

Project title: Experiences of Ngaramadhi Space – A Qualitative Study

Background and rationale:

The Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families is research centre that was formed at the end of 2018 within Sydney Local Health District. The Institute is working towards being a leading centre for research, education and policy relating to the health and wellbeing of women, children and their families. The Institute acts as a central hub that brings together clinicians, academics, registrars, midwives and population health staff who are experts in their fields. The Institute works to support researchers, facilitate educational activities and impact upon policy. The Institute is managed by SLHD Community Health Services.

This project is being proposed by a key Institute affiliate that the Institute works closely with. The project is based within Sydney Local Health District and any placements associated with this project are organised and supported by the Institute. This project is being organised in conjunction with SLHD Community Paediatrics and the Yudi Gunyi School (YGS).

YGS is a medium to long term program primarily for students experiencing challenges with their behaviour in a mainstream setting. The school aims to support students through an individual case management approach to transition successfully back into a mainstream school, or develop skills that will enhance their ability to access the school curriculum and to positively engage in the wider community.

Evidence shows that a critical feature of interventions for older children and adolescents with behavioural concerns is a system for ensuring that mental health, medical, child welfare, and educational services are available. Additionally, a system for providing a comprehensive assessment to determine the specific needs of the young person and strong case-management to ensure that services are provided in an integrated and coherent manner have also been critical to success.

Community Paediatrics (CP) and YGS have been working in partnership since 2016 to create a wrap-around model at the school. This has been gifted the name 'Ngaramadhi Space' (NS). A multidisciplinary approach is utilised with a team consisting of a paediatrician, youth health nurse, school counsellor, social worker, speech pathologist and occupational therapist. The multidisciplinary team holds a regular meeting with the staff and this meeting is attended by a child and adolescent psychiatrist who provides consolatory advice. The aim of the initiative is to address the physical health as well as psychosocial issues experienced by students and their families. Siblings are also reviewed at the clinic as a preventative strategy.

Project aims or objectives:

Conduct a qualitative study involving interviews with students, parents/caregivers, staff and community members regarding their experience of Ngaramadhi Space. Work as part of an established research team.

Research design and proposed methodology

Qualitative study with interviews to assess the experience of students, parents/caregivers, staff and community members in regard to the Ngaramadhi Space.

Timeline and proposed workload

18UOC over 3 terms. Between 300-450 hours of work (approximately 16-20 hours per week)

May suit two students.

Can be done remotely or in person.

Description of skills student is required to have

Available to students in the MPH in Aboriginal Health specialisation. About half the students at the school identify as Aboriginal. As such, it is important to view the evaluation through a cultural lens. Ideally, students should have completed PHCM9120 Qualitative research methods and PHCM9630 Public Health Perspectives of Indigenous Health and/or PHCM9010 Community Development.

The research team would ideally be looking for a postgraduate student of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent. Where possible a student with experience in research or with a health or education background would be beneficial. All interested students will be considered by the team.

Other requirements:

- Working with Children Check
- National Criminal Record Check
- COVID-19 screening upon entry to office (temperature check, symptom review, travel questioning)