

Using 'strong and deadly' partnerships to raise awareness and increase understanding of autism in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia

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Disability in general is a very sensitive and often unspoken discussion in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander communities across Australia. Autism in particular is often unrecognised and misunderstood. Working with communities to start these tricky and sensitive conversations requires careful consideration and extensive planning. Working in partnership and learning from and with key Aboriginal organisations as champions and mentors is a critical component to success. During this session, we will follow the journey taken between Positive Partnerships and the First People Disability Network as they share their story. This journey has led to a strong and respected partnership committed to raising awareness and increasing an understanding of autism in Aboriginal communities across Australia. In collaboration, this partnership has led to the creation of culturally respectful and relevant content, materials and approaches to support Aboriginal communities based on the Aboriginal 8 ways of learning.