



3rd National Aboriginal Wellbeing Conference

21-22 March 2018

Tanya Keed



Prevention of Violence against Women

Silence of a song line – Tanya Keed

- Dunghutti woman from Kempsey
- Eldest of 6 kids
- Grandparents played a major part in my life
- Grandmother the matriarch of the family

- Our lives were stable and ordered and our roles defined

Silence of a song line – Tanya Keed

- Leaving a structured environment
- Relationships with family and family dynamics and basic life direction

- influenced new environments and ideas
- Life directions
- Clouded judgements

Silence of a song line – Tanya Keed

- **I am a survivor of domestic violence**

Silence of a song line – Tanya Keed

- Defining domestic violence
 - physical
 - emotional
 - sexual
 - social
 - spiritual
 - cultural
 - psychological
 - economical abuse

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- My personal definition of domestic violence
- Isolation
- rejected
- abandonment
- Loneliness
- broken relationship
- broken families
- Separation
- broken heart and loss of identity

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- A personal example
- Abandonment
 - By immediate family
 - Extended family
 - Friends
 - Community
- Importantly through or because of abandonment there is a break in the cultural link.
- Welfare system and the revolving door experience

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- Coping mechanisms
 - Drugs
 - Alcohol
- Obligations to others
 - Jarjums
 - Parents
 - Grandparents (role models)

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- What is the most important obligation

Myself

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- Mid 80's
- Services for victims and survivors of domestic violence
- There was a lack of defined services particular for Aboriginal women

- 1 example of a defined service provided to victims
 - Aboriginal workers in a refuge
 - But it was not safe because those workers were part of the community and his extended family structure

Critical issues

- **four critical issues** that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people access to services, organisations and programs
 - Programs **not suited to people in general**,
 - Programs **not suited to men**
 - Programs **not focused on cultural sustainability**,
 - Programs **lack staff**.
- The Key element is **CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Cultural Sustainability

- Oxford definition
 - “Culture as customs, civilizations and achievements of a particular time or people”
- Personal meaning
 - identity
 - the maintenance and continuity of that identity as a woman and as a Aboriginal woman.

One that has the right to enjoy and maintain that identity without fear and the right to live free and with hope.

Positive programs

- **TIRKANDI INABURRA**

- Cultural and development centre is a purpose built
- culturally based residential program aimed at reducing future contact with the criminal justice system

Designed to change behaviour

- education focus
- build self-esteem and confidence
- increase a participants ability to care for themselves
- better understand emotions
- Cultural activities

Positive Programs

- **Oolong House**
 - Offers 16 week residential program
 - challenge themselves to change mindset
 - connect people to the strengths of Aboriginal culture

Principles of cultural engagement and sustainability

- **Inclusiveness**
- **Wide consultation**
- **Consensus**

Identity

- **Who am I?**
- **Values (value systems)**
- **Family**
- **The Future (Healing)**