



Ngulluk Moort, Ngulluk Boodja, Ngulluk Wirin (Our Family Our Country Our Spirit) Out of Home Care Study

**Ngulluk Moort, Ngulluk Boodja, Ngulluk Wirin (Our Family Our Country Our Spirit) Justice Capital Assets Scale for Aboriginal children living away from their families.**

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The Ngulluk Moort, Ngulluk Boodja, Ngulluk Wirin research team, led by the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Child Protection Elder Sub-group, Aunty Millie Penny and Aunty Charmaine Pell, is working with stakeholders in the non-Indigenous foster care sector in Perth looking after Aboriginal children from across Western Australia. Ensuring connection to kin, culture and community is central to the work of the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder Co-researchers who have provided cultural guidance and advice for almost a decade to our research.

For Aboriginal children living away from their families in foster care or detention, cultural planning is crucial for supporting and maintaining connections to kin and community, language, cultural activity as well as receiving and passing on cultural knowledge to our future generations. The amount, type and quality of information about children and their families is important for cultural support plans to be beneficial. As such, it is important to consider where and how cultural information is sought, and to guarantee it is collected collaboratively with Elders and Aboriginal family and community members, that are specific to a child's kin and community. There is extensive lived experience, knowledge and information in these networks that can assist bolstering cultural plans for our kids.

We have long advocated the recovery needs of Aboriginal children and young people involved with the justice and child protection systems. Recovery in the context of justice and child protection involves redressing the harm from the policies of forced removal from kin, country and culture. Harms that continue to reverberate consequences across our communities. As it stands, the long-term health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal children in out-of-home care are poor, with youth detention and adult prisons an inevitable trajectory for many. Culture is key to turning this trajectory around.

Recovery capital scales assess the sum of individual, family and community assets that can assist wellbeing and positive futures. It is an ideal a model for adapting and adding questions or statements that can count the existing strengths in community and networks that can support Aboriginal children when they are living away from their families. These are assets that can mitigate the effects of trauma and recognise the healing value of inclusion and connection with culture. We have co-designed cultural elements of an assessment tool to explore the personal justice capital assets for children living away from their families in non-Indigenous foster care, as a way of measuring their cultural connections and the aspects of culture that can assist their long-term health and wellbeing.

The justice capital scale is strength-based and designed for self-assessment, for use alongside formal clinical assessment tools or for social and support workers seeking to bolster the cultural elements of a child or young person's life. Low scores provide information about the gaps that need to be explored and addressed to ensure that any Aboriginal child or young person living away from their families are connected to their kin, culture, country and community. The higher the score, the greater the chance of better long-term health and wellbeing outcomes.

Cultural information such as that which can be collected using the justice capital assets scale is best supported by elements of institutional justice capital that involve placing Elders and Aboriginal community members at the centre of everything. Institutions that provide forums for information sharing and decision-making; therapeutic settings including courts, facilitating possibilities for cultural connections, cultural activity and resources and cultural centres or hubs that provide a range of Aboriginal community-controlled services, to both address issues identified in communities, provide culturally relevant health and community messaging, and to provide services that can assist our communities to flourish.

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## Justice Capital Assets Scale

5. Strongly Agree 4. Agree 3. Sometimes 2. Disagree 1. Strongly Disagree 0. Does Not Apply

1. \_\_\_ I have an Aboriginal Elder that I trust.
2. \_\_\_ My Elders tell me cultural stories.
3. \_\_\_ I have a cultural mentor that I trust.
4. \_\_\_ I have cultural peer advocacy that can help me if I need it.
5. \_\_\_ I have cultural peer support to help me reach my goals.
6. \_\_\_ I have mob that takes me out on country.
7. \_\_\_ I participate in caring for my country with my mob.
8. \_\_\_ I participate in cultural ceremonies.
9. \_\_\_ I go fishing or hunting with my mob.
10. \_\_\_ I do art with my mob.
11. \_\_\_ I participate in cultural dances.
12. \_\_\_ I eat bush tucker.
13. \_\_\_ I can listen to or watch cultural stories on my phone.
14. \_\_\_ I read cultural stories.
15. \_\_\_ I play in a sporting team for my community.
16. \_\_\_ I live with an Aboriginal foster carer.
17. \_\_\_ I have contact with my one of my parents.
18. \_\_\_ I go to an Aboriginal Medical Service.
19. \_\_\_ I have an Aboriginal doctor.
20. \_\_\_ I have an Aboriginal teacher.
21. \_\_\_ I learn Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal subjects at school.
22. \_\_\_ I can talk to an Aboriginal support person at school.
23. \_\_\_ I speak an Aboriginal language.
24. \_\_\_ I speak more than one Aboriginal language.
25. \_\_\_ I have access to an Aboriginal language interpreter.
26. \_\_\_ I can get information I need in a language I understand.
27. \_\_\_ I can get resources I need in a language I understand.
28. \_\_\_ I have access to an Aboriginal police support worker.
29. \_\_\_ I have a lawyer from the Aboriginal Legal Service.
30. \_\_\_ I have an Aboriginal Community Organisation I can go to that can help me achieve my goals.

Possible Maximum Score: 150 My Score: \_\_\_\_\_

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