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

Anthony Franks

Kimberlii Austen-Baker

Donna Lloyd

Sallie Newell

Southern Cross University

Laurel Rogers

Health Promotion Unit, North Coast Area Health Service

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Anthony Franks, Kimberlii Austen-Baker, Donna Lloyd, Sallie Newell, Laurel Rogers, and Uta C. Dietrich



E.C.H.I.D.N.A: A collaborative approach to progress self-determination in Indigenous communities

Empowering
Communities
Holistically
In
Determining
Needs of
Aboriginal People

Anthony Franks

**Kimberlii Austen, Donna Smith-Lloyd,
Sallie Newell, Laurel Rogers & Uta
Dietrich**

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





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.

