Handout 15: Factors Increasing the Risk of Mental Ill-health for Aboriginal People

What are the historical and current factors which increase the risk of mental ill-health for Aboriginal people?

• Impact of colonisation
• Removal from their land
• Government policies of ‘protection’, segregation and assimilation
• Removal of Aboriginal children from their families
• Economic, educational and employment disadvantage
• Welfare dependency/poverty
• Drug abuse
• Violence in some Aboriginal communities
• Racism