

## Deadly dads: Bill Wilson

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Being a dad for me is easily the most important job I've done, or will ever do.

BILL WILSON

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 from Bill Wilson, who will speak about his parenting, and how important it was for him as a father to role model respect for women and respect in relationships for his children. He will talk about his journey to better understand what a good dad looks like and how the love and investment in his children was pivotal for him as a father. He will also talk about the value of selflessness in the broader context of cultural obligations and protocols and how that shapes the father he has become.



### Learning objectives

- The foundation of healthy relationships for children are built upon the role modelling of respect for women by men and fathers.
- Intergenerational trauma and the experience you have of parenting as a child does not define you as a parent.
- Dads play a vital role in bringing up Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children strong and connected to culture.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fathers have strong cultural obligations in the broader context of children, family and community.

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.

- Have you considered cultural obligations in your practice? How could you hear about this from fathers? How may you give value to this commitment to care for children, family and community?
- Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fathers like Bill, may be seeking support on answers to 'what does a good dad look like'? How would you gain a deeper understanding of this within a cultural context, knowing after listening to Bill, that there are specific obligations and protocols for men? Are you the right person to support this? Who may you connect with to support you in helping fathers?

## Related resources

- [Our Men Our Healing evaluation report](#) (Healing Foundation)
- [Community Healing](#) (Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet)

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