



Acknowledgement To Country







**Cultural Safety for Aboriginal Families in  
the Family Group Conference in New South  
Wales:  
The Aboriginal Community Engagement  
Model**

**AbSec Healing Our Sector  
NSW Child & Family Conference  
13th-14th June 2023 ICC Sydney**

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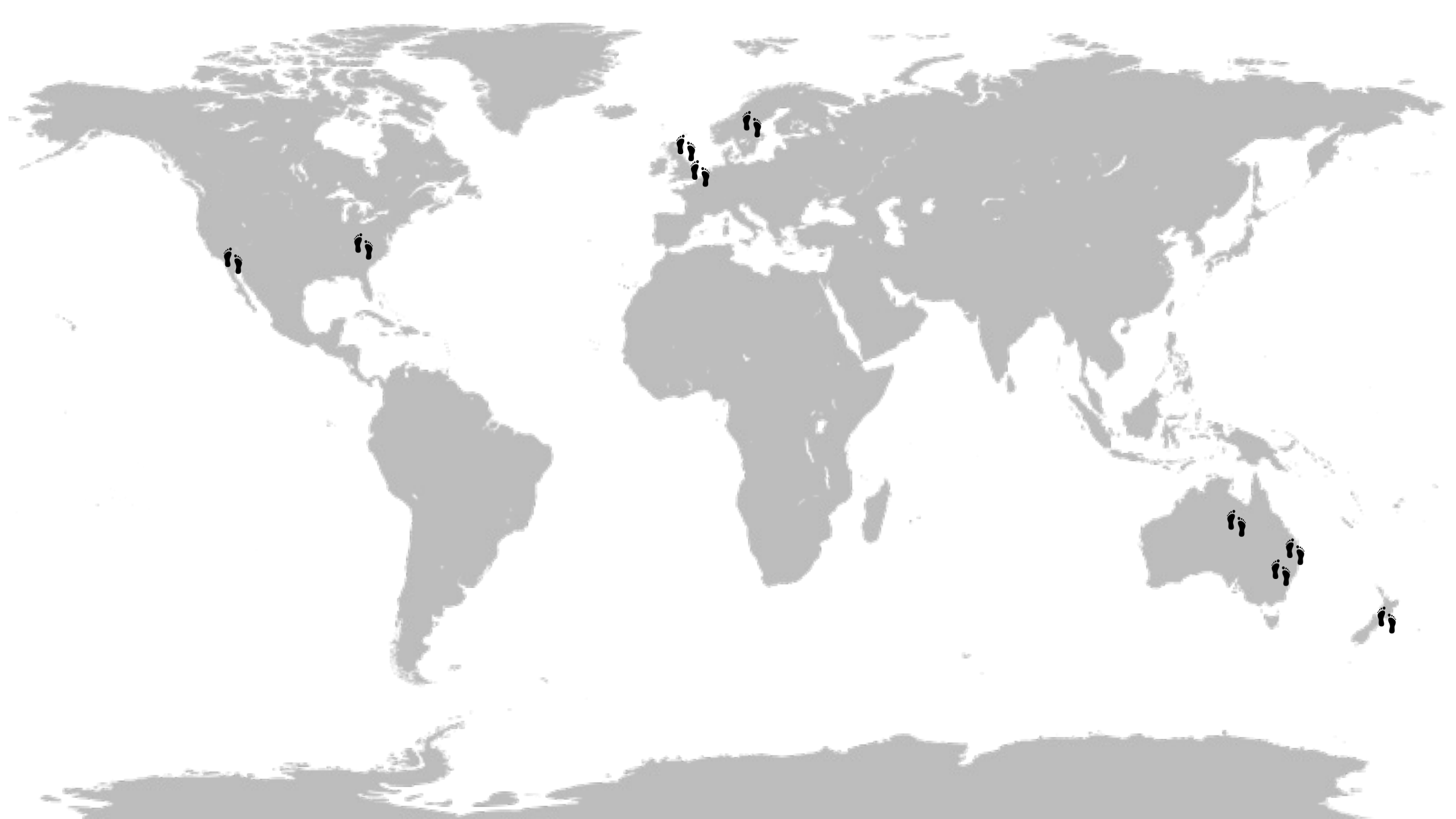
**Research Centre for Children and Families**

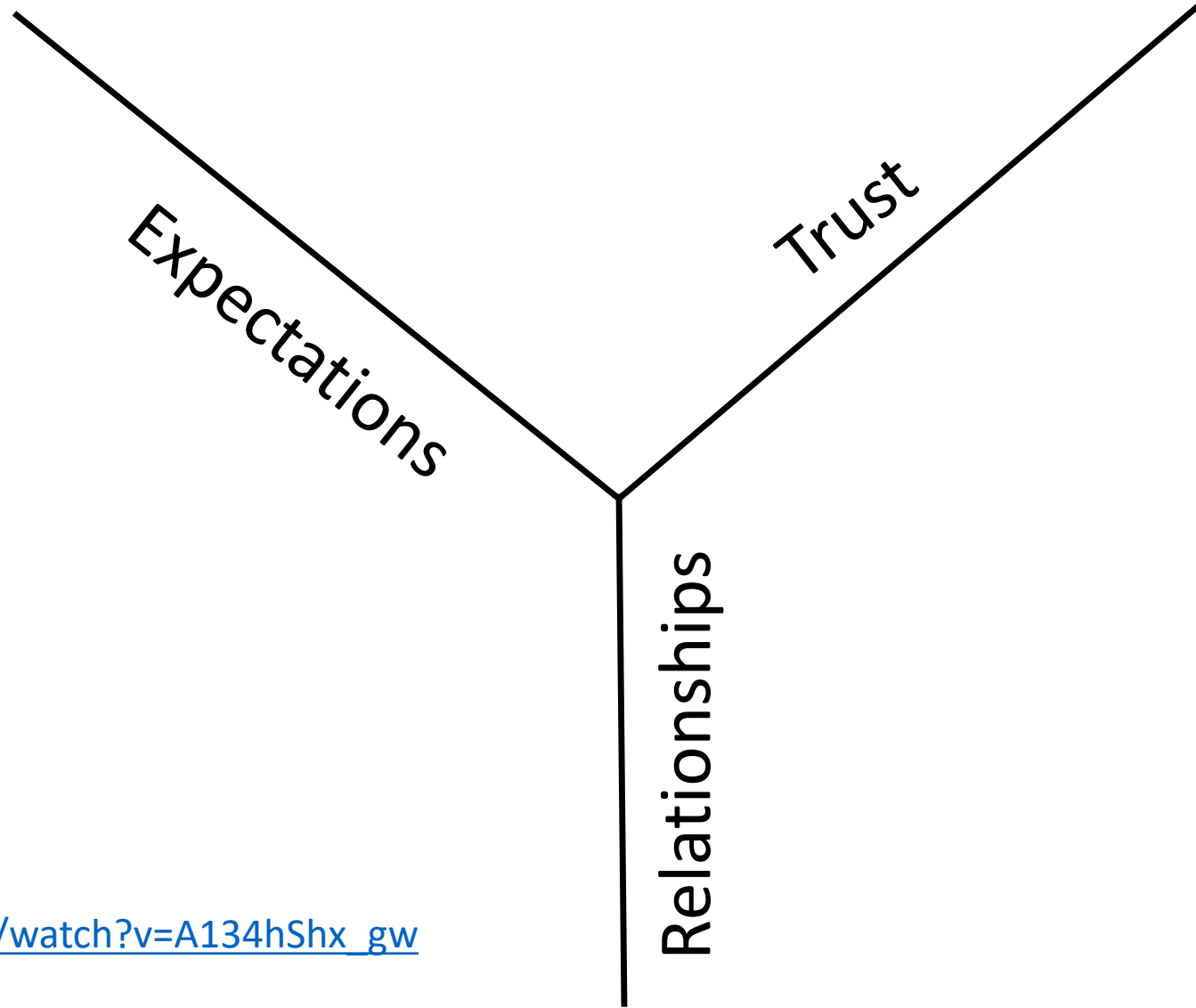
# **Cultural Safety for Aboriginal Families in the Family Group Conference in New South Wales: The Aboriginal Community Engagement Model**

**To what extent do Aboriginal families view the Family Group Conference model in New South Wales as culturally safe?**

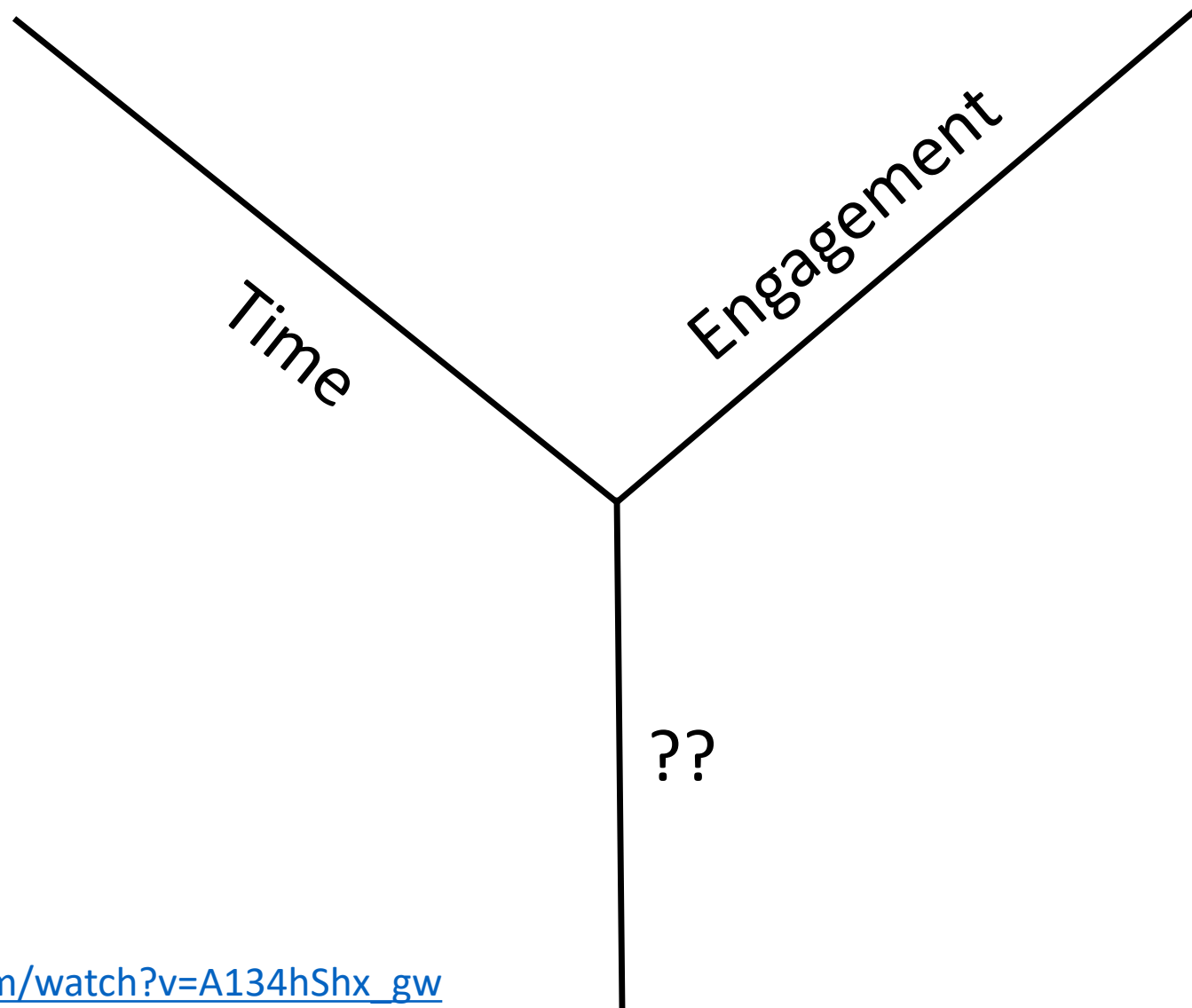
# OVERVIEW

- **Literature Review- Global and National**
- **The introduction to the Alternative Dispute Resolution:  
Royal Commission- Reports and Inquiry,  
Multiple Recommendations**
- **Y Chart: Challenges and Best Practices**
- **Methodology- Indigenous Standpoint Theory using  
Grandmothers Law, Kanyini, Dadirri and Yarning**



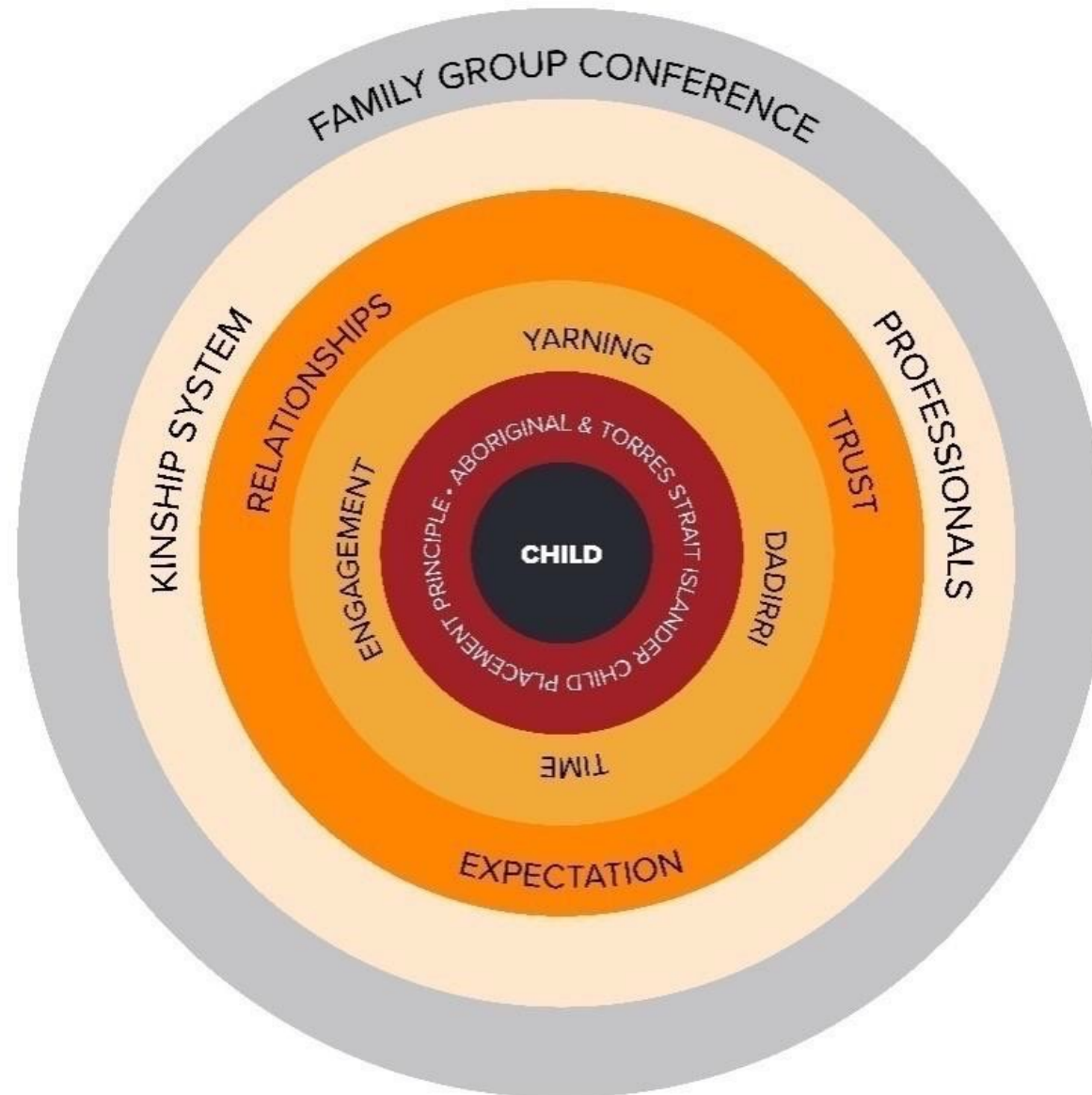


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A134hShx\\_gw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A134hShx_gw)



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# The Aboriginal Community Engagement Model







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Research



- If children aren't in care of their parents and they're there at the conference and the parents are there with the carers or whatever, it's a friggin' nightmare, you can't get the parent to concentrate on what they need to do. (Aboriginal Facilitator)
- We're [Grandmothers] still worried about the children in other people's care. Now we don't know ... these people's [non-Aboriginal carers] ... They [DCJ] don't let us know ... we need that support. We want to speak to Aboriginal workers that's there to support us. I mean to say, they got to come to us and listen to us, what we're in need of and what our kids are in need of. They're missing us, as grandmothers. (Aboriginal Grandmother)
- And I don't think we - we're not - we're not happy. It's not think – we're not happy with the way they put people towards us. And we don't know their backgrounds. We're Aboriginal of this country, and we don't know any of their nationality ways. We don't want them to bring their nationality voices to us. We'd rather them be Aboriginal workers there. Which we get on good with. (Grandmother)
- the facilitator leaving the room and letting us do that [Family Plan] it was hard to manage because I don't have a connection to these people. I can't tell them what to do. I can't make them get up and participate - like, I can't do anything (Aboriginal Aunty and Aboriginal Uncle).

- *“when the family walks into the room that [Family Plan] should be on the board ... Then the family think, “Oh yeah, this is good, it is my views being seen and heard ... but instead you've got FACS' (DCJ's) goals straight up”* (Aboriginal Facilitator).
- They were just there more or less say, okay, we're taking the kids. We're out of here. That's the way they sort of - their attitude were. Just to come in, take the children - take them and run. And that attitude, it's not right. (Aboriginal Grandmother).
- ...taking the children away from us. And I said it's - that's ... an inappropriate way with what they done. And I don't think it's right. I think all these workers in that department are - should be responsible for their actions what they done. I did not like them - these workers - not one of them ... at all times, ever since I entered the room. (Aboriginal Grandmother)

it [FGC] works because if you've got the right people in the room at the right time, particularly with a very strong family, ... then makes the family all, ... become accountable... “Why didn't you ring us? Why are we in this room with FACS when you knew that you've had this problem for a long time but you haven't reached out for us?”. (Aboriginal Caseworker)

The Elders play a big part, and they then coordinate. “All right, well I can do it this day, but Sissy can do it that day, or such-and-such can do it the other day”. So they've already planned it out ... what needs to happen, and it's done like that. (Aboriginal Caseworker)

My sister and Aunty. I was asked if I had family members in Sydney... I mentioned that I had an aunty living not too far... We were all in the room together and we had a video linked up with my sister and my aunty and my daughter... Yeah, well she managed to get my sister and my aunt and my daughter, and her father also. (Aboriginal Mother)

Yeah, and I think it's important that when they do have the conferences that they invite ...the nana and pop of the kids, because we generally find that the grandparents are probably the strongest support for the family (Aboriginal Caseworker)