

QAF case study – Adam’s Aboriginal Culture



THE YOUNG PERSON

Adam* is a 12 year old Aboriginal boy who was placed in kinship care when he was 10.

Adam had limited knowledge of his culture however by participating in the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) his journey to increased cultural understanding and a stronger connection to his mother began.

CASEWORK AND THE QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Adam completed the QAF Aboriginal Cultural Connections Questions a number of times over some years. This allowed important information to come to light, including Adam’s desire to know more about his culture.

The caseworker was able to understand that Adam knew his family mob, but did not answer who they were. He knew his totem but did not say what it actually was. The information gathered from Adam via the questionnaires showed that he wanted to know more and felt more connected to his community through Aboriginal caseworkers, services, school groups and family/kin. The case worker was able to use this valuable information to connect with Adam, his mother and other family members.

*Name/s changed to protect the privacy of individuals

THE OUTCOME

The caseworker by working with Adam and discussing the results from the QAF questionnaires was able to implement steps to help increase his awareness and knowledge of his culture. Adam participated in more Aboriginal activities including exposure to Aboriginal men’s business through his maternal grandfather who is a well-respected Aboriginal ‘knowledge holder’.

After completing a few QAF Aboriginal Cultural Questions over time it showed that Adam’s cultural identity and knowledge was growing. Initially Adam was unable to name his dad’s mob and progressed to being able to name it and proudly stated that Ginigay is ‘hello’. In subsequent questionnaires the young person’s understanding of his mother’s land also increased.

Adam’s mother was a proud Aboriginal woman and was delighted to know her son had a desire to know more about their culture. The caseworker saw the opportunity to engage mum who took him to sacred sites to help instil identity, kinship, strength and healing in his general wellbeing. They went to see Aboriginal rock art and set up an art space for Adam to express himself. Mum takes every opportunity possible to take him out on country and to teach Aboriginal art and language.

The QAF questionnaires allowed for Adam’s desire for a greater cultural connection to be identified and plans put in place to support this. Adam’s increased cultural connection improved his relationship with mum. Adam is now in the process of being restored to his mum.