

Abstract – 2nd Biennial Australian Implementation Conference

Theme – Building Capacity for Effective Implementation

Title – Putting Evidence into Action: Implementing Healing Programs for Indigenous Children, Families and Communities

Healing is a relatively new and emerging concept within Australia. As the story of healing gains momentum across our country there is increased interest in understanding what supports healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities. The Healing Foundation plays a critical role in building the evidence base for healing programs that are informed by Indigenous concepts of wellbeing and that address the physical, emotional, social, spiritual and cultural needs of our people. As we continue to build and strengthen this evidence base, we recognise the challenge now lies in bridging the gap between knowledge and practice in a way that improves the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Without a mindful, staged approach to program implementation, promising Indigenous designed and delivered healing programs are at risk of failing to achieve their stated goals and desired outcomes, losing traction in their communities and ultimately becoming unsustainable. Since our establishment in 2009, the Healing Foundation has funded over 90 healing programs in communities across Australia. In that time we have developed strong implementation support processes, founded on the concepts of implementation science and aimed at building strong community organisations and groups able to meet the healing needs of their children, families and wider community.

This paper will:

- Identify the steps undertaken by the Healing Foundation in the planning, development and operational phases of the Intergenerational Trauma and Men's Healing program areas and demonstrate how these connect to current implementation research
- Identify what worked, the challenges and the key learnings
- Share how implementation science has been culturally modified to support the design, development and delivery of Indigenous healing programs in the Australian context.

Presentation Format – 20min oral presentation

Presenter – Lisa Hillan, Programs Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

Presenter Bio – Lisa Hillan is the Programs Director at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation and a Social Worker with over 20 years' experience. Lisa has managed the programs team responsible for the support, implementation and evaluation of over 90 healing programs throughout Australia since 2010.