

The Guddi Way Screen Fact Sheet

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SYNAPSE Guddi

# What is the Guddi Way Screen?

The Guddi Way Screen is a culturally developed and culturally sensitive process to screen for cognitive impairment in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

- It assesses cognitive functioning across domains including: orientation, attention, language, recall, visuospatial skills, and executive function.
- It includes an acute health screen to assess interviewees physical wellbeing.
- Social and emotional wellbeing screens and a needs assessment are integrated as part of the holistic interview protocol.
- It uses an engaging and culturally safe 'yarning' method.
- It is not diagnostic in nature.
- With the correct and culturally appropriate training it can be administered by a layperson.

# Why do a Guddi Way Screen?

To understand the possible cognitive impairments and associated functional impacts, mental health symptoms, and unmet support needs a person may have:

- to indicate referrals for further testing,
- to better tailor support for someone with cognitive impairment,
- to improve access to specialist and mainstream services and supports.



### **Cultural Protocol**

The cultural protocol uses a culturally sensitive framework for engaging with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities using "Proper Way" methods. The protocol is culturally appropriate methods and processes for administering the screen. "Proper way" is a way of doing business in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities that responds to a community's values and customs. "Proper Way" protocols include waiting to be invited; seeking advice on how to proceed; coming back to report results; and capacity building. Guddi administrators are trained to use an informal, engaging and reflective approach that respects the story of the individual and community.

## **Validation**

The Guddi Way Screen uses items, which are culturally valid and relevant to cognitive impairment. Preliminary validation work indicates good predictive value for a wide range of people.







Guddi means come home, come heal, come rest in the Kuku Yalanji language.



