

Listening to quiet voices: the experiences of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families accessing Play Therapy with an Aboriginal Play Therapist on Bunurong Country

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Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children are underrepresented in play therapy research in Australia. This PhD project uses a qualitative multiple case study design, exploring the experiences of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and their caregivers accessing play therapy on Bunurong/Boon Wurrung Country. Data will be generated through play therapy sessions, yarning and practitioner reflexive journaling. Grounded in an Indigenous Research Paradigm, the framework integrates Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Indigenous Standpoint Theory. Findings will contribute to a strength-based, decolonising therapeutic framework informed by children, families and community.

Rhianna (she/her) is a Pakana woman, born and raised on GunaiKurnai Country in East Gippsland, now living and working on Bunurong/Boon Wurrung Country. With over 10 years' experience in early childhood education and intervention, she holds a Master of Play Therapy and works as a Registered Play Therapist with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and families, while undertaking her PhD within the Relighting the Firesticks project.

Melbourne
School of
Population &
Global Health



PhD Confirmation Seminar



Seminar Details

When

Tuesday, 24 March 2026
10.00-11:00AM

Where

Seminar Room 515, 207 Bouverie
St, Carlton, or join

Zoom ID: 821 6224 8491
Password: 069162

Registration is not required.