

Parenting Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families: An inclusive evaluation

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Objective

The aims of this study were to determine the characteristics of parenting initiatives that most effectively facilitate raising strong and healthy children among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Results

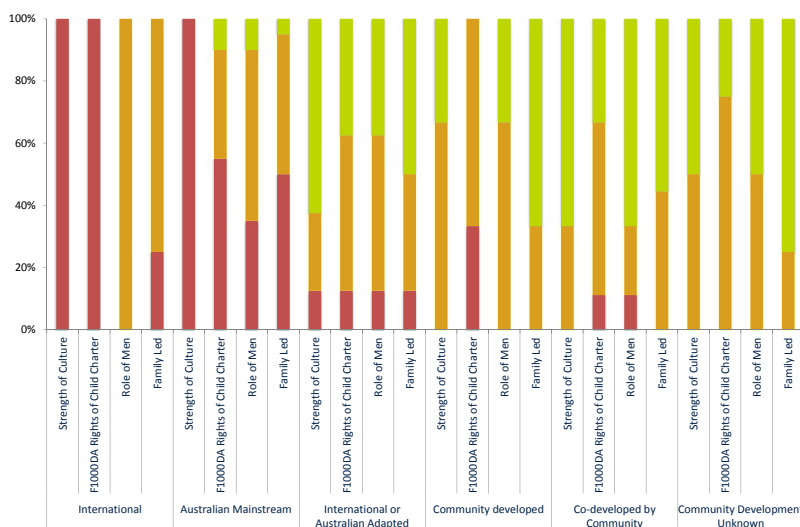
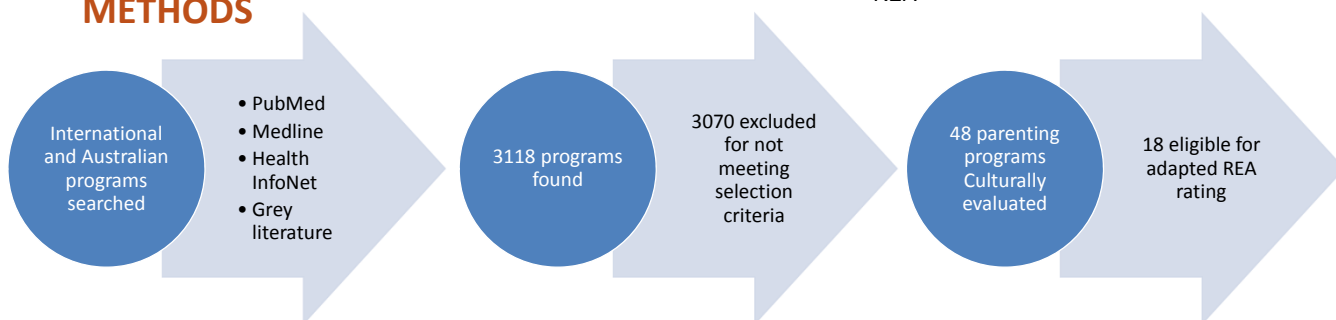


Figure 1: Each program was rated on a scale of 0-10 in four separate components of Culture by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and frontline workers. Programs were then grouped based on their target audience and development. Results from cultural rating are presented by proportion of programs within these groups with either high (>7), medium (4-7) or low (<4) ratings.

METHODS



Background

Past Australian evaluations of parenting initiatives that aim to promote positive parenting have excluded programs undertaken in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities because of strict selection and assessment criteria¹.

Conclusion

Characteristics of parenting programs that most effectively facilitate raising strong and healthy children among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families were generally unable to be assessed using the adapted REA. The majority are published in grey literature and do not report upon outcomes or strengths and weaknesses of protocol.

Programs were developed with and adapted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities had the greatest proportion of high cultural ratings. Methods to assess Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parenting programs need to take into account both the cultural components of program and the available evidence of effectiveness.

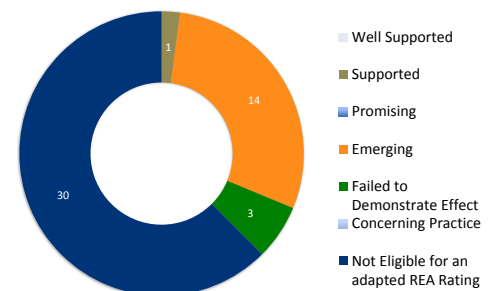


Figure 2: Programs eligible for an adapted Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA)

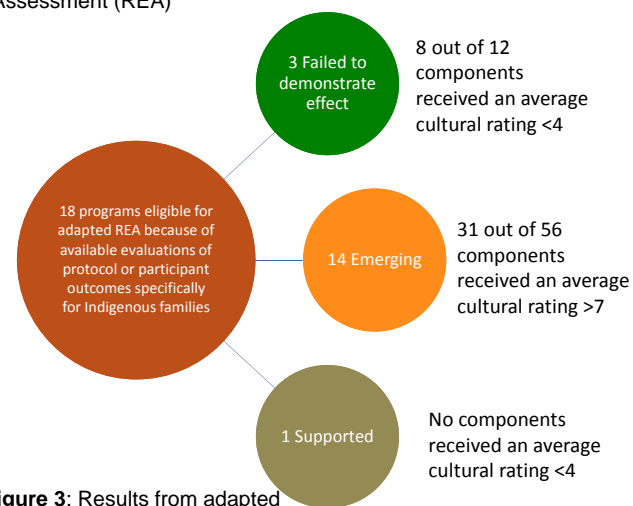


Figure 3: Results from adapted REA

References

- Macvean M, et al. An analysis of Australian initiatives with community awareness raising messages about parenting. Parkville (AU): Parenting Research Centre and Centre for Community Child Health, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute 2016. 81p. Report No.: 1
- Photo credit: Milly Moments.

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