

Exploring the experience of South Australian Aboriginal Patients following the confirmation of their kidney transplantation until their discharge: a qualitative study



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BACKGROUND

- Australian Aboriginal people experience higher rates of kidney failure in comparison to non-Aboriginal Australians¹, where a kidney transplantation is considered the optimal treatment.²
- Current healthcare systems follow biomedical models of care, focussing on the treatment of disease rather than the Indigenous values of Aboriginal people³, which results in poorer kidney care experiences and health outcomes³⁻⁴.

AIM

To explore the experiences of South Australian Aboriginal people following the confirmation of their kidney transplantation until their discharge.

METHODS

- Qualitative descriptive research guided by an Aboriginal Participatory Action Research methodology.
- Interviewed and mapped journey⁵ of two Aboriginal patients who have recently experienced a kidney transplantation.

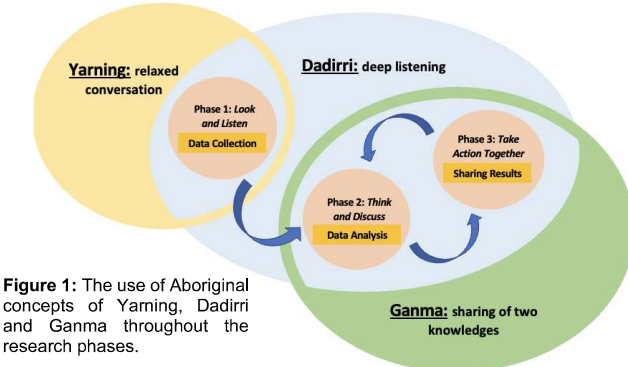


Figure 1: The use of Aboriginal concepts of Yarning, Dadirri and Ganma throughout the research phases.

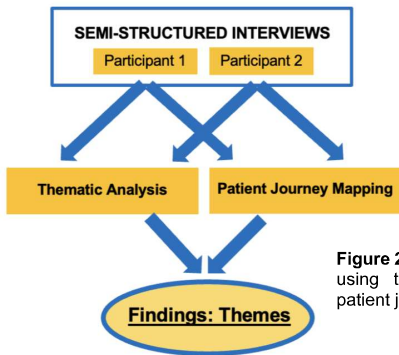
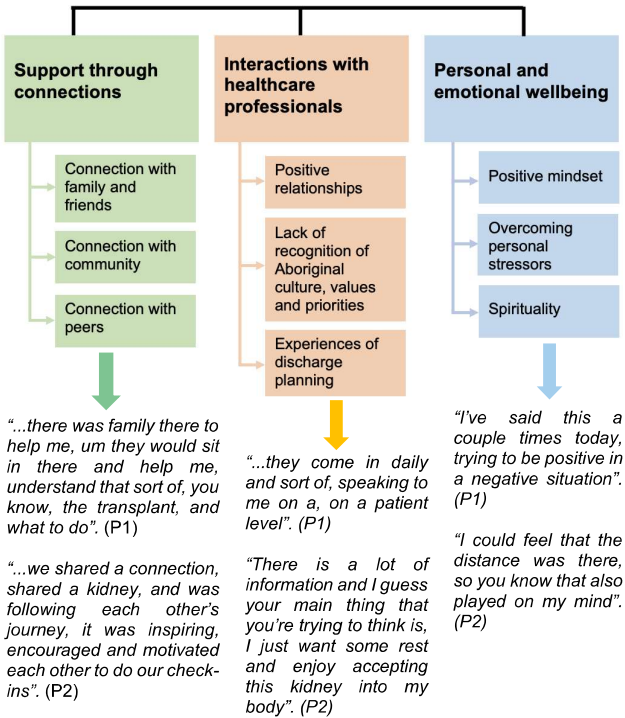


Figure 2: Approach to methods using thematic analysis and patient journey mapping.

RESULTS

Three key themes emerged from two separate findings of both participants, which reflect the specific concerns, priorities, and experiences of the participant's kidney transplant journey.

Figure 3: Emerging themes and subthemes.



DISCUSSION

- Meaningful involvement of family members was a main priority for Aboriginal patients during their kidney transplantation journey.
- Strong relationships and rapport between healthcare professionals and patients improved patient satisfaction, cultural identity and discharge planning experiences.
- “Information overload” negatively interfered with the recovery of Aboriginal patient’s journeys.

CONCLUSION

By exploring the kidney transplant journeys of Aboriginal people from their perspective, healthcare systems and professionals can be informed of how to best support holistic care.

Acknowledgement

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