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Individual Quality of Life Among at Risk Indigenous Youth

Abstract:

This paper discusses the use of the schedule for the evaluation of individual quality of Life (SEIQoL) to document the baseline quality of life for Male Indigenous youth who were referred to an intervention program as a result of their criminal behaviour. The intervention, which was initiated by the Balunu Foundation involves the youth being involved in a camp away from their usual urban environment, and participating in a series of exercises designed to build their self esteem, leadership skills and their connections with family, culture and community.

Balunu Foundation are keen to monitor the success of their intervention and have initiated an evaluation process which involves a longitudinal study of the youth involved in the program. The SEIQoL was chosen as an instrument for the evaluation, as it does not impose categories on the youth and because it is also a useful therapeutic tool, in that it encourages discussion of quality of life issues and the things that the youth consider to be most important to them.