

Title: Listening to Country: Exploring the value of acoustic ecology with incarcerated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Abstract

We will present the knowledge translation strategy for the project 'Listening to Country', that was completed in Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre (BWCC) in early 2019. Acoustic ecology is the study of the relationship, mediated through sound, between human beings and their environment. The aim of 'Listening to Country' was to explore the value of acoustic ecology to promote cultural connection, maintenance and wellbeing among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in prison. The researchers worked with women in BWCC to produce a one-hour immersive audio work based on field recordings of natural environments. They were supported throughout this process by two Aboriginal Elders from the Brisbane Council of Elders. The knowledge translation strategy for this project was, in the first instance, focused on sharing knowledge with the women in BWCC about acoustic ecology, the technical aspects of audio recording, and using arts-based methodologies to share stories of culture, belonging and Country. Now that the pilot has been completed, the research team will be sharing the project with the Murri Dhagun Cultural Unit at Queensland Corrective Services, the Brisbane Council of Elders, and then in other prisons and communities around Queensland, e.g. Southern Queensland Correctional Centre, Townsville Correctional Centre, Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, Mitchell QLD, Cherbourg Community, Sunshine Coast and more. This will take the form of workshops, where the team will share the audio work with different groups, talk about our approach, and build capacity for the model to be used in these additional contexts.

Presenters

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