The ECHIDNA project: a collaborative approach to progress self-determination in Indigenous communities

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Empowering Communities Holistically In Determining Needs of Aboriginal People

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Beyond the Rhetoric in Early Intervention: Bridging the Gap between Education, Health & Crime Prevention (March 2003)

Health Promotion Unit - Northern Rivers Area Health Service - Lismore NSW
Self Determination Project
Specific Issues Identified

- Consultations to Determine Issues of Concern.
- Mapped Out the Functions of Government & Non-government Organisations.
- Conducted Literature Review Regarding Self-determination.
- Collected Mortality and Morbidity Data on Aboriginal People.
- Review of Indigenous Projects/programs at International, National, State and Local Levels.
Echidna

- Box Ridge Early Childhood Transition to School Program.
- HEALInG Program.
- Koori Fathering Program.
Koori Fathering Program
Rationale

- Participants asked for a program to assist them with the development of their fathering skills and to learn parenting strategies.

- Evidence suggests that the most effective way of breaking the cycle of dysfunctional communities is through programs, which have a parent, child and family focus.

- Culturally appropriate fathering programs.
Koori Fathering Program

Outcomes

- Greater understanding of feelings and emotions.
- Improving communication between Partner and Children.
- Greater understanding of Child Development.
- Building stronger relationships with Partner and Children.
- Greater understanding of discipline (training children to be mature/responsible adults).
- Reclaiming Fatherhood.
Conclusion

- Emphasis is placed on sporting personalities, but the best role model a son (children) can have is a patient, caring father.

- **In order to comprehend Aboriginal poor health status, acknowledgment of the impact of colonisation must first take place.**

- Working with Aboriginal people needs to come from the heart and not only be based on theoretical knowledge.