

# Rising to the Challenge of Women's Violence

*The Kunga Stopping Violence Project*



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# Background

\*Evidence of increasing violence amongst women and girls: National ABS data identifies the rate of assault by females increased by 49% between 1997 and 2010 (ABS)

\*Disproportionate representation of Indigenous people in NT prison system: in 2013, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners made up 86% of the NT prison population (ABS)

\*Increasing numbers of women incarcerated: in 2013, the NT female prison population increased by 34% (ABS)

\*Service gaps identified for this specific group – high rates of recidivism

\*Needs identified: rehabilitation

education

support

advocacy

\*Funding history – funded by the Federal Attorney-General's Department, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for two years

# Project Design

## *Partnerships*

- NT Corrections and the Alice Springs Correctional Facility
- Community Service organisations, such as Mission Australia, Anglicare, MHCH, Relationships Australia and Central Australian Aboriginal Congress.
- Employment and training organisations: Karen Sheldon Training
- Housing organisations: NT Housing, NT Shelter, Central Australia Affordable Housing
- Legal: Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, NT Legal Aid Commission
- Police/Domestic Violence Unit
- Community Corrections
- Department of Children and Families

# Case Management Model

A flexible model of case management is being used, to fit the needs of these particular clients and contexts

Case management is:

- person-centred and needs-based
- transitional and goal-focused
- flexible and wholistic
- coordinating of complex, multiple services
- advocacy-focused, individual and systemic
- empowering/collaborative
- capacity-building

1. ENTRY

2. ASSESSMENT

3. PRE-  
RELEASE  
TRAINING

4. PLANNING

5. RELEASE -  
SUPPORT

6. DIRECT  
SERVICE

7. MONITORING

8. CASE  
CLOSURE

9. EVALUATION

# Group 1:

The pre-release training was subcontracted out to an external agency, who in turn engaged external interstate facilitators for four weeks of intensive, daily workshop sessions in the prison, from 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

10 participants were chosen with three selection criteria:

- \*Voluntary

- \*Violent offence history

- \*Release date within four months of training completion

The training was conducted successfully in the four week timeframe, and a presentation ceremony was held on 6<sup>th</sup> June, with completion certificates presented by Minister Elferink.

Much was learned from this initial group training....

# Lessons from Group 1

At the conclusion of the first pre-release training, several things had become evident:

- \*Outside (interstate) facilitators required extra resources in terms of orientation and support, and consumed much of the training budget in travel and accommodation, etc
- \*There were inconsistencies between the respective models being used by Kunga and the subcontracted agency
- \*Women with disabilities and language/communication differences were not equally catered for in this intensive group model
- \*There was a marked anticlimactic effect for the participants immediately after training completion
- \*Limitations of short-term intensive training were identified by the funding body



STOP THE VIOLENCE  
AGAIN

KYLE KUNIKUIMA

NOIRI

DRUG AND ALCOHOL AND PETROL SMIFFER

GROG

WE'ZED IS NOT GOOD

SMIFFER  
PETROL

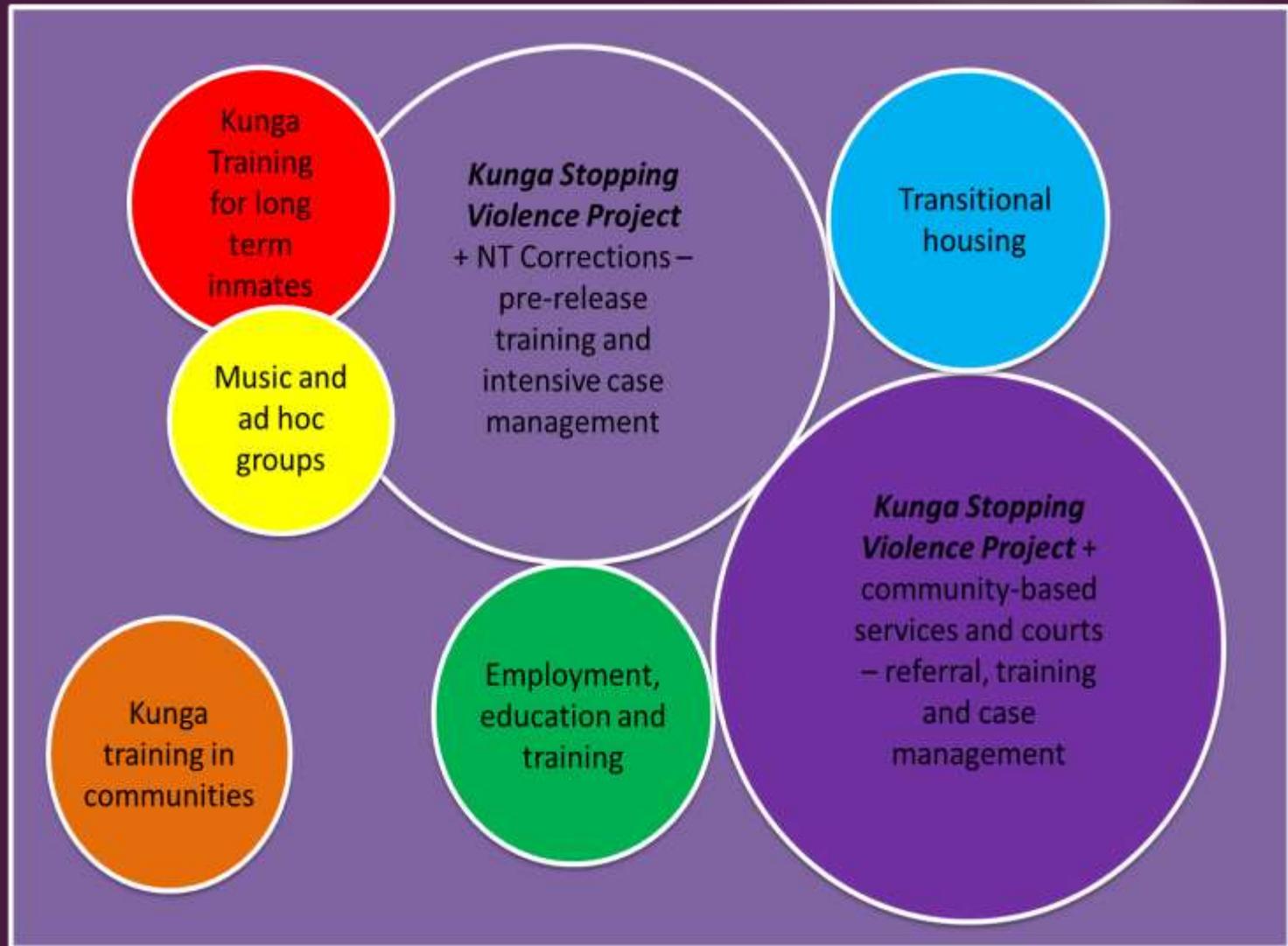
VIOLENCE



# Project Evolution

- \*The subcontract was terminated and pre-release training is now provided in-house for consistency, flexibility and sustainability
- \*Local facilitators and local cultural/community resources are being used
- \*The training programme is being delivered in an extended and flexible format: ie over three months, catering for both small group and individual needs
- \*Increased recognition of the fact that the participants have all been victims of violence and trauma in the first instance, some extensively
- \*More emphasis is now placed upon meeting individual criminogenic needs in real settings
- \*In response to demand, concurrent training programmes to be provided both within the prison and outside the prison (ie prevention/early intervention)
- \*Case management continues as planned

# Projected Model with New Facilities



# Pre-Release Training Group 2

- \*To empower and build on strengths in the first instance, and then maintained throughout

- \*To link theory with reality: multiple tools, visual resources, local experts/services involvement, receptive to group needs

- \*Individualised: recognising that women's strengths and needs are diverse

- \*Holistic: acknowledging that feelings and actions do not exist in a vacuum

- \*Flexible format and delivery

- \*Based on mutual respect and decision-making

# Concurrent Training

- \*A new group of 10 female inmates in the Alice Springs Correctional Centre will undertake weekly full-day workshop training, over three months (prison stream)
- \*A concurrent group of up to 10 women will undertake the same training in the community, having been referred through local networks (community stream)
- \*Benefits of this will include the prevention/early intervention focus to balance the rehabilitative model used for the first intake
- \*Women released from prison during the training will be able to complete the course in the parallel community setting
- \*Women will be able to demonstrate motivation and willingness to change behaviours to the court prior to conviction/sentencing/parole
- \*It is planned to develop a cross-stream peer mentoring component with this training
- \*The intersection between “inside” and “outside” training will also support stronger links with community organisations and thus reintegration

# Twelve Training Modules

- \*Introduction and Identities
- \*Managing Feelings, looking after self
- \*Trust and respect, positive relationships
- \*Changing behaviour, changing lives
- \*Violence and families
- \*Reputation, rights and responsibilities
- \*Jealousy: who owns it? Moving on
- \*Alcohol, drugs: coping alternatives
- \*Money matters: gambling, humbug and budgets
- \*Relationships and parenting
- \*Choices and strategies
- \*Health and healing



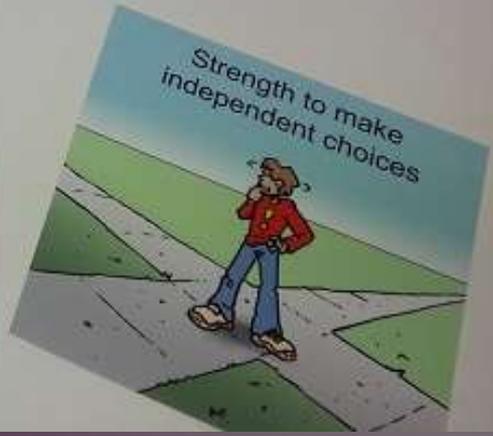
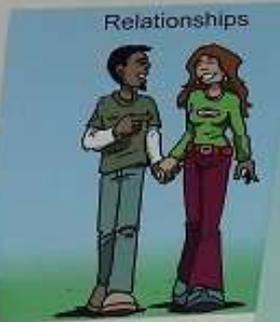
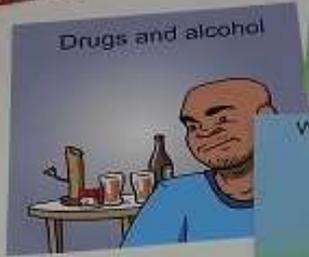
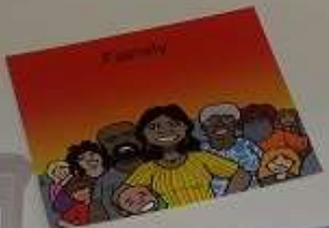
# Resources

\*Using a broad variety of resource materials will aid understanding and give emphasis to each component.

\*Prioritising visual tools and materials will reduce language and cognitive barriers

\*Resources include:

- DVDs and CDs
- Pictorial cards
- Posters
- Games
- Puppets
- Art/craft materials
- Musical instruments



# Activity

- \*Objectives:
- To identify different forms of violence
  - To gain understanding of participants' perceptions of violence
  - To expand participants' awareness of violence
  - To broaden understanding of the effects of violence
  - To give participants opportunities to express personal experiences of violence
  - To open conversations about difficult issues around situations involving violence

# Brainstorm Types of Violence

*Physical	-	hitting, punching, kicking
*Sexual	-	rape, assault
*Verbal	-	swearing, yelling
*Psychological	-	belittling, put-downs, threats
*Emotional	-	undermining, gossip
*Social	-	excluding, isolating
*Economic	-	humbugging, stealing
*Child	-	taking child, child as witness
*Spiritual	-	ignoring/belittling beliefs
*Cultural	-	racism, disrespect

\*Form small groups

\*Choose a form of violence

\*Demonstrate what this looks like, using puppets

\*Identify the effects of the violence, using puppets

\*Feedback to facilitators:

# How easy was it to find that example?

# What were the effects of the violence?

# How did members of the group experience the demonstration?

# Were the puppets useful to express the issues and feelings involved?

# Any other comments?

# Case Study

"Mary" is a composite client to de-identify individual information: she is not a real person.

## \*Description

### \*Pre and post release case planning

- Stay Strong Plan
- Strengths and barriers identified
- Safety Plan
- Risk Assessment

### \*Areas of need

- health
- children
- legal
- housing

# Kunga Freedom Plan

- \*Prison pick up, Kunga Freedom Breakfast
- \*Phonecard, supermarket voucher
- \*Health check at Alukura Clinic
- \*Transport and support to access immediate services through Centrelink, Tangentyrre Council, etc
- \*Individualised and wrap-around support
- \*Ongoing case management includes:
  - regular reviews
  - safety plan reviews
  - risk assessment
  - crisis management
  - referral

\*Support strategies include:

housing

employment

life skills

social emotional wellbeing

drug and alcohol issues

legal issues

health

childcare/parenting

education/training

# Early Outcomes

- \*Positive feedback from women and prison staff
- \*So far, no released participants have reoffended
- \*Kunga Team has been further developed
- \*Model has been progressed and expanded
- \*Community feedback is mostly positive, although some services continue to be hesitant
- \*Exciting new partnerships with organisations such as Karen Sheldon Training, Corrections, Relationships Australia, and Sisters Inside offer potential opportunities for Project future directions

# Evaluation

- \*The Institute of Criminology and The Northern Institute are partnering for a formal evaluation of the Kunga Project at the 12-month mark
- \*Programme Logic is currently being prepared by Emma Williams (The Northern Institute)
- \*Data will be collected from a wide range of stakeholders, including Corrections staff, participants, family members, partners and referral agencies
- \*Data collected will be both quantitative and qualitative

QUESTIONS?