of care and consciousness. We work with professional and cultural ethics and values. We campaign for truth-telling/listening, justice and healing.

What we do:
Yamurrah offers a range of services including:

- Clinical Services which includes -Counselling, Clinical Supervision and Cultural Supervision
- Training and Events
- Consultancy
- RISE

Our Values:
Our ways of knowing, being and doing are informed by our values which include: Connection, Integrity, Empowerment, Humility, Social Justice and Safety



MANAV ('MANNY') SATIJA IS A LEADERSHIP COACH, PSYCHOTHERAPIST, MEDIATOR AND FACILITATOR.

Manav's mission is to help people grow from conflict and thrive in complexity.

Manav has trained as a lawyer, mediator, psychotherapist, coach and facilitator. His work waves together wisdom from neuroscience, relational psychotherapy, gestalt psychology, complexity and systemic thinking and leadership research.

Manav is also a partner of Primal Intelligence, a company that delivers accredited coach training, conscious business development and facilitation training programs.

M A N A V S A T I J A

www.manavsatija.com

Training takeaways:
Skills, knowledges and tools to support you in trauma informed leadership
Cultural context for Aboriginal workforces and help you leading complex case matters
Apply culturally responsive and trauma informed practice
Understand flow state and how this can help to lead teams in creative and innovative ways

Welcome & connections

Our ways

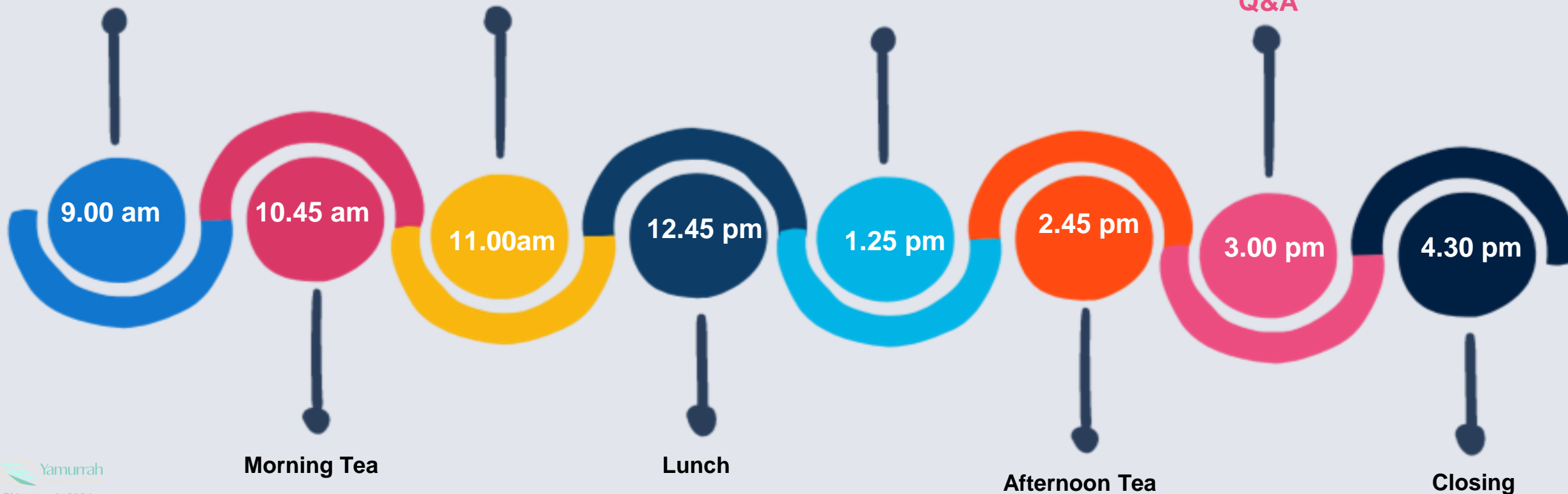
Meta-competencies for navigating complexity

The River Line

Trauma Informed Care
Compounding Trauma Model
Leading with Trauma Informed Care

Leading at the Edge
Leading in Complex Workplaces in an Age of Complexity
Flow State

Weaving it Together
Applying Frameworks
Communities of Care
Q&A





Setting the Scene

Cultural Responsiveness enables individuals and organisations to respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, languages, classes, races, ethnic backgrounds, disabilities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and other diversity factors in a manner that recognises, affirms, and values their worth

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/cultural/>

Trauma Informed Care - strengths based framework - understanding that trauma is defined by the impact that an experience has had on the individual rather than by the event itself.

Decolonisation

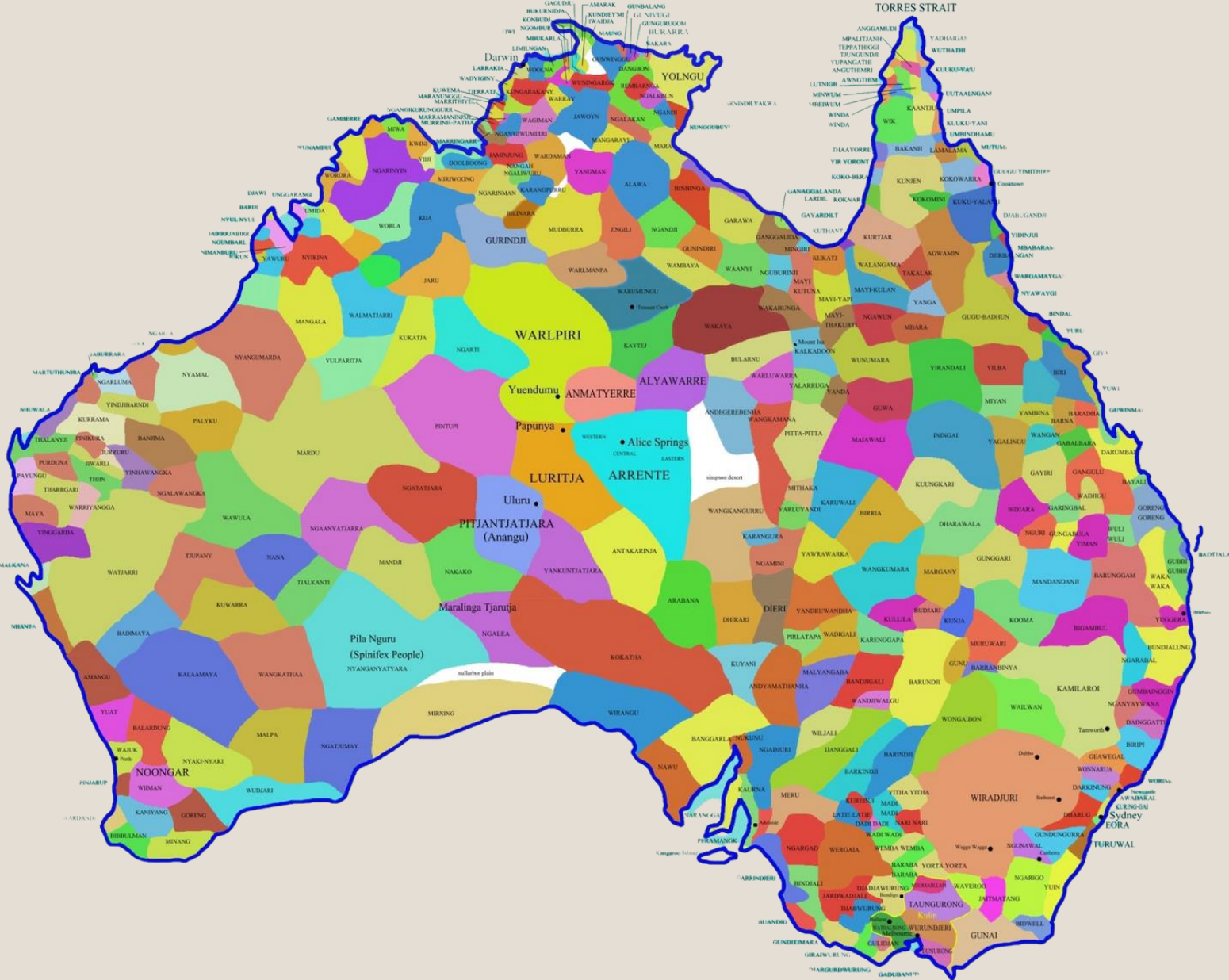
Decolonising processes directly oppose and challenge the oppressive ideas and beliefs constructed by colonisation. Within social work practice and human service agencies decolonising involves deconstructing the systems of oppression through construction of social justice methods (Bennett et al., 2013).

Aboriginal Healing Frameworks - there is not just one!

The Value Add From Aboriginal Workforces



- Excellence
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Go above and beyond
- Specialist knowledge and intelligence
- Blak joy
- High Standards
- Values Driven
- Honour
- Generational Strengths
- Stories of survival and resistance



Our ways of knowing, doing and being.

S Willson 2009 - M Terare 2020



Aboriginal Worldviews

Sherwood has argued Worldview provides: “Frameworks for interpreting and exploring the world, supporting the way we act and relate to our world” (cited in Terare 2020)

The nature of First Nations worldview their epistemology (ways of knowing) and axiology (ways of doing) and their ontology⁹ (ways of being) treasure and reveres the wisdom of Elders (cited in Terare 2020)



© Rowena Lawrie, 2010



Sensing, Being, Acting

Three essential meta-competencies for managing complexity:

- ***Sensing*** yourself and your context in ways that produce clarity.
- ***Being*** so as to invite the inner state of presence in service to developing resilience, creativity and agility.
- ***Acting*** in order to invite new conditions (internal and external) that generate results that matter.

Every body's Land

Cultural directions and boundaries

Bush knowledge + Bush medicine
Collective Parenting

Visible, known, and loved

Offenders dealt with

Rites of passage
Birthing practices



Supporting First Nations ways of child rearing

- Richer relational environments – extended family environments
- Collective Parenting – complex and reciprocal obligations
- Neurological benefits
- Protection against risk – greater number of carers
- Nurturing, educating and keeping children safe
- Anticipation and planning for children's needs
- Bringing this into current case management, cultural care plans

Lawrie and Cousins (2018) Reclaiming Our Safe Ways of Parenting – How Trauma Research is supporting Aboriginal ways of child rearing



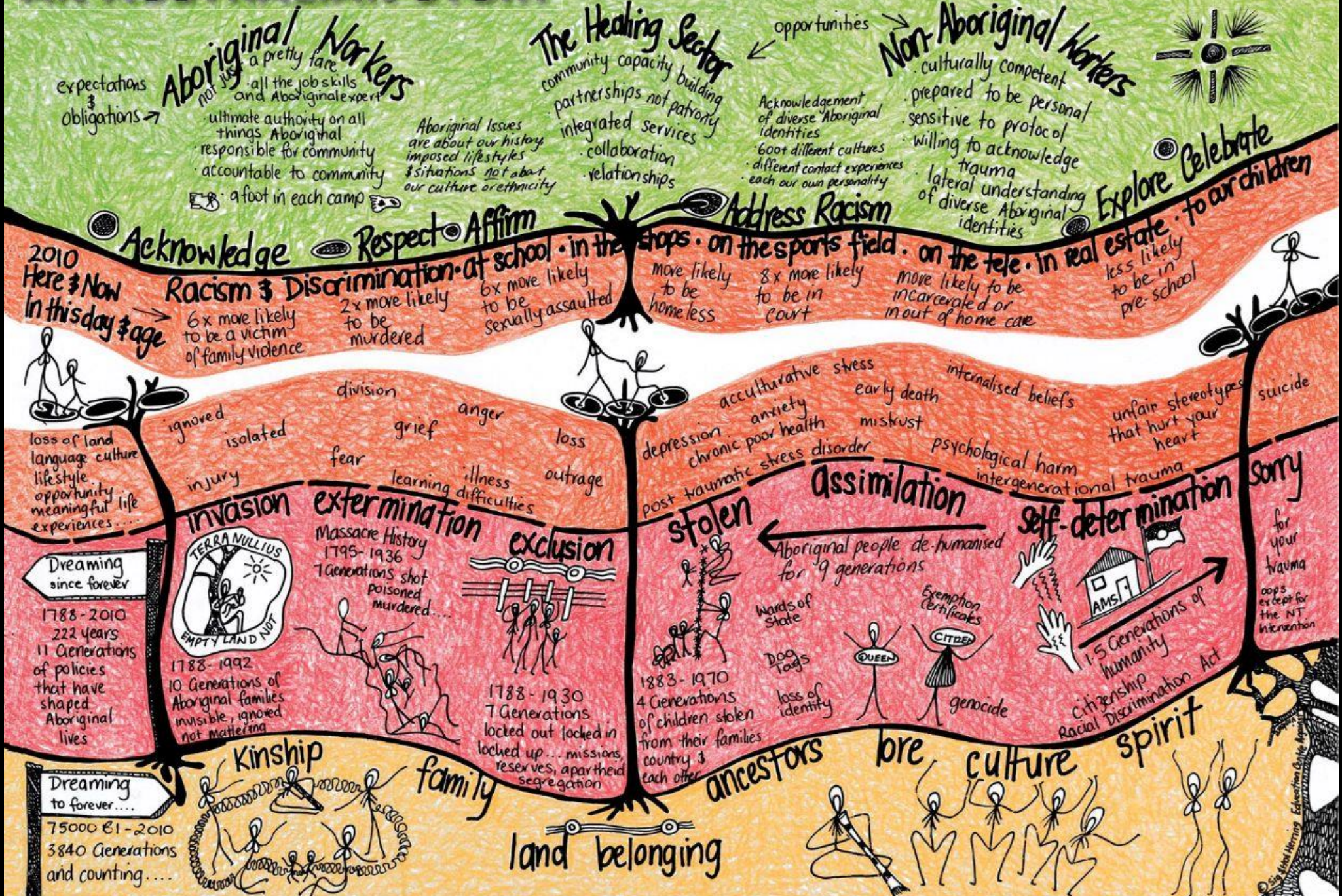
op closing Aboriginal communities



Morning
Tea

AN AUSTRALIAN STORY

Created by Sigrid Herring



Defining Trauma

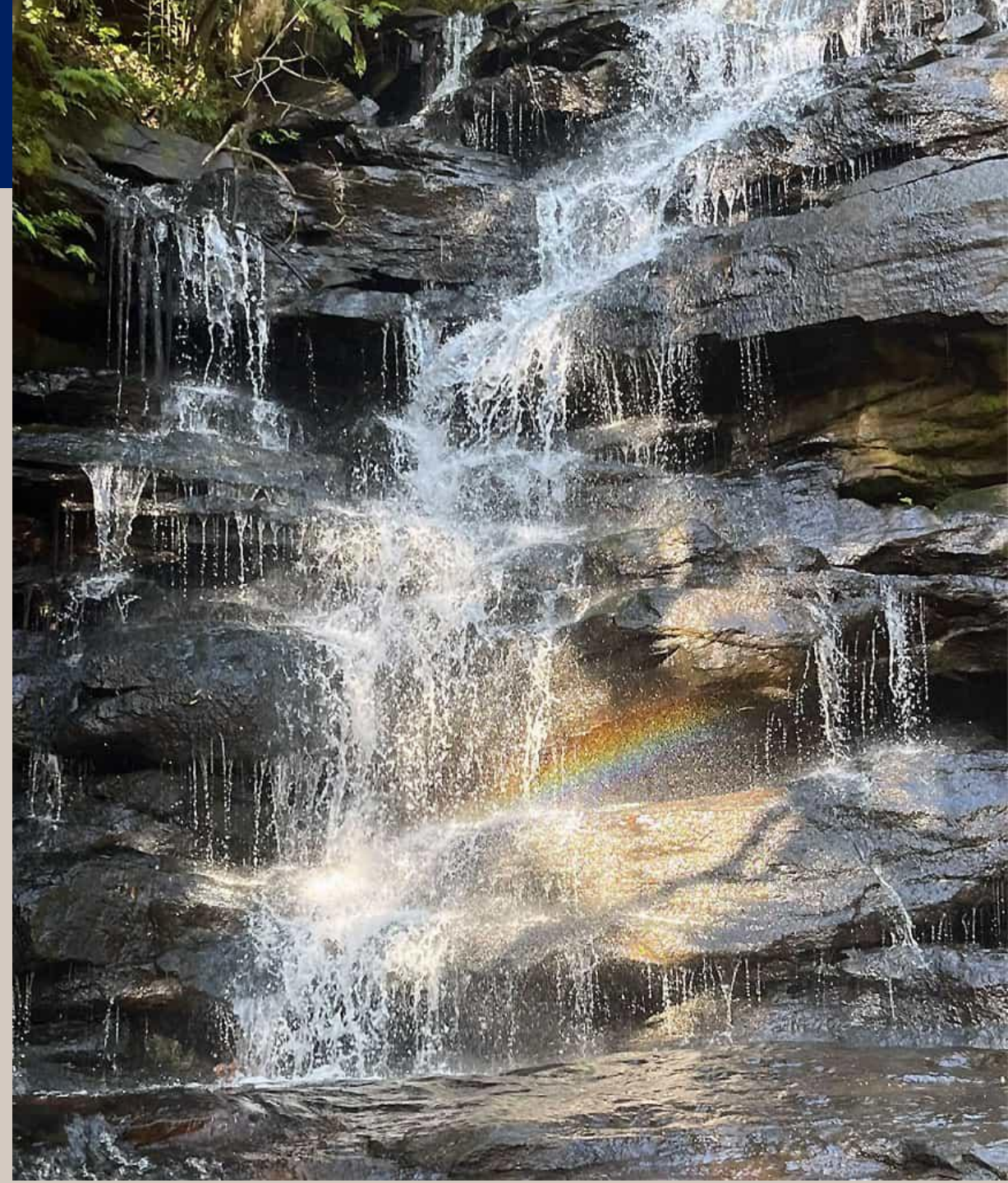
- Trauma occurs following exposure to experiences or events that are emotionally distressing, and that overwhelm a person's ability to cope.
- Traumatic events do not need to be directly experienced to affect people.
- We can experience trauma by witnessing traumatic events, by trauma being passed down through generations, or experienced within a community.

- Trauma – is an event or process which overwhelms the individual, family or community, and the ability to cope in mind, body, soul, spirit
- Inter-generational – Intergenerational trauma is passed down directly from one generation to the next
- Trans-generational trauma – is transmitted across a number of generations
- Racial Trauma or race-based traumatic stress, is the cumulative effects of racism on an individual's mental and physical health
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_trauma
- Oppression trauma

Judy Atkinson (2002) Trauma Trails Recreating Songlines

The Normal Stress Response

- Adaptive response to threat or stressor
- Keeps us alive
- Normally resolves with action, time, support, and return to safety
- Responses vary, not everybody will have the same response to the same trauma



Trauma Responses

Flight	Fight	Freeze	Flop	Friend
Workaholic	Anger Outburst	Difficulty making decisions	Collapse	Befriending the person who is dangerous. Trauma bonding Stockholm syndrome Highly concerned with fitting in Avoids conflict
Over-thinker Anxiety, panic, OCD	Controlling	Feeling stuck	People pleaser	
Difficulty sitting still	“The bully”	Dissociation	No boundaries	
Avoidance	Explosive behaviour	Isolating	Lack of identity	
Hyperactivity	Judgement	Numb ¹⁷	Sad	
Sadness in loneliness	Slamming door	Shut down	Depressed	
	Self harm	Exhaustion	Hopeless	
		Indecision	Apathetic	
		Sleeps a lot	Hard time saying no	



What is the context for Aboriginal workforces

Culturally unsafe working environments

Trauma – vicarious, single, complex, systemic and generational

Invisible and hidden racism and vicarious racism –both structurally and direct experiences

Culturally isolated

Additional loads as well as complex matters

Limited professional supports

Aboriginal representation of boards and senior executive positions

Expectations and “the Expert”

Lateral violence

Cultural responsibilities and community accountability

Acculturative stress

Westernised standard and measures and dominant worldviews




What are the implications of framing this as Cultural Load?

- Places responsibility on Aboriginal People
- Implies cultures as a deficit - rather than strength
- Focuses on "fixing the load or burden for Aboriginal people" rather than structural issues which creates and adds loading to Aboriginal people
- The burnout doesn't come from culture – it comes from systems that are not culturally responsive, safe or one that understands culture nor investigates colonial load
- Becomes an "Aboriginal" load
- Additional loading from the system is creates additional risk and increased likelihood of burnout for Aboriginal people
- Culture is strength
- Aboriginal people aren't responsible for structural or colonial load

What adds to this load

- Being isolated
- Westernised framework
- 'No self determination
- Replicating dynamics for worker
- Biases – and this doubling down for Aboriginal workforces
- Racist and unsafe work practices
- Working in systems unwilling to address the structural load or minimises racism
- Providing additional work and expertise - unpaid e.g. cultural consults

	Dynamics of harm in complex / Interpersonal Trauma	Dynamics of harm in Collective Systemic Trauma	Dynamics of harm form services/organisations and practitioners (considers racism)	Potential dynamics for managment
Isolation	Keeping the victim/s separated and alienated from support systems including friends, family and community	Keeping children separated from family, community and Country, segregation, divide and conquer tactics	Lack of communication with key stakeholders, partners, "my client" case management mentality, working in silos	
Gaslighting/ Lies	Changing the narrative to suit the offenders story, using confusion to further isolate and break down the victims/survivor	Changing the narrative and not telling the truth about the harm that has happened and continues to happen to Aboriginal people eg Terra Nullius	Changing the narrative and not responding to the issues that clients raise, not recording the correct information on records and documentation, worker bias not checked	
Entrapment	The victim/survivor is entrapped in a relationship of harm and abuse. Risk increases when the survivor tells about the abuse or tries to leave the relationship	Aboriginal people were systematically detained and unable to freely move around (unless they detached from their identity), overrepresented in incarceration and legal ties that held this bondage in place	Lack of choice to use particular services and finish the course under certain condition (eg finish the parenting course which particular providers")	
 Yamurrah ©Yamurrah 2024	Excessive use of psychological, physical	Excessive use of psychological	Excessive use of force (for	

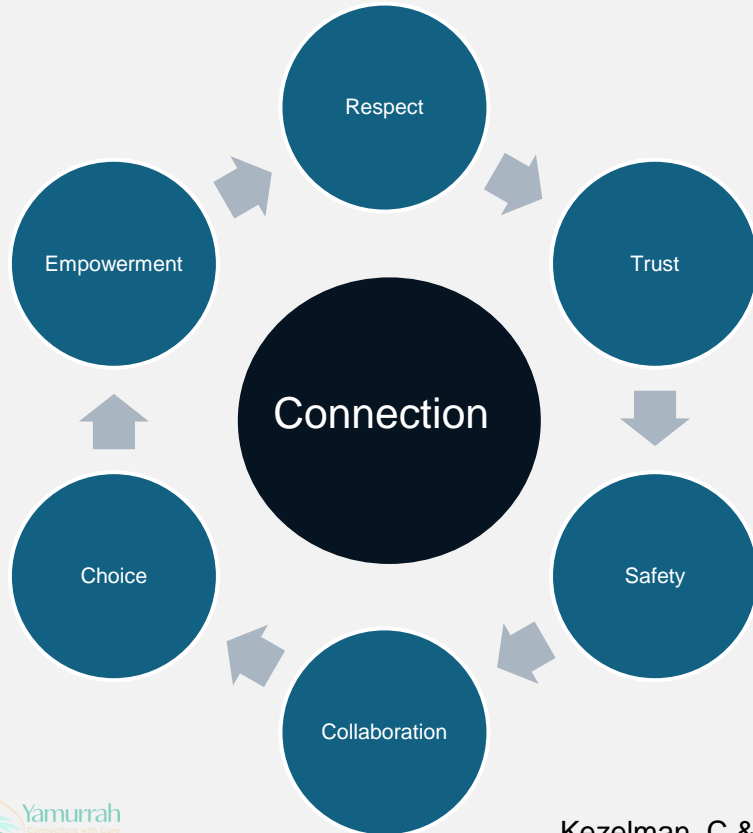
Trauma informed care

- Service design and delivery
- Leaderships, supervision and management
- Evaluation and review
- Worker well-being

A trauma-informed service is one which:

- Commits to and acts upon the core principles
- Considers and evaluates all components of the system – critiquing power
- Designs services to reduce re-traumatisation
- Collaborative relationships with service providers / stakeholders

Guiding principals



Kezelman, C & Stavropoulos, P (2012)





Lunch

Leading in Complexity

Wise executives tailor their approach to fit the complexity of the circumstances they face.

Dave Snowden & Mary Boone (2007)

Complexity Thinking

- Complexity is an inherent property of many systems that constitute the environment in which we grow, develop, live and work.
- A distinguishing feature of complexity is that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts (ie. emergence).
- Even if we know the characteristics and behaviours of all of the individual elements in a system, one cannot predict the extraordinary properties that emerge from their interactions.

Cultural safety is an emergent property of a system.

Why it matters

- Complex systems, including human beings, organisations and human societies can change their behaviours in the face of the unpredictable – that creativity is the essence of complexity.
- Many situations and decisions (including situations and decisions relating to cultural, psychological and physiological safety) in today's organisations are inherently complex because the way we do business is susceptible to being impacted by unpredictable factors.
- Complexity thinking is poised to help current and future leaders make sense of advanced technology, globalisation, intricate markets, cultural change, and much more.

The importance of correctly identifying the type of challenge you face

- A common cause of failure in leadership is produced by treating complex challenges as if they were complicated challenges
- When leaders can *sense* and correctly identify which context they are operating in, they make better decisions and are better able to avoid problems that may arise if they automatically default to their preferred management style
- Core to complexity thinking is the idea that you will have impact when you can better diagnose situations and to act in contextually appropriate ways

The Cynefin Framework

- Cynefin highlights the difference between those things that live in the *predictable* world and those things that are in the domain of the *unpredictable*
- The framework sorts the issues facing leaders into five contexts defined by the nature of the relationship between cause and effect.
- The domains on the right side are “ordered” meaning that stuff there is largely knowable and predictable, and problems are solvable.
- The domains on the left side are “unordered” meaning that situations are unknowable and unpredictable.



Dave Snowden & Mary Boone (2007)

The *CYNEFIN* domains

Simple

- the realm of “Known Knowns”
- Cause & Effect known
- domain of predictable, straightforward action

Complicated

- the realm of “Known Unknowns”
- cause and effect are predictable but we don’t necessarily know how to do the task.
- Domain of experts

Complex

- the realm of “Unknown Unknowns”
- Cause and effect are unpredictable and many interrelated factors are unknown
- Patterns in the overall system, however individual events are unpredictable

30

Chaotic

- the realm of “Unknowables”
- relationships between cause and effect are impossible to determine because they shift constantly

Managing Complexity

- The mindset and practices needed for thinking about *complex* systems and how to effect change in those contexts, are different from those required in *complicated* situations.
- Thriving in the *complicated* space requires confidence that the answer can and will reveal itself; in the *complex* space, as there is no right or knowable solution, uncertainty, curiosity and openness are more useful.
- Instructive patterns, can emerge if leaders conduct experiments that are *safe to fail*.
- Leaders who try to impose order in a complex context will fail, but those who set the stage, step back a bit, allow patterns to emerge, and determine which ones are desirable will succeed.

The Complexity Meta-Competencies

Sensing

- *Sensing* is the MC of how we access information.
- Bringing choice and awareness to this is essential to navigating the terrain of complexity.
- Sensing of yourself (ie. your internal state) and your context in ways that produce clarity.

Being

- *Being* is the MC of self-regulation and mastery of our internal state
- Key to this MC is the state of *presence* and *attunement* with your inner state.
- Developing this MC enables resilience, creativity and agility.

Acting

- *Acting* is the MC of extending our inner state outwards
- Key to this MC is vision, strategy and *resonance*
- Developing this MC creates the conditions for the results we care about most.

A complexity process for strategic decision making

1. **Establish the Frame**: Become clear about the purpose, direction and boundaries of change.
 - This enables experimentation and autonomy
 - If safety boundaries are clear, then anything in the safe zone is fair game for further exploration.
2. **Diagnose the Context Closely**
3. **Generate Multiple Options for Safe-to-Fail Experimentation**
4. **Determine Logic for Amplifying successes and Shutting Down failures**
5. **Support and model open conversations and learning**



Think Differently

Engage Differently

Act Differently

Recognise the difference between a complex context and a complicated context (and notice your default setting)

Listen to learn rather than convince

Meet to create rather than to inform

Choose a direction, not a destination

Connect with your whole self rather than just with your head

Encourage experimentation and learning rather than analysis and a search for the best solution

Find patterns in the present messiness and confusion rather than forcing order and clarity

Get comfortable learning in public rather than in private

Don't make complexity complicated

The Flow State



- Psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi first described the *Flow State* after studying optimal performance in people worldwide.
- He noted six core psychological characteristics of flow:
 - 1) Complete Concentration
 - 2) Merger of Action & Awareness
 - 3) Sense of Self Vanishes
 - 4) Altered Sense of Time
 - 5) Paradox of Control
 - 6) Autotelic Experience

Skill, Challenge & State

- According to classical flow theory, the flow experience relates to the balance between skill and the perceived challenges of the activity.
- More recent research suggests that your inner state (eg. mood, sense of freedom) has an equal bearing on your capacity to perform optimally.

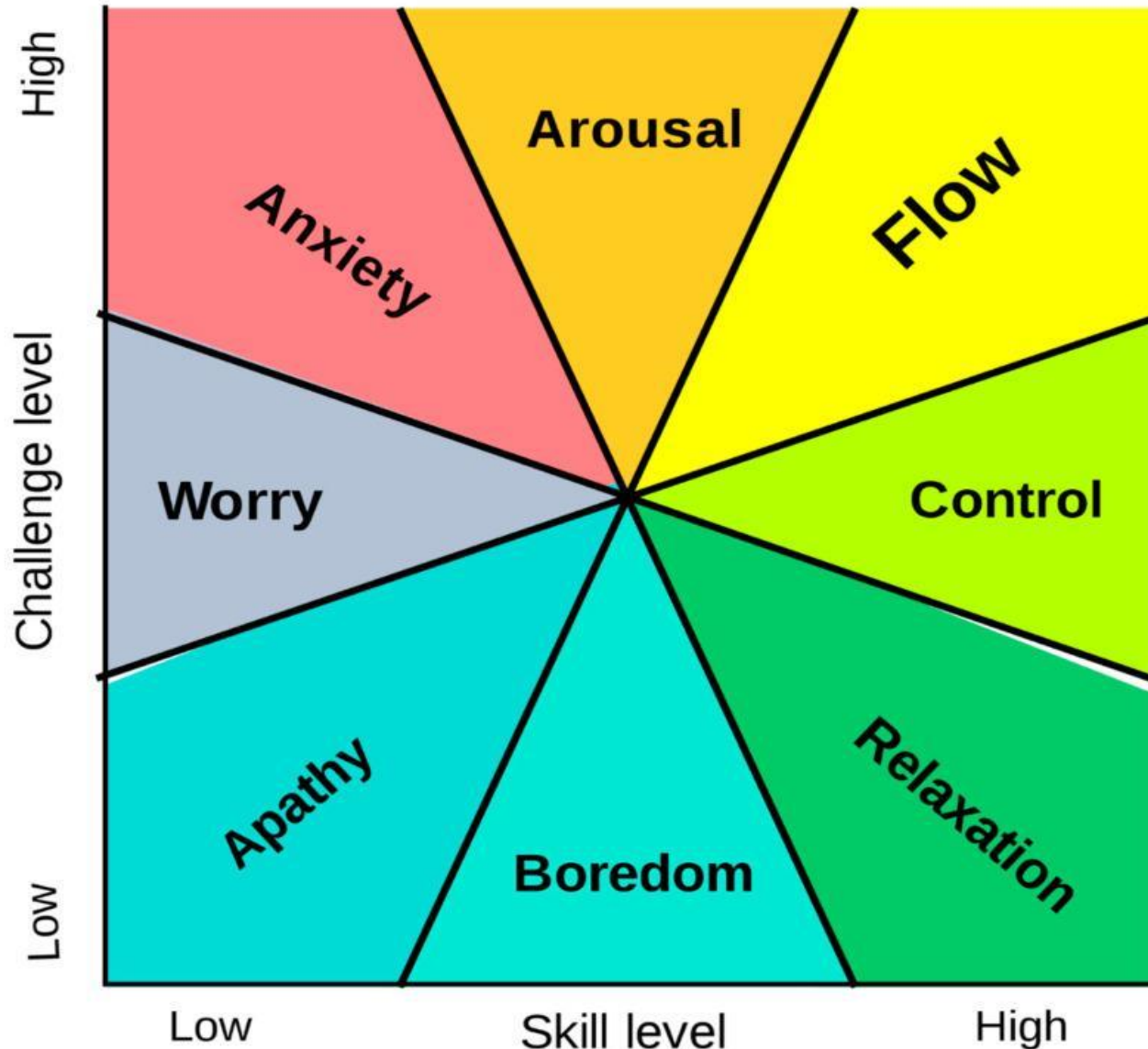


Figure 1: Csikszentmihalyi's Flow State Model

We suggest that in Aboriginal organisations, staff have an additional *inner state* requirement: cultural safety.

With an embodied sense of cultural safety, staff will not only feel safe but will perform optimally.

Group Flow

- Group flow is a shared state of balance within a group resulting in optimal collective performance and creativity.
- There are 3 components of group flow:
 - 1) fluent, positive interactions within the group
 - 2) a high collective competence
 - 3) a collective state of mind

Group Flow Triggers

- Factors that promote a collective state of flow within a group or team setting.
- A group flow trigger for Aboriginal Organisations is *SAFETY*: cultural safety, psychological safety, and nervous system safety (ie. trauma-informed).

Group Flow Triggers



01

Shared goals

Sharing a common objective or mission with a group

02

Close listening

Being fully present and attentive to what others are saying

03

Yes, and...

Responding to contributions from others with acceptance and build upon their ideas

04

Sense of control

Having a significant influence over your contributions to the group's goals

05

Blending egos

Setting aside individual success in favor of a collective focus on the group's goals

06

Equal participation

Actively engaging in ongoing conversation where ideas flow freely

07

Familiarity

Knowing and understanding each team member's tics and tendencies

08

Constant communication

Engaging in ongoing conversation where ideas flow freely

09

Shared risk

Collectively taking on challenges and uncertainties

Afternoon Tea



Positive Duty

The NSW Government introduced amendments to the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 by passing the Work Health and Safety Amendment Regulation 2022 (Regulation).

The Regulation builds on the introduction of the SafeWork NSW Code of Practice Managing psychosocial hazards at work

The Regulation now includes a positive duty for organisations such as Aboriginal Affairs to consider and take steps to eliminate or minimise psychosocial risks in the workplace.

The positive duty in the workplace is to identify the psychosocial and manage hazards and risks to a worker's health - steps to take affirmative action and active efforts

There is an obligation for employers to manage psychosocial risks in the same way it has had a duty to manage physical risks



Psychosocial Hazards

Psychosocial hazards are hazards that arise from or in relation to

- The design or management of work
- The working environment
- Plant at a workplace, or
- Workplace interactions or behaviours that may cause psychological and physical harm
- Psychosocial hazards cause psychological harm and injury, including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and sleep disorder. While physical injuries from psychosocial hazards include musculoskeletal injury, chronic disease and physical injury following fatigued-related workplace incidents.



Questions

- Identify is this – simple | complex | complicated | chaotic?
- What trauma dynamics or responses could be underlying the presenting circumstances?
Are there any psychosocial hazards to consider or report on?
- Consider your culturally responsive framework, how will can this manage your leadership responses?
- What trauma informed care principles will you demonstrate in your leadership response?
- What challenges do you see in implementing the above and how will you action this?

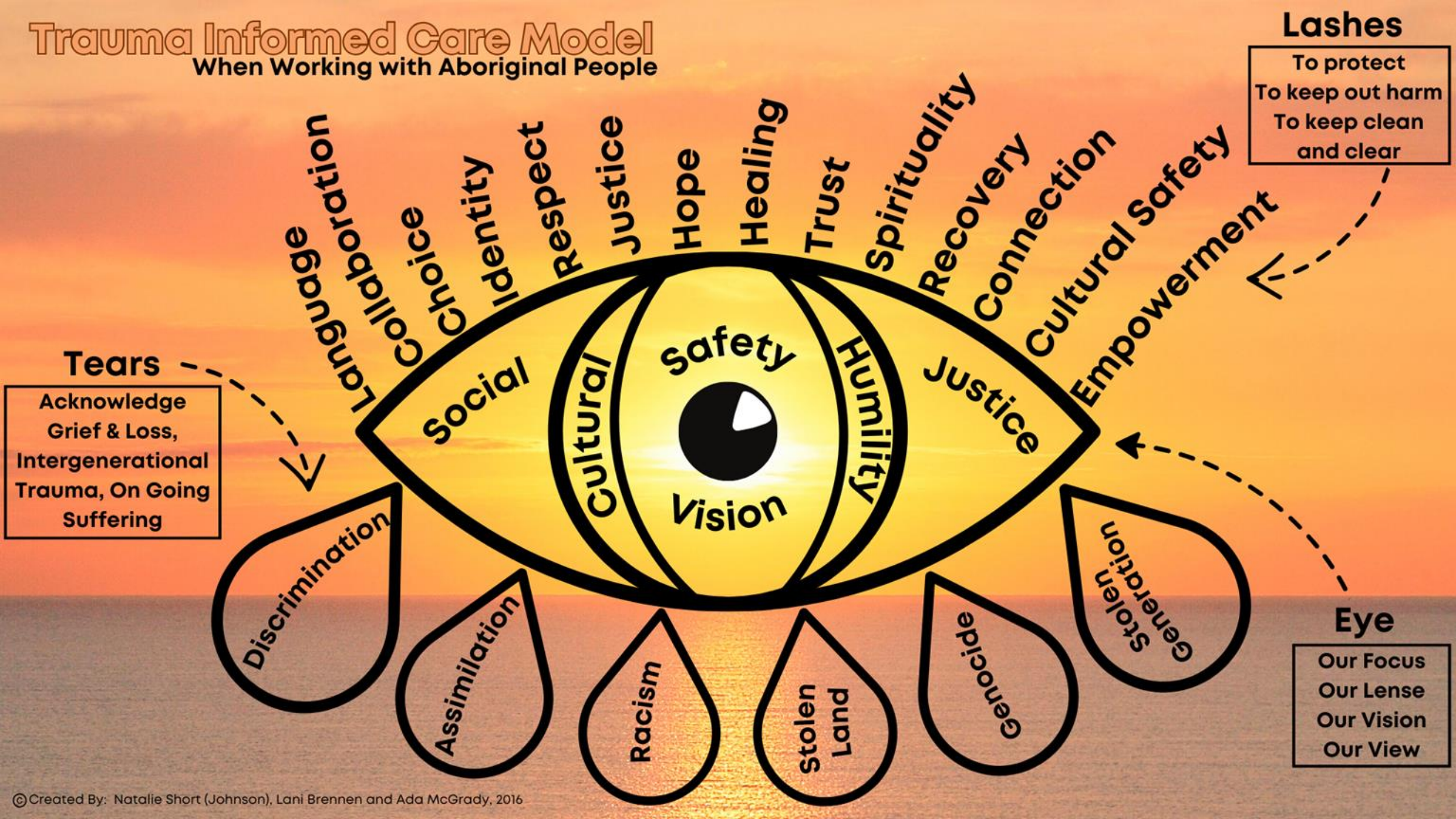


Case Studies

Think Differently	Engage Differently	Act Differently
Recognise the difference between a complex context and a complicated context (and notice your default setting)	Listen to learn rather than convince	Meet to create rather than to inform
Choose a direction, not a destination	Engage with your whole self rather than just with your head	Encourage experimentation and learning rather than analysis and a search for the best solution
Find patterns in the present messiness and confusion rather than forcing order and clarity	Get comfortable learning in public rather than in private	Don't make complexity complicated.

Trauma Informed Care Model

When Working with Aboriginal People



Lashes

To protect
To keep out harm
To keep clean
and clear

Tears

Acknowledge
Grief & Loss,
Intergenerational
Trauma, On Going
Suffering

Eye

Our Focus
Our Lense
Our Vision
Our View

Reducing burnout with solidarity

- Create teams that have collective ethics and values
- Critique power, oppression and racism – act on it
- Reduce structural abandonment and isolation in the workplace
- Create a work environment that values and demonstrates collective care
- Flexibility and understanding cultural responsibility – be creative, yet consistent and fair on how you support Aboriginal staff
- Listening, responding and establishing partnerships with
- Creating pathways for leadership
- Not taking up all the space
- Get to know your local Country and community
- Decolonise, Decolonise and more decolonising!

Reynolds, V. (2011)



Reynolds, V. (2012)
Rowena Lawrie, Yamurrah

Rowena Lawrie, Yamurrah

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