

## THE “WHAT MAKES US (me) STRONG” STORY

(Note: It is very important to “show” the story by drawing in the sand and acting out a time line showing at least 60,000 years. Use parallel lines to depict the histories of world cultures as you tell the story. Use a strong continuous line for Indigenous culture and a many broken line for other world cultural histories.)

**Translate into first language if at all possible.**

A long, long time ago, out of the dreaming, people started to walkabout and live in Australia.  
Over 400 different tribes.  
Each with their own culture, Law and language.  
Living together, co-operating, sharing.  
Plenty of fights. But finding ways to overcome disagreements so that people and culture were still kept **safe and strong**.  
Different cultures, but bound together by their common belief that **everything is connected**; and that every man, woman, and child must **respect** themselves, each other and their country/culture.  
Everyone: children, women and men shared **responsibility** to keep Law and Country **Strong**.  
Keeping a **balance** between people and country through many, many seasons: wet and dry and all the seasons in between.  
Year, after year, after year.  
For thousands and thousands of years they kept themselves and their country **strong**.  
During that time the climate changed enormously. Some seas dried up and others flooded the land.  
The land changed. Sometimes even the food changed.  
Aboriginal people had to **change** many things they did, but **they still kept themselves and their country strong**.

At the same time in other parts of the world: in Africa, Europe, Asia and America many other people were living.  
Sometimes they lived peacefully for some time.  
But then they would fight each other and take each other’s land.  
Sometimes so many people would be killed that whole tribes would be wiped out.  
They could not share or live in balance with the land.  
They could not share power or responsibility.  
This kept happening. Again and again and again.....  
So many fights, so much killing.....  
Women and children suffered most.  
After a long time and when the climate got warmer, many of these people in other countries stopped walking around and started to live in towns and cities.  
Often they made and invented wonderful things like the pyramids, temples and churches:  
They came to believe in different Gods: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.  
But still they could not respect each other or their different cultures.  
More fighting, more wars.  
And they still did not look after the Land.

Then, 200 years ago Captain Cook and people from other countries came to Australia.  
(Show intersecting time lines that keep crossing over each other but not becoming one line)  
These new fellas from lots of different countries have been learning many things from Aboriginal people. These new fellas also know and have lots of useful things: like cars to travel around, and guns to make hunting easier.

But these white fellas also have a lot to learn.

White fella's culture is always very busy making and buying lots of "things", smoking and drinking.

Lots of things that Indigenous people want too.

But to be **safe and strong** white fellas and Anangu need to teach their children how to make **good choices**.

**Choices that show respect for themselves, each other and country.**

**Choices where children take responsibility for looking after themselves, each other and country.**

**What can we and you do together in the school to make this happen ?**

Note: this is also a powerful story to tell to individual children and adults as a way of establishing connection to a positive cultural model for living (and to initiate therapeutic interventions).

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