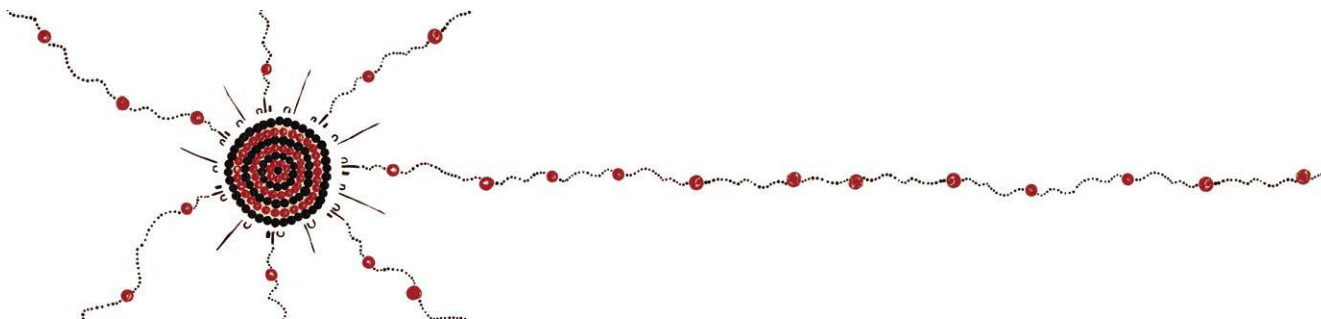


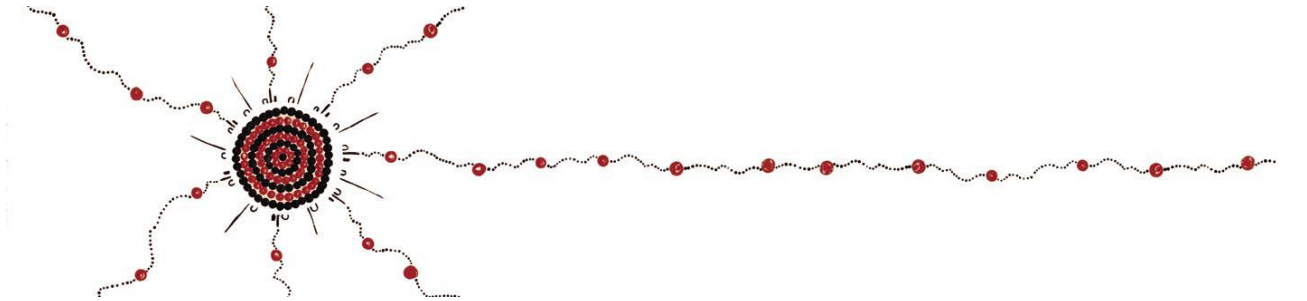


LIVING MY WAY

**A Way Forward; Building the capacity of the
Aboriginal Disability Rights Movement**

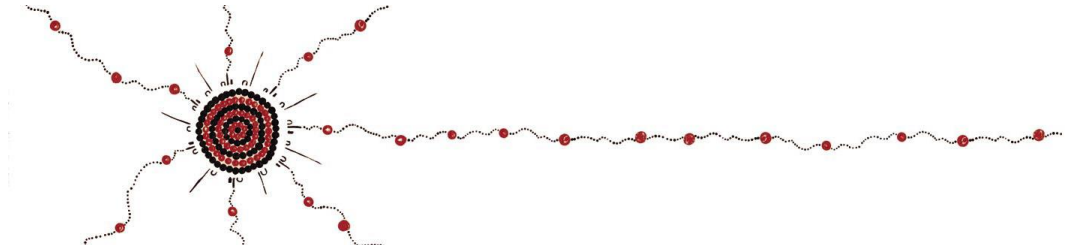
ABORIGINAL DISABILITY NETWORK NSW

www.adnnsw.org.au



Some Facts about disability in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities

- Anecdotally it was believed that the prevalence of disability is twice that of the non-Aboriginal population. (Australia has one of the broadest definitions of disability in the world).
- Very little reference material on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people with disability.
- Many Aboriginal people do not self-identify as a person with disability



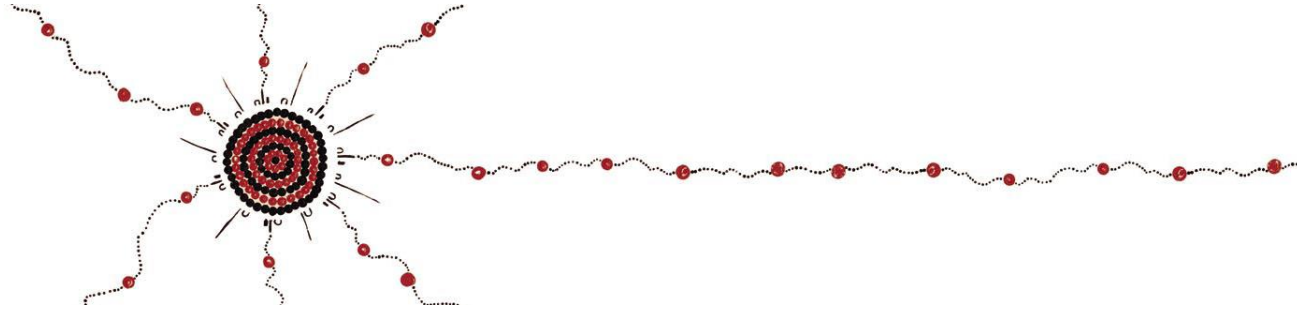
Some Facts about disability in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities

- Many Aboriginal do not identify as people with disability because:

In traditional language there was no comparable word to disability;

Some parents are concerned they may be judged as bad parents, or have their children taken away.

In some communities everyone struggles so having a disability is not viewed as something particularly different.



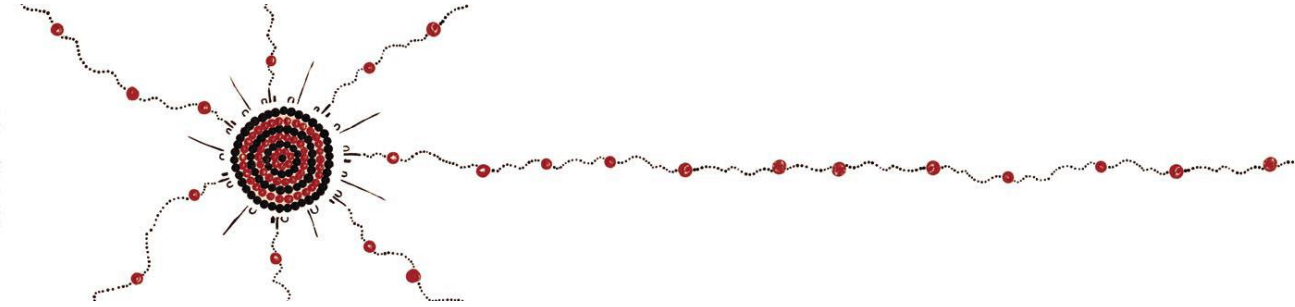
Disability in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Communities; Social factors

Lack of access to good quality healthcare .

Lack of access to appropriate housing and urban infrastructure (including clean water and sanitation)

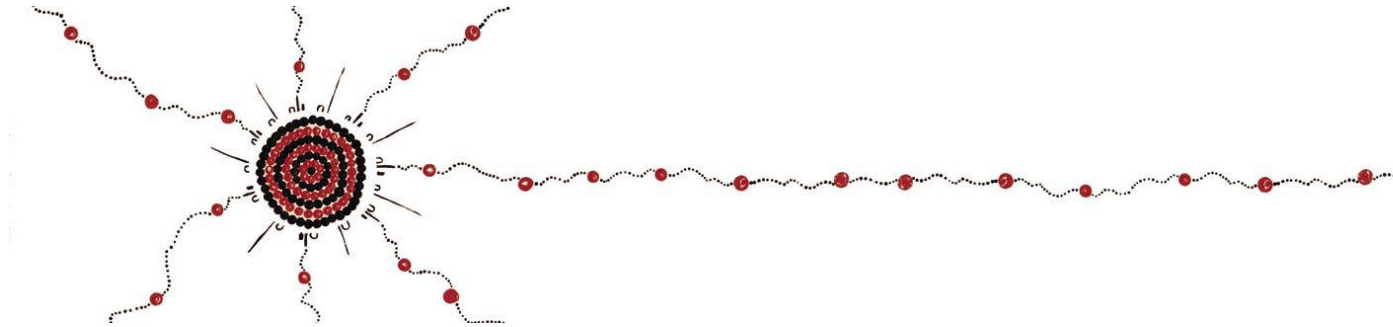
Greater exposure to violence and abuse.

The psycho-social impact of colonisation, dispossession from land.



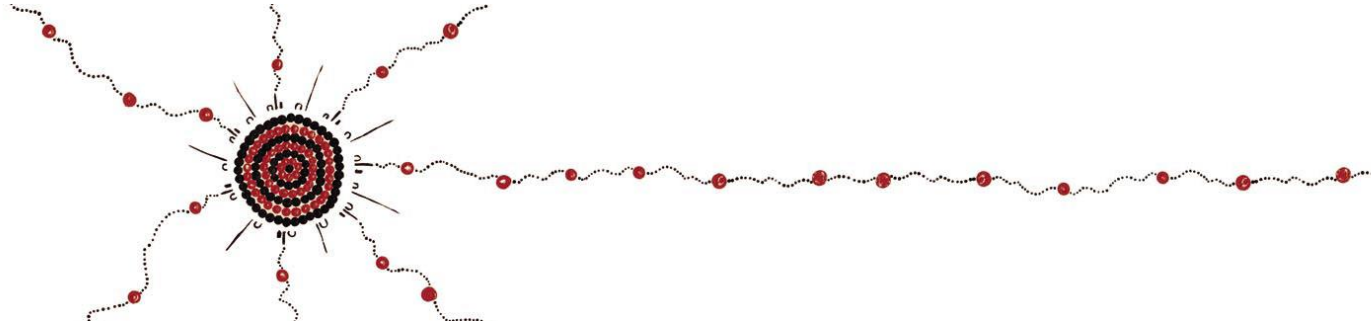
The Lived Experience of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island people with disability

- The denial of the most fundamental of human rights i.e, access to shelter, access to education, employment
- Aboriginal people with disability have different experiences depending on where they live and the availability of services.
- Lack of awareness of special assistance and other beneficial social programs.
- Aboriginal disability is often medicalised.



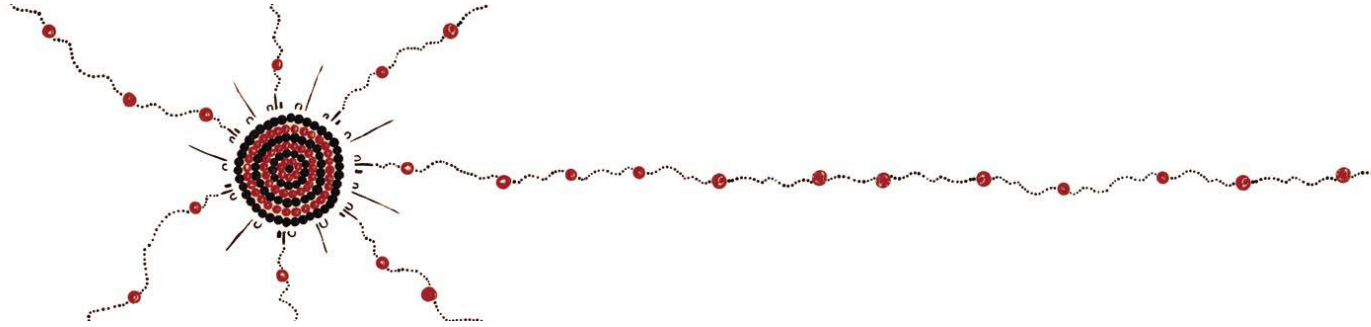
Medical Model of Disability and its negative impact on the lives of Aboriginal people with disability

- Closing the Gap campaign not focused on disability
- Medical model implies that something is wrong with someone and that they need to be cured; not possible given most disability is permanent
- Dominated by the views of medical and other health practitioners and not people with disability themselves.
- Doing 'for' as opposed to doing 'with'



What are we trying to do?

- Give a voice to all Aboriginal people with disability, their families and carers
- Raise awareness of the unmet needs of Aboriginal people with disability.
- Identify Aboriginal people with disability to become leaders in their communities.
- Empower Aboriginal people with disability to be masters of their own destiny.



Come Join Us!

- Get a copy of our report *Telling It Like it Is* or our DVD *“Living My Way”* all available on our website
- Become a member
- Spread the word about our organisation.

Contact Details: www.adnns.org.au

Email:

juner@adnns.org.au