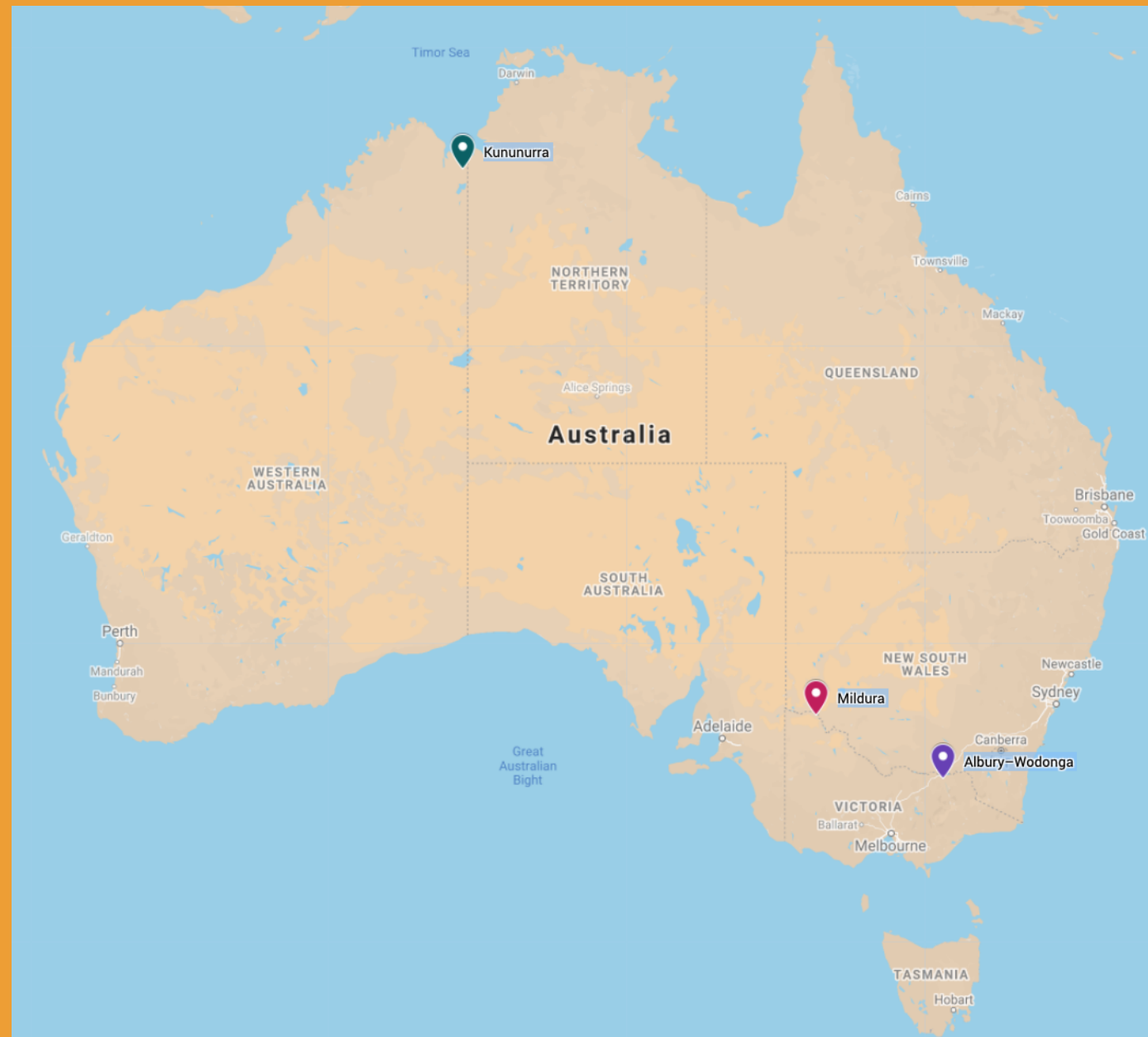


# Preventing family violence in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities

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AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH  
ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY  
*to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children*



**3 research  
projects**

**148  
participants**

Aboriginal people who had experienced &/or perpetrated family violence, Aboriginal elders, leaders and community members, health providers, justice sector, Aboriginal community controlled organisations, family violence-specific services, housing and homelessness services, state government agencies and related officials.

**Research team:** Professor Marcia Langton, Dr Kristen Smith & Tahlia Eastman

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*To Reduce Violence against Women & their Children*



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are  
32x more likely to be hospitalised for family  
violence than non-Indigenous Australians.

32x



2 in 3 physical assaults on Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander women are perpetrated by a family  
member.

63%

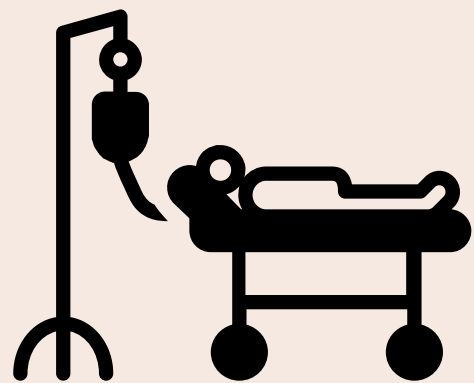


Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people are five  
times more likely to experience intimate partner  
violence than non-Indigenous Australians

5x



# Risk factors and impacts of family violence for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people



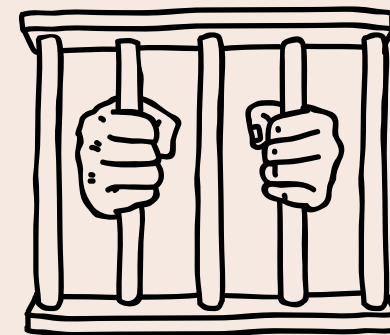
## BURDEN OF DISEASE

Intimate partner violence is the leading cause of lost years of life for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women aged 25-35 years



## HOMELESSNESS

More than 1/5 of all clients seeking homelessness services are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.



## INCARCERATION

In Victoria, nearly 90% Aboriginal women in prison have experienced sexual, physical or emotional abuse.



## CHILD PROTECTION & REMOVAL

Between 1999 -2018 the rate of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care increased from 18.3 to 59.4 per 1,000.

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# Addressing systemic marginalisation & racism

This is going on in KMS a little bit – Koori Maternity. There was one lady I had who... she couldn't make it to her appointments, her prenatal appointments. The non-Aboriginal workers assumed she was drinking and had that phone ready to make a DHHS report.

(Kate, ACCO provider, October 2018)

I called the police thinking that they'd help me, but in a sense, saying that, I felt like I had failed my kids in that area for the simple fact that I called the police, because I thought they were there to help people, but...they reported me to the Department of Human Services. So, I mean going through a situation like that... was my biggest fear of Community Services coming at my back because I was a ward of the state myself and I didn't want that for my kids.

(Evie, focus group, August 2019)

# **Aboriginal-led healing processes**

**Self-  
determination &  
human rights**

**Creating safe  
spaces &  
responses**

**Application of  
Indigenous  
knowledges**

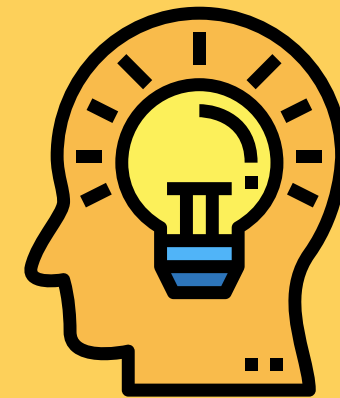
# Improving the availability, acceptability and accessibility of all family violence related services



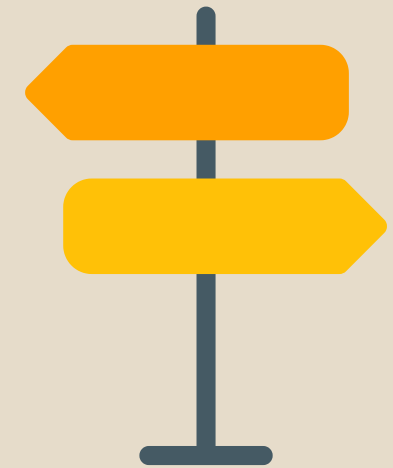
Greater & more secure resources for Aboriginal service sector



Better security of privacy & confidentiality measures in the Aboriginal service sector



Creating culturally safe spaces in mainstream organisations by improving knowledge of workers



Use of visible signposts to indicate Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people are welcome

# KOORI COURT & UMALEK BALIT

Trial of family violence order breaches &  
Koori Family Violence Practitioners

CULTURAL  
SAFETY

COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP

SUPPORT FOR  
VICTIMS

SUPPORTING  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
FOR  
PERPETRATORS

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