A Place Based Approach To Working With Aboriginal Carers

Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation

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We acknowledge and pay respects to the Traditional owners on whose land we meet today and those with whom we live and work. We pay particular respect to elders Past Present and Future and honour the knowledge and wisdom handed down by our Elders and the spirit of our community whose courage and strength we drawn on in our work today.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Carer Policy</th>
<th>NSW Carer Policy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognition and respect</td>
<td>Information and access</td>
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<td>Employment and Education</td>
<td>Economic security</td>
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<td>Education and Training</td>
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<td>Carer health and wellbeing</td>
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<td>Information and Community Awareness</td>
<td>Information and Access</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carer Engagement</td>
<td>Information and access</td>
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<td>Evidence based</td>
<td>Services for carers</td>
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Current challenges for Aboriginal Carers in Deniliquin and Balranald

• Lack of meaningful engagement with the Aboriginal community

• Services unclear and unaccountable to the community

• Specific funding guidelines prevent flexibility in responding to community need

• Lack of informal support for hidden carers and their families

• Lack of awareness of policy developments
Current challenges for Service Providers
Deniliquin /Balranald

- Turnover of workers with information about the local Aboriginal mob
- Not knowing what other local Service Providers are funded to provide
- Lack of informal support for hidden carers and their families or services they can offer
- Not sure how to access Aboriginal carers or workers in Aboriginal organisations
- Being confused when they hear Aboriginal mob are the best at looking after Aboriginal mob
- Aboriginal carers unclear about what they want and need from Service Providers
Current challenges for Policy Makers

• To maintain currency with changing community concerns and issues
• Being aware of the tensions between Aboriginal Carers and Service Providers
• Meet competing demands across the sector
• Distinguishing between community voices and peak body voices
• Not being able to build the learnings from local service providers into the policy level
• Difficulty in knowing if policy objectives are met at the local level
• Moving beyond compliance strategies to measuring if community needs are met
7 difficulties

1. Targeting only at the interagency level
2. Listening to peak bodies rather than carers
3. Ability to see the impacts in the local community on a day-to-day level
4. Recognising that every community is different or responds differently
5. They are outside of the space, and can’t be in every community
6. Policies are written at a general level rather than a specific level
7. Respond well to crisis issues and day-to-day problems
The Disconnect:

**Community**
A flat system with groups of individuals
Drivers are influence

Key examples
- Aboriginal Working Party
- Elders groups

**Govt Policy**
Hierarchical system with positions at each level
Drivers are power

Key examples
- NSW Carers Strategy
- National Carer Strategy
- CDC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deficit language</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact on work and family</td>
<td>Strengthening family connections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact on Physical and mental health</td>
<td>Building stronger families and community</td>
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<td>Lack of specific skills</td>
<td>New skills</td>
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<td>Financial stress</td>
<td>Secure resources</td>
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<td>Loss of opportunities</td>
<td>New opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Isolation</td>
<td>New relationships</td>
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<td>Being defined – carer – hidden carer</td>
<td>Respect and sense purpose</td>
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<td>Loss of potential</td>
<td>Explore new potential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Need to communicate with many services</td>
<td>Find new information</td>
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Aboriginal Carers

“Caring is a traditional value of our community and the responsibility of all our families”
A place based approach

**Guiding Principles**

- A place based approach is a methodology - the practical actions and applications in any location will differ

- Sustainable and effective solutions are best found within local people, organisations and resources

- Not service driven but through true collaboration
Are you an Aboriginal Carer?

Open any door to your support circle in Deni
Reconnect: Government Policy and the Aboriginal Community

Government Policy

- Based in hierarchical system

  Key examples
  - NSW Carers Strategy
  - National Carer Strategy

Community

- A flat system with groups of individuals

  Key examples
  - Aboriginal Working Party
  - Elders groups
Initiatives/Strategies

Facilitated Workshops

Macquarie University Research Partnership

Local Co-ordination Group

Community Events

Poster/Terms of Agreement

Interagency Partnership Cooperation Community Collaboration
Conclusion

A place based approach works towards meaningful and strategic collaboration so as to ensure the best outcome for all members of the caring community. It is values and recognizes the commitment of cares, service providers and government.
Acknowledgements

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