

# Acknowledgement to Country

## Derbarl Yerrigan



No Shame No Blame



# Cultural Sensitivity Warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this presentation may contain images, voices and videos of deceased persons.

Participants are warned that there may be words and descriptions that may be culturally sensitive and which might not normally be used in certain public or community contexts.



# Uncomfortable Conversations

Engaging with long term purpose and programs that address systematic disadvantage in local communities





In your  
organization!



# Acknowledge the Past

# Recognise Racist Historical Policies



Close to 100 Acts that dictated  
Aboriginal peoples lives  
1829- 'settlement of WA on ' wild and  
unoccupied lands'

1992- Mabo decision-This decision  
altered the foundation of land law in  
Australia and rendered terra nullius a  
legal fiction

Only took 163 YEARS to acknowledge  
that Aboriginal people had rights on  
their land





# Educate your Organisation

---

**Implement**

Implement mandated history sessions for ALL staff at ALL levels regardless of how long they have been employed

---

**Get**

When you have learnt the history, get a working group together and unpack your policies...

---

**Ask**

If your working in community, ask the children in what they need PLEASE NO CHEAP SAUSAGES!

---

**Organise**

Organise monetary payments for parents or grandparents to attend these workshops

---

**Listen**

Please listen with intent...meaning listen with the will to make a difference

---

**Don't leave**

Don't leave any stone unturned...

---






# Understand Trauma

- Intergenerational
- Transgenerational
- Historical



# Trauma Informed Programs

---

- Places where the Aboriginal people access should be culturally SAFE
  - Frontline staff must build trustworthiness and transparency when engaging
  - Cultural Support from Aboriginal staff
  - Collaboration and Mutuality- Aboriginal people must be active participants in their community decisions
  - A voice and a choice- to prevent re-traumatization
- 



# Tired Old Policies

- Who is making these policies?
- Unpack all your policies, find out where they came from? How long have they been there?
- Do these policies consider the needs of Aboriginal children and families?
- Will being flexible in them improve relationships with the local community? Or are they making them worse?
- Are they necessary policies?
- If it supports closing the gap initiative, what's stopping you from changing it?

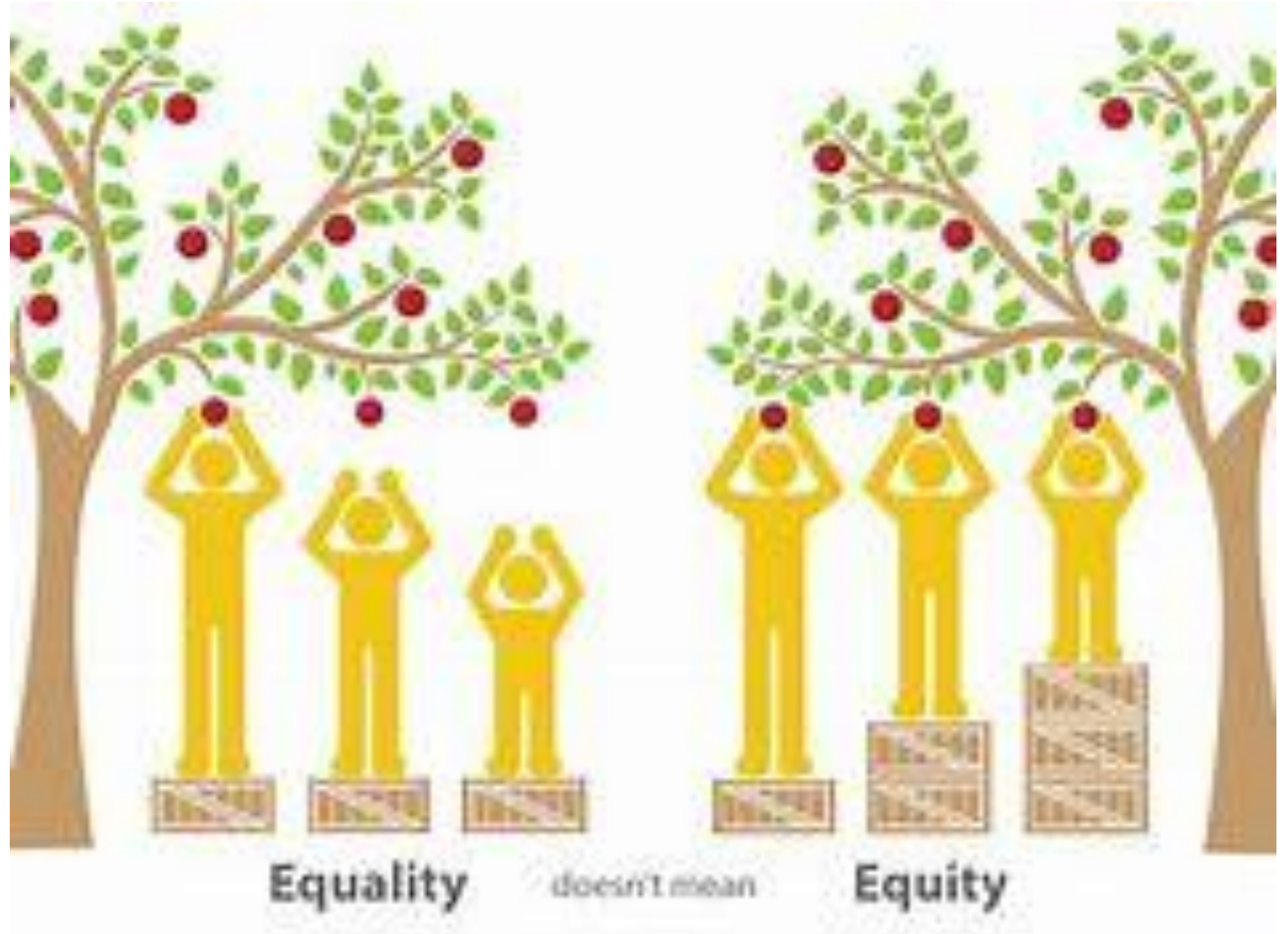


# Accountability Equals Justice

- answerability,
- blameworthiness,
- liability;
- and the expectation of account-giving



Where are the Apples Landing?



The image shows the silhouettes of four children sitting on a metal railing. They are positioned against a bright, low sun, likely at sunset or sunrise, which creates a strong backlighting effect. The children are in profile, looking towards the left. The background is a clear sky with a warm, golden glow from the sun. The overall mood is contemplative and poignant.

# Youth Drop-ins

- Responsibility is not seen the same
- Aboriginal children are responsible for their siblings at a much younger age
- So if you have youth programs and drop ins that target 12-25 year old's, where do the younger siblings go?
- Policies favour the 12 and up ages, we need to change community centre drop ins to accommodate older siblings caring for younger ones so they are not left out to dry.....
- **KEEP THE YOUNG ONES SAFE!**



---

# Children At Risk Programs

- Please please please have policies that support children who are not at school during school hours
- Please do NOT call the police unless serious
- Designate a safe place for them to come to, when they are experiencing issues at school
- Do Not make DCP your first point of call! Try all the other avenues before you do
- We need to keep our most vulnerable children safe at all times



# Programs to Support Grandparents

---

- Engage and talk to grandparents
- Include them in the discussions when designing programs
- Offer monetary payments for their time
- Meet with on a regular basis to build relationships





We need  
each other



**Compassion**



# Practice Empathy

A little bit of  
empathy goes a  
long way...

