



HealingFoundation

Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People

Our Men Our Healing



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OUR MEN OUR HEALING

Creating hope, respect and reconnection

**EVALUATION REPORT
NOVEMBER 2015**



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Three men's healing projects in the remote Northern Territory communities of:

- Maningrida
- Ngukurr
- Wurrumiyanga

The projects ran from 2013-2015.



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By putting into practice culturally sound methodologies and approaches *Our Men Our Healing* aimed to re-establish holistic wellbeing allowing men to see themselves as:

1. nurturers who are nurturing and growing their children strong and healthy
2. teachers who are teaching and taking care of cultural knowledge
3. protectors who are protecting and caring for their families and keeping their communities safe.



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- We preferenced cultural knowledge and value systems
- We worked collaboratively to create and share knowledge
- Passed on evaluation and research skills enabling communities to participate in continuous learning
- Joined stories to strengthen knowledge based on the wisdom of the communities



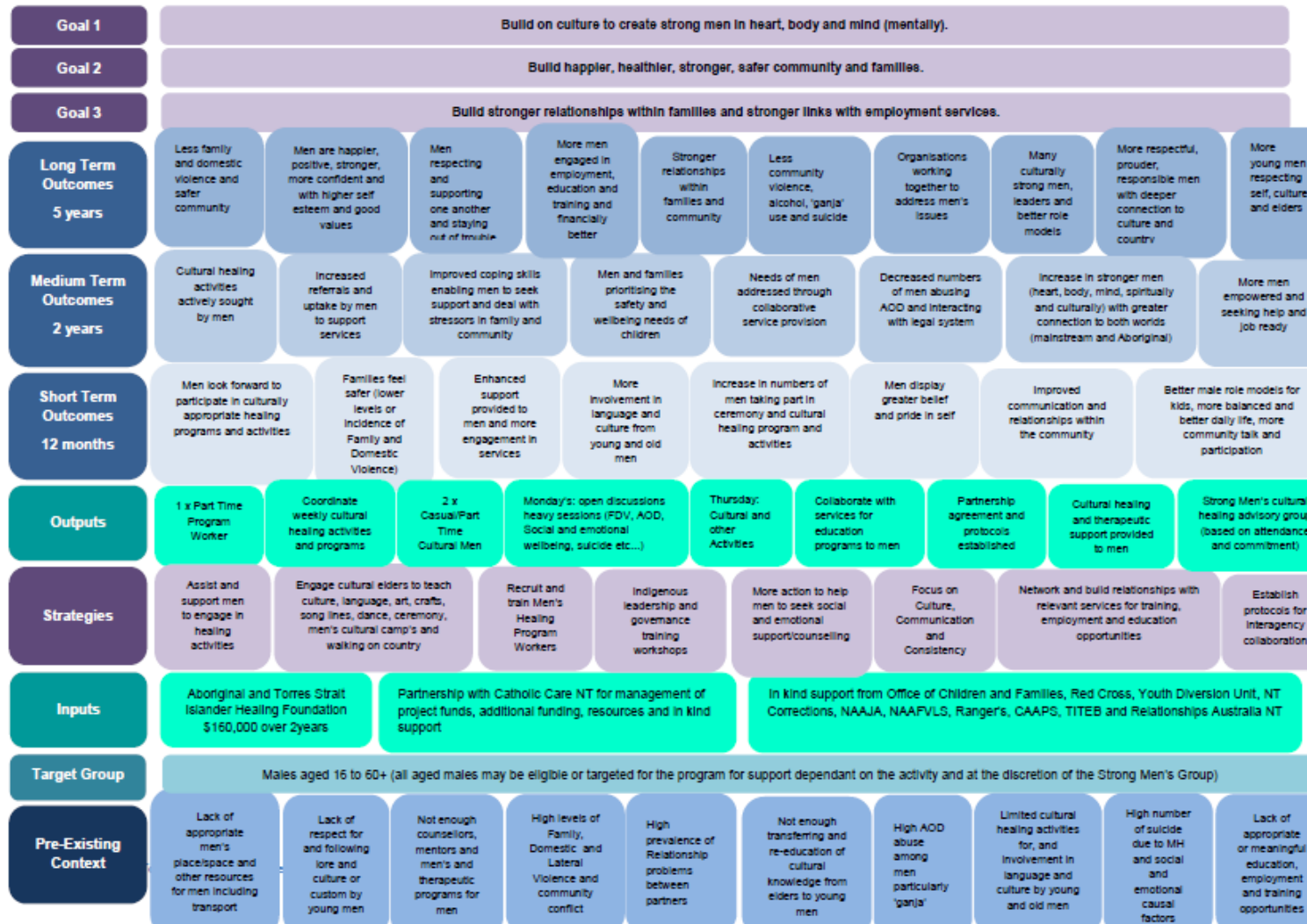
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Evaluation Focus

- Sit along side the men at the very beginning as they thought about what they wanted to achieve
- Let them decide what the story of success might look like and how we could tell that story
- The men developed the measures and what the 'evidence' would be
- Program Logic proved a useful tool ... what the?????



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Key program achievements include:

- Reported decrease in incidence of family and domestic violence and less violence generally in communities
- Reduced observable rates of self-harm and suicide during the life of the program in two of the communities
- At Wurrumiyanga a reported 50 per cent reduction in the number of men registered with the NT Department of Correctional Services and a significant reduction in rates of reoffending over the life of the program



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Key achievements continued:

- Women feeling safer and more supported by the men in their families and communities
- Increased health and emotional wellbeing among men in the communities and increased leadership as men take responsibility for their past, present and future
- Increased re-emergence of cultural celebrations and ceremonies, some of which had not occurred in the communities for decades



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The Evaluators:

- Built trust and respect and understood we were visitors but also the custodians of a story
- Combined mainstream and Indigenous methodologies – allowed for quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Created safe spaces and conversations
- Aimed to ‘catch the story’ as insiders and outsiders and understood the difference and when each applied



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The Evaluators:

- Journeyed with the men but always aware this was their story
- Watched as expected outcomes changed in and between communities
- Conscious of what we were taking and what we could leave behind



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- We preferenced cultural knowledge and value systems
- We worked collaboratively to create and share knowledge
- We empowered communities in building knowledge
- Passed on evaluation and research skills enabling communities to participate in continuous learning
- Joined stories to strengthen knowledge based on the wisdom of the communities



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Young boys 16 to 20 have started singing ceremony song as they are realising on the men's camps that culture is important with the Elders saying how important it is ... they have to know story and song for country ... since the program started and got underway the men have been wanting to learn and sing the old songs

