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Responses to the primary health care needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing violence: A scoping review of policy and practice guidelines

Walker, Natasha, Mackean, Tamara, Longbottom, Marlene, Coombes, Julieann, Bennett-Brook, Keziah, Clapham, Kathleen, Ivers, Rebecca, Hackett, Maree, Redfern, Julie and Cullen, Patricia

Available at <http://clock.uclan.ac.uk/34825/>

Walker, Natasha, Mackean, Tamara, Longbottom, Marlene, Coombes, Julieann, Bennett-Brook, Keziah, Clapham, Kathleen, Ivers, Rebecca, Hackett, Maree ORCID: 0000-0003-1211-9087, Redfern, Julie et al (2020) Responses to the primary health care needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing violence: A scoping review of policy and practice guidelines. Health Promotion Journal of Australia .

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/hpja.417>

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Table 1 Definitions of concepts identified as key components within federal, state and territory policy that addresses the primary health care needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing violence who seek support from primary health care providers

Family Violence	An issue focused around a wide range of physical, emotional, sexual, social, spiritual, cultural, psychological and economic abuses that occur within families, intimate relationships, extended families, kinship networks and communities. ¹ It extends to one-on-one fighting, abuse of Indigenous community workers as well as self-harm, injury and suicide. ¹
Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women	Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm to or suffering of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. ² Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and women cannot be separated from the wider context of discrimination and exclusion to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are exposed in social, economic, cultural and political life. Challenges – such as dispossession, conflict, insecurity, displacement, low rates of birth registration, limited access to culturally appropriate (including sexual and reproductive) health, lack of access to justice and other essential services, including social services – create conditions that affect development, human security and fulfilment of human rights. ³
Social Determinants of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing	The social determinants of health are the conditions that influence an individual's or communities' health and wellbeing. Social determinants that contribute to the positive health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people include oral history, cultural survival, family support and connection, emotional wellbeing, community control, self-determination and affirmation of cultural practices. ⁴ Conversely, social determinants that contribute to the negative health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people include housing, education, access to income, economic resources, employment and racism. ⁴
Cultural Safety	Cultural safety is an approach to care that puts the onus for change on the health service provider rather than on the patient. It is an undertaking to consider the things that make the patient unique and provide care that takes account of these differences. ⁵ Cultural safety in the context of providing care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women includes having regard to differences, decolonisation, considering power relationships, reflexivity and engaging the patient in dialogue to determine what safety means to them. ⁵ Cultural safety includes cultural awareness, cultural respect and cultural competency. ⁵
Holistic Health	The concept of holistic health is not just the physical well-being of the individual, but the social, emotional and cultural well-being of the whole community; this is a whole of life view and also includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life. ⁶
Trauma	Trauma refers to an event that is psychologically overwhelming for an individual, the event involves a threat (real or perceived) to the individual's physical or emotional wellbeing. ⁷ Complex trauma results from an individual's exposure to multiple or prolonged traumatic events that do not

categorically fit psychiatric criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder.⁷ A consequence of secondary exposure to trauma is intergenerational trauma, which can be transferred from the first generation of survivors that have experienced (or witnessed) traumatic events to the second and further generations of descendants of the survivors.⁷ Historical trauma is a type of trauma transmitted across generations, it is a subjective experiencing and remembering of events in the mind of an individual or the life of a community, passed from adults to children in cyclical processes.⁷

**Patient
Centred
Care**

The core concepts of patient centred care include respect for patients' preferences and values, emotional support, physical comfort, information, communication and education, continuity and transition, coordination of care, the involvement of family and friends, access to care,⁸ sensitivity to nonmedical and spiritual dimensions of care,^{9,10} informing and involving patients, engaging patients in the care process and designing care processes to suit patient needs, not providers.¹¹ Patient centred care includes responsiveness¹², consumer-centred care, person-centred care, personalised care, family-centred care and relationship-centred care.¹³

**Trauma and
Violence
Informed
Care (TVIC)**

Care that is informed by a decolonised understanding of trauma.¹⁴ It recognises the historic and ongoing systemic inequalities manifesting as structural violence and trauma. TVIC consists of respectful, empowerment practices to facilitate healing, with a focus on reducing re-traumatisation.⁷ The intention is not 'trauma treatment', such as talking therapies¹⁵ but rather creating an environment that is safe and understanding. TVIC also recognises and contextualises the health issues that intersect with experiences of trauma and violence, including chronic health issues, mental health issues and substance abuse.¹⁴

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