

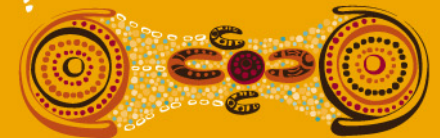
The Interplay Project

CONSIDERATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

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Interplay Project Research Partner

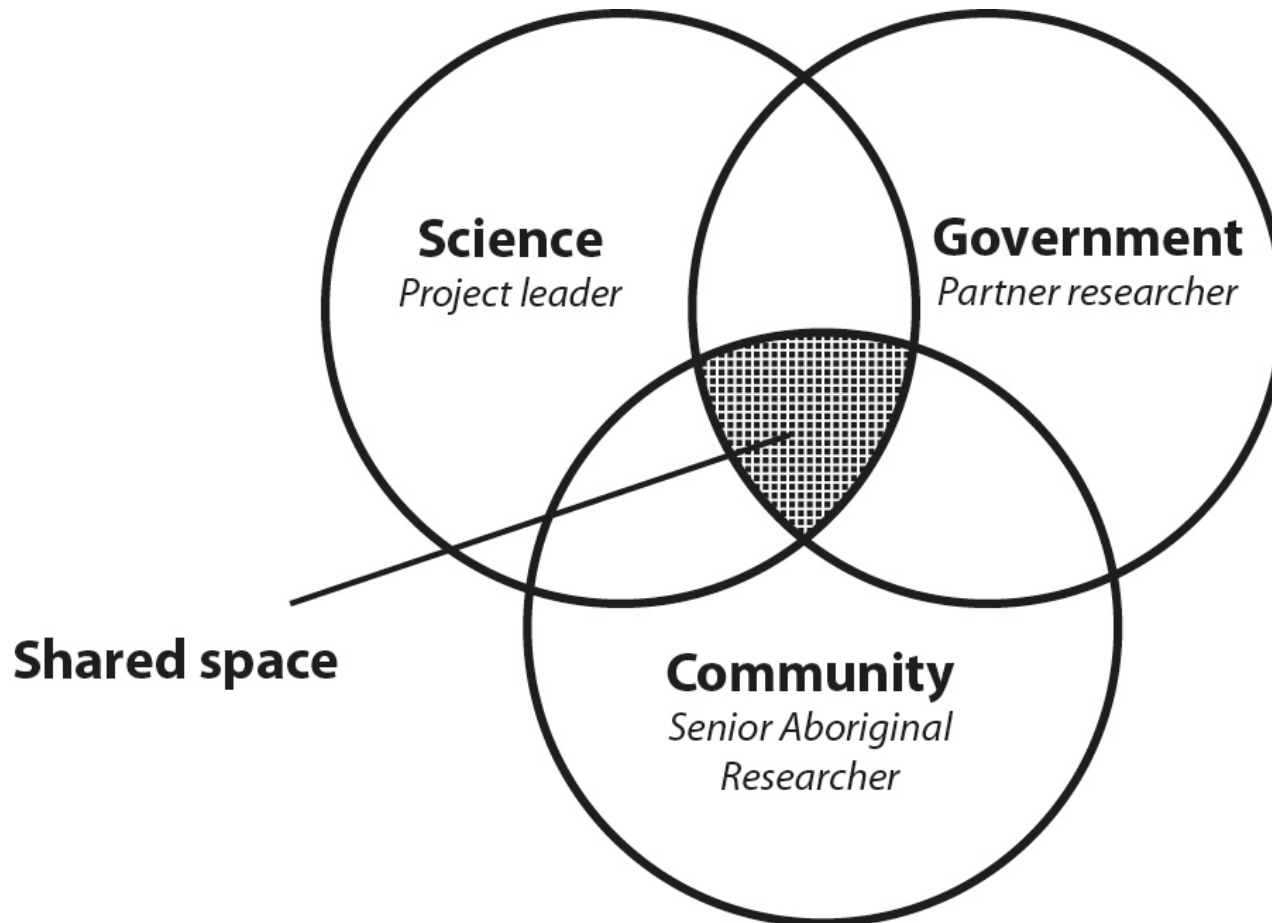
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NINTI **CRG** **REMOTE**
ONE **ECONOMIC**
PARTICIPATION

Team: Sheree Cairney (team leader), Tammy Abbott, Jessica Yamaguchi (Dept. PM&C),
Eva McRae-Williams, Byron Wilson (PhD student), Rosalie Schultz (PhD Student), Stephen
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Interplay Project – Shared Space Model



Interplay Project: Key Research Questions

1. What are the relationships between health and wellbeing outcomes and education and employment for individuals and communities living in remote Australia?
2. How effective are targeted interventions in this field?
3. How can policy and practice be better informed by this knowledge to maximise desired health and wellbeing outcomes?



KEY FINDINGS & POLICY CONSIDERATIONS



CULTURE DOMAIN

Key Findings

Practising culture builds empowerment and strengthens identity and spirituality leading to improved wellbeing

Policy Considerations

- Support and space is provided to practise culture
- Culturally aligned and culturally safe practices are built into programs and service delivery
- Governance structures are culturally aligned and culturally safe

Through the *Indigenous Advancement Strategy* the Australian Government celebrates and preserves culture by funding cultural festivals, cultural exchange camps and programs, culture centres and hubs, heritage trails and the preservation and archiving of community collections. (Closing the Gap Report 2017)

COMMUNITY DOMAIN

Key Findings

People and communities who are more empowered – have higher levels of community functioning and more effective service delivery



Policy Considerations

- Long-term visions and funding
- Support for mobility, transport, resources, housing and infrastructure
- Adequate investment in time (engage/consult, build understanding, relationships and empowering partnerships)
- Place-based approaches

Empowered Communities puts Indigenous culture and participation front and centre in the decisions of government. (Closing the Gap Report 2017)

EMPOWERMENT DOMAIN

Key Findings

Successful pathways from education to employment depend on the capacity of related programs to build empowerment



Policy Considerations

- Community contribute their visions to planning and funding priorities
- Local representation on governance boards, and decision making processes
- Building empowerment – conceptually developed from the ground up and community driven

Empowered Communities - It is moving us from an application driven, transactional approach to one of partnership, transparency and shared accountability. (Closing the Gap Report 2017)

EDUCATION DOMAIN

Key Findings

Education outcomes are better for those who learn Aboriginal literacy as a stepping stone to English literacy, and learn about culture in school.

Strong relationships between the community and school improves education outcomes.

Empowerment has a strong direct association with education and strong correlation with employment.

Empowered people are more likely to learn.

Policy Considerations

- Curriculum is sensitive to Aboriginal styles of learning
- School has strong relationships with families and community
- Two way learning is practised
- Building empowerment approaches into teaching and learning styles

In Fregon, SA - The *Remote School Attendance Strategy* has allowed the community to be innovative in order to achieve better school attendance, with many activities centring around the Fregon Early Learning Centre, enhancing parental engagement. (Fregon, SA example from Closing the Gap Report 2017)

EMPLOYMENT DOMAIN

Key Findings

Work that is meaningful and empowering has better wellbeing outcomes

The more work programs empower people, the more likely they are to succeed

Policy Considerations

- Clear and attainable pathways, local employment at all levels
- Support and mentoring available
- Jobs with a sense of community pride
- Staffing Strategy - right people for the job, retention of staff/knowledge
- Flexibility for cultural needs
- Housing options for implications when working and no longer on welfare

More than 2,600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are employed as Indigenous rangers through the *Indigenous Rangers* and the *Indigenous Protected Areas* programs
(*Closing the Gap Report 2017*)

HEALTH & WELLBEING DOMAINS

Key Findings

Wellbeing is holistic and influenced by many interrelating factors.

Integrating culture into health services improves wellbeing

Policy Considerations

- Solutions must be considered at the 'whole of system' level. Services are integrated for support of both physical and mental health problems
- Services are culturally safe
- Community members have genuine input into the development and practice of health related programs

The Australian Government funds four Indigenous-specific health professional organisations to assist in growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce and support culturally appropriate health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. (Closing the Gap Report 2017)

HOW DO THESE INTERPLAY RESEARCH FINDINGS FIT WITHIN INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS?



REFORMING INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

The Indigenous Affairs reforms have involved:

- the consolidation of programmes;
- the new Regional Network;
- the commitment to enhanced engagement (e.g. Empowered Communities);
- moving from ‘transactional’ engagement towards engagement focusing on outcomes and impact.

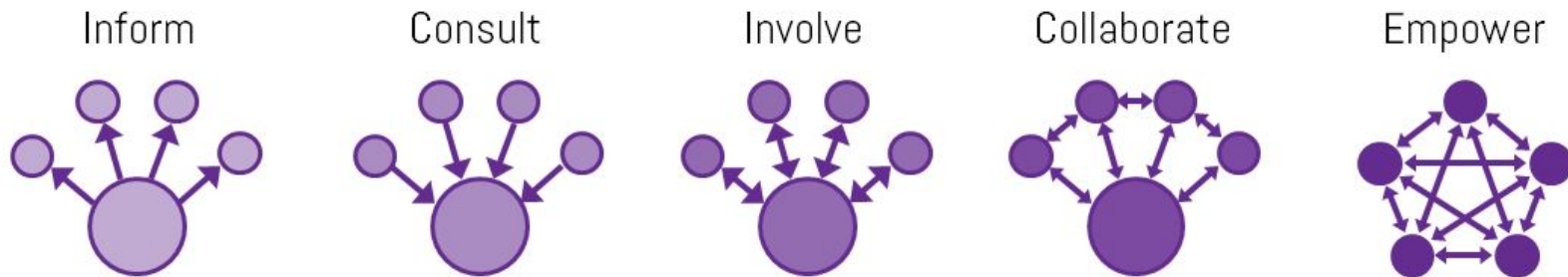


Figure Reference: Public Participation Spectrum from [IAP2](#) (International Association for Public Participation).

ENGAGING FOR IMPACT - Facilitated Engagement

- **Facilitative engagement** builds ‘agency’ and ownership at the individual, family and community levels and involves:
 - a commitment to placing community at the centre of local design and delivery
 - supporting local decision-making capability and self-reliance
 - a focus on sustainability and lasting impact
- **Facilitative engagement** supports community self-reliance by:
 - strengthening the capacity of individuals and organisations to participate in identifying issues and priorities;
 - co-designing strategies and projects in the context of the community as a ‘whole’; and
 - assigning responsibilities with the expressed aim of integration of inputs.

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

Panel:

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Project Partners

