Primary prevention in Central Australian Aboriginal communities

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Acknowledgment of Country
To move forward we must acknowledge the past

100s of Nations each with their own unique language, culture and traditions

65,000 years, oldest continuing culture on the planet

Acknowledge that non-indigenous people are benefiting today from a system and history of colonial violence and dispossession perpetrated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Map image credit to David Foster
This is where violence comes from...

These three causes create the conditions where men’s violence against Aboriginal women can happen, or means that people don’t take men’s violence against Aboriginal women as seriously, or they think men’s violence against Aboriginal women is normal.

Source: Our Watch (2018); Changing the picture: A national resource to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children. Melbourne: Our Watch.
Stopping violence is everyone’s responsibility.

The evidence shows that to stop men’s violence against Aboriginal women before it begins, we need women and men to be equal, we need to tell the truth about our colonisation history, and we need to fix the power imbalance between non-Indigenous people and Aboriginal people.

The Girls Can Boys Can project is leading the way by showing the strengths of Aboriginal families and how gender equality benefits everybody!

This project set out to assist parents, carers, families and children in challenging harmful gender stereotypes, promoting gender equality and strengthen positive, equal and respectful relationships between and among women and men, boys and girls.

The project aimed to be fun, healing, to celebrate culture and build on community, family and children’s strengths and expression while challenging beliefs and attitudes regarding the roles of girls and women, and boys and men through the development of powerful and playful early childhood messages and resources.
What’s happening next?

Strengths & Feelings Cards

Colouring Sheets

Posters & merchandise

Toolkit

Training

Books & Lesson Plans
That's all the women talk about. They talk about, not only the problem of
Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women

Mums Can Dads Can and Girls Can Boys Can

Stopping violence before it begins
Inter-generational change

Unconscious Bias
Hidden Curriculum

Challenging attitudes and beliefs
Strength-based messages

Gender equality
Racial equality

Kids thrive when they are free to be whoever they want to be!
The greatest positive shifts in attitudes were in regard to about what girls/women can or should do that boys/men cannot or should not (and vice versa). This is likely reflective of the explicit and direct messaging of the GCBC project that girls and boys can do and like the same activities.

Although survey participants were likely to have highly gender equitable views in relation to gender roles, a high proportion of participants still justified violence in one situation or another. These justifications were mostly in relation to jealousy.
• Workforce capacity was developed considerably. Staff increased their knowledge about primary prevention and improved their understanding of the drivers and causes of VAW.

• The majority of respondents believed that GCBC material was important and that it can help to prevent VAW.

• Lots of recommendations! But increased funding for primary prevention is sorely needed in Australia’s Northern Territory!
Thank you.
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