

New Approach to Support Indigenous Families

Australian indigenous child protection service workers will be trained to provide Triple P within Queensland communities, in a culturally-realistic initiative designed to strengthen and nurture indigenous families.

Initially, 60 workers from the State's 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support Services will be trained to deliver Triple P, thanks to an alliance between the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP), The University of Queensland and Triple P.

The scheme is funded by the Queensland Government.

William Hayward, the QATSICPP Member Service Support Officer coordinating the initiative, said the collaboration heralded a new approach to indigenous social services.

Mr Hayward said instead of trying to educate mainstream parenting workers about cultural knowledge and issues, indigenous parent support workers, already sensitive to cultural issues, would be gaining internationally-recognised professional qualifications in Triple P.

“Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family support professionals will deliver Triple P's Positive Parenting Program from a culturally-acceptable and safe perspective ensuring the best possible engagement and positive behaviour

change for our communities' children and families,” said Mr Hayward.

“The collaborative partnership between Triple P, the University of Queensland and the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak is a testament to how mainstream organisations can build the capacity and resources of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service delivery by directly working in partnership with Indigenous organisations and professionals.”

Triple P has Indigenous Triple P, which was developed with the support of many Queensland Indigenous elders, professionals and parents. University of Queensland researchers will seek feedback from the newly-trained Indigenous workers and monitor the outcome for parents and children, and continue to tailor the program and address cultural sensitivities.

Workers will be trained to deliver Indigenous Triple P in a number of ways - Group, Primary Care and Standard. Triple P's Professor Matt Sanders said with Triple P recognised as one of the most rigorously-researched parenting programs in the world, it was important to continue to evaluate and tailor it to the needs of Indigenous parents.

“The Parenting and Family Support Centre is committed to pursuing research and program development to support workers in indigenous communities and

provide better futures for Indigenous families and children,” Professor Sanders said.

“By supporting parents and building their skills and confidence we do have the opportunity to change lives.

“We reduce children’s behavioural and emotional problems. We build strong family relationships and help reduce mental health issues, and we can help prevent family violence.”