

Deadly dads: Harley Hall

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Culture is a big part of our living, it's something that no matter what we go through in life, it is something that will hold us strong.

HARLEY HALL

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 short film you will hear from Harley Hall, a Ngarrindjeri-Kokatha father, as he speaks about what's important for him and his children.

Harley will describe some of the struggles he has had to navigate, being an Aboriginal man in a western system. Harley will describe what it is like to have to fight for his rights, the stereotypes that he faces, and the legacy of intergenerational trauma and how this has impacted his parenting. He will also talk of his struggles to maintain hope in a society that gives no value to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.

Yet you will also hear a story of resilience, strength, love and hope, and about the protective factors that he seeks to build for his children so they can grow strong in culture and identity.

Learning objectives

- Social justice and the legacy of colonisation are foundational knowledge requirements when supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.
- Extended family kinship and networks are protective factors for fathers and children.

Consider the following questions individually, or in a group.

- How might you hear about resistance to injustice in your conversations with fathers? Is there space for these conversations?



- Did you notice how often Harley speaks of being proud? Why do you think pride is so important for fathers who experience injustice?
- Harley spoke about wanting to be present and there for his children. In your interactions with mothers, do you consider fathers? What questions may you ask to include dads in the conversation?
- If Harley came to you seeking support, what are some of the strategies he could utilise? There are many strengths that Harley mentions in his story – note down a few.

Related resources

- [Narrative Therapy with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families podcast](#)
- [Stayin' On Track online resources for Aboriginal dads](#)

Articles by Thomas Mayor from *The Guardian*:

- [I write while my children steal cars and rob houses: The awful human cost of racist stereotypes](#)
- ['Loving ourselves is an act of defiance': Tender and heartbreaking letters to fathers and sons](#)

This resource was co-designed by:



The National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health (NWC) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health under the National Support for Child and Youth Mental Health Program.

The Centre would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution Harley Hall of Aboriginal Art Designs and the Darwin Indigenous Men's Service have provided in the development of this resource. A special thanks goes to the fathers who shared their stories so generously.

The Centre would also like to recognise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander National Consultancy Group Members, and the dedicated professionals who inform our work for the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.