

Deadly dads: Lou Turner

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The Aboriginal experience is about connection. To me it's understanding what the disconnection was, to reframe and position an experience of reconnection and connection for myself and my family, and that's understanding the stories.

LOU TURNER

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this resource may contain images or names of people who have passed away.

In this story you will hear Lou Turner speak of his experiences as a descendant of the stolen generations and the legacy of trauma that comes with that. Lou also describes the impact the media has on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and fathers, and how the base of strength is challenged and devalued among everything else that was taken from Aboriginal men. He also speaks about the changes to, and challenges of, unclear, undefined roles responsibilities and obligations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men now face, walking in two different worlds: one of traditional Aboriginal cultural values, ways of living and existing; and one of contemporary Australia.

Learning objectives

- The significant impact colonisation and the legacy of the stolen generations has had on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and their roles as parents.
- How Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men challenge dominant negative stereotypes and assumptions daily through resilience, strength, and integrity.



Consider the following questions individually, or in a group.

- Lou talks about the violence and trauma that was inflicted on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the resulting disempowerment. How would you hear about your local Communities; how might you find out about this history?
- The impact of oppression and disempowerment can at times present as frustration, anger, and hopelessness. How could you give value to and make space in your conversations for these experiences?
- Lou talks about a clear, rightful place for men, which sat in harmony with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. How may you understand this historical place for men, and give value to the contemporary place in which men now find themselves?

Related resources

- [In focus: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing \(Emerging Minds\)](#)
- [Colonial Frontier Massacres, Australia, 1788 to 1930 \(Newcastle University, Australia\)](#)
- [The Healing Foundation: Supporting stolen generations survivors, families, and communities](#)
- [Bringing Them Home \(Human Rights Commission\)](#)

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