

Deadly dads: Daniel Giles

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We have a big focus on independence; it's about teaching our children young to be able to do a lot of things for themselves and that's because we're not always going to be there, they have to be comfortable with doing a lot of these things themselves.

DANIEL GILES

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

Learning objectives

- The ongoing role and responsibility Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fathers have in the transfer of cultural knowledge to their children.
- Being curious in your conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fathers. Parenting may look different when supporting an unfamiliar culture, so it's important to make space in your practice to understand the differences.



Daniel will speak in this short story about the cultural differences in parenting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. He will share the important roles and obligations fathers have in the transfer of cultural practices to their children.

Supporting children to live in two worlds involves teaching them about:

- their role as an individual in the broader context of community; and
- the roles and responsibilities each contributor has within the context of community, including the care and compassion that is central to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of 'being, knowing and doing'.

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.

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Consider the following questions individually or in a group.

- Daniel speaks about his support network of brothers and men. How might you hear about this network in your practice? If a father is isolated, who could you contact in your local area to support him to build his network? Is there an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's group local to where you practice?
- Daniel talks about the obligation of care and compassion to his broader community. Do you make space to hear about such values in your engagements? How could you consider these obligations in your strategies and goal setting plans with fathers?

Related resources

- [Men's Healing](#) (Healing Foundation)
- ["I feel more comfortable speaking to a male": Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's discourse on utilizing primary health care services](#) (International Journal for Equity in Health)

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