Australian National University

Co-Creating Safe Spaces

Safe spaces are an alternative to emergency departments, which are often unable to provide optimum care for people experiencing emotional distress and/or suicidal crisis.

There are a number of different types of safe spaces being trialled in Australia but there is not much research on how effective they are.

What we are doing

A co-creation project requires a recognition of equal and shared knowledge across all groups involved in the service. This particularly references people accessing the service and peer workers.

The project will also requires the involvement of all stakeholders in data collection, analysis and dissemination of results.

Below is our evaluation wheel, which can be accessed from a tablet at the safe space and is one of our novel, co-created data collection tools. We are also conducting other surveys and qualitative interviews that evolve as knowledge increases .
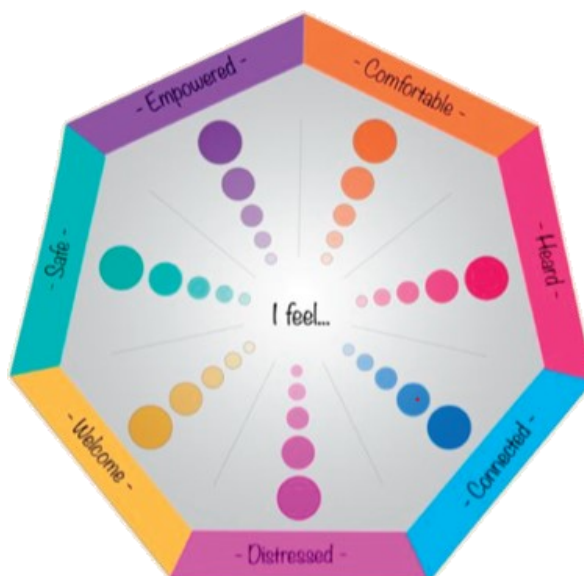
What we have found so far

Results so far relate to the co creation process itself. We have found that while a manual of key points may be of assistance for the process, the key driver for success is the trust relationship and sharing of power amongst stakeholders is also necessary. The open communication thus fostered helps ensure that people's ongoing requirements are met as those requirements change over time.

Want to learn more?

For more information about ACACIA's research projects, head to the "Our Research" page on the ACACIA website:

http:/nceph.anu.edu.au/acacia