

TRUST

Why has trust broken down in our communities?

Cape York Land & Health Summit 2001

Compare

1971

2001



Compare

1971

2001

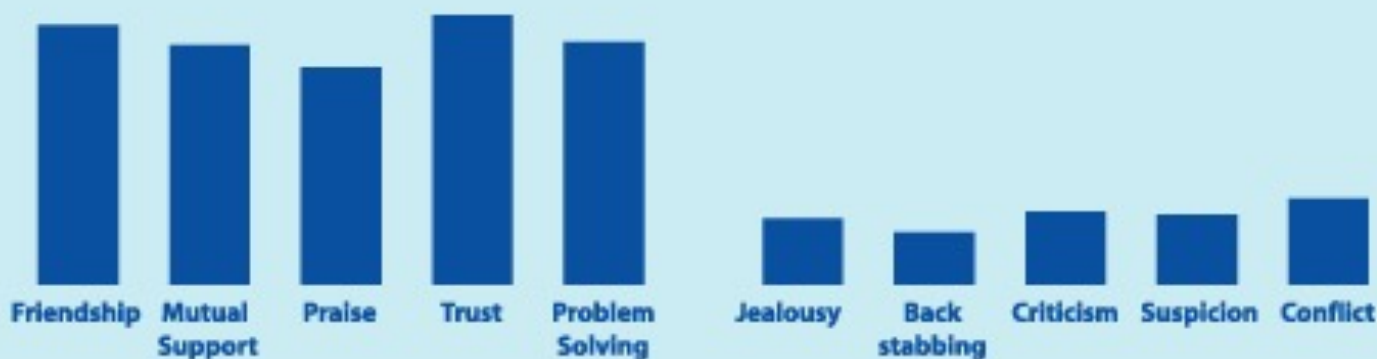


1971

2001



Strong Societies



High Positives

Low Negatives

"Outback Ghettos"



Low Positives

High Negatives

The key to a successful community is

TRUST

In one another

In our leaders

In our organisations

In our families

Why has **TRUST** broken down
amongst our people ?

**A theory about
how our problems are structural**

**We have come from a flat traditional society
- but now we live in a pyramid society**

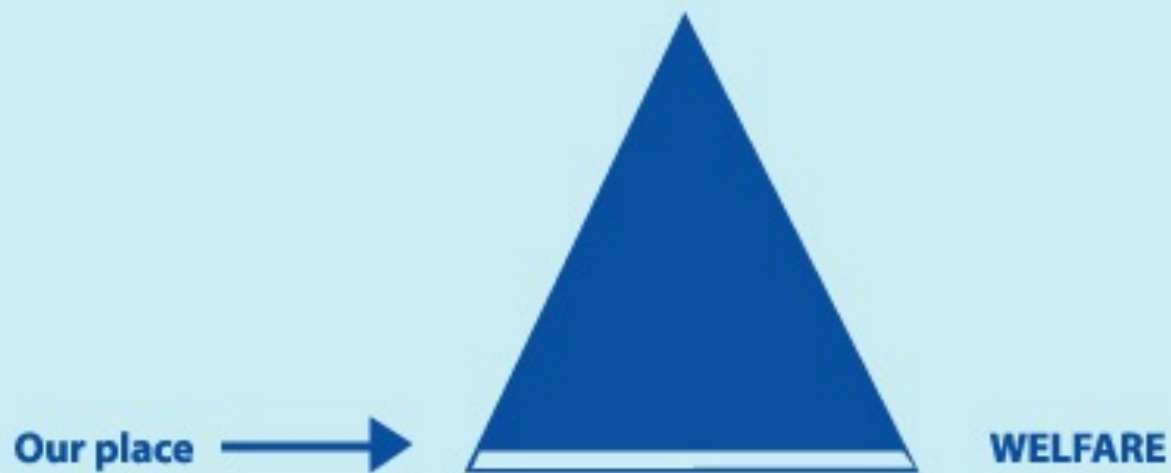


Hunter Gatherer Society



Capitalist Society

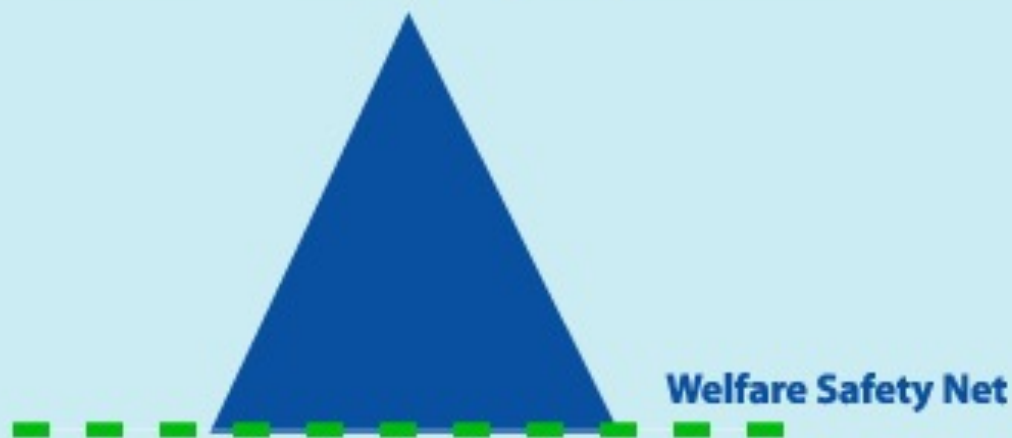
Poor people live at the bottom of the pyramid



Poor people live at the bottom of the pyramid



**Australia is a Welfare State:
the safety net sets the lowest limit that
Australians will allow people to sink to**



**But after many years of passive welfare,
Aboriginal people in fact end up in an underclass
because the safety net does not protect us from sinking further down
- in fact it weakens us**



**If everybody were able to work for and get what they want
- better material conditions and happiness
- then the economic structure of society would have to flatten out**



But capitalism doesn't work in a flat society - capitalism and pyramid society go together



Some people are allowed to move upwards in the pyramid



Many people are encouraged to be happy to stay where they are



Many people are encouraged to be busy struggling against people at the same level as themselves (ethnic conflict, crime)



Many people are encouraged to fight against people in a worse position than they are (downward envy, xenophobia, racism)



Many people are encouraged to see themselves as victims and resign themselves to sliding down even further (grog, drugs, self harm, gambling)

So instead of everybody:



Aiming for something better



Uniting and getting organised for something better

People are instead:

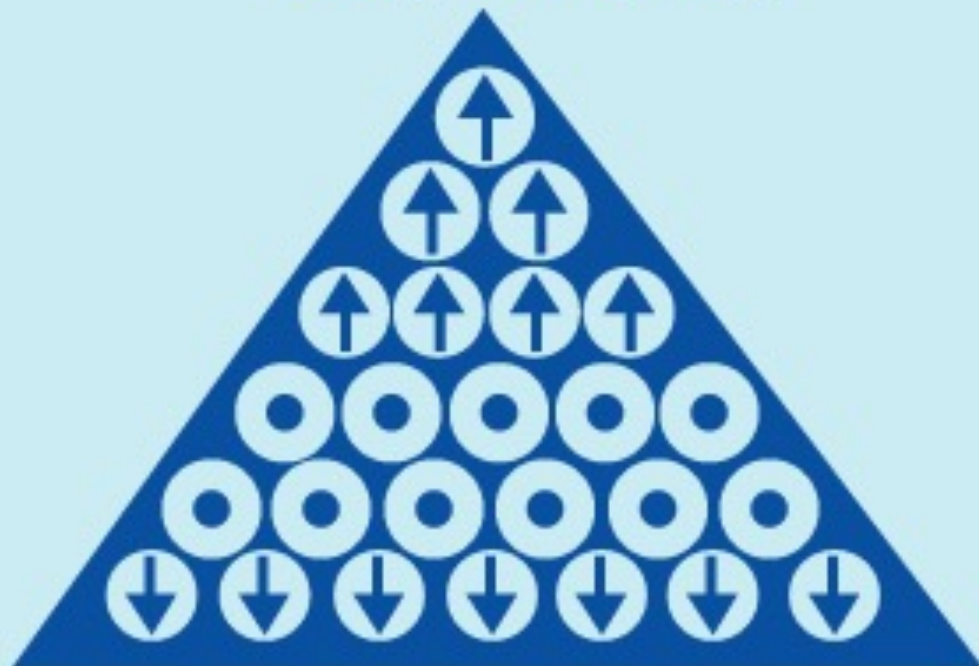


Divided and diverted



Confused

**So the structure of capitalist society remains like a pyramid
- because the great mass of the people are prepared
to support inequality**



Poor people live at the bottom of the pyramid

C19th Capitalism



C20th Welfare State Capitalism



C21st Post-welfare State New Economy



**How do we advance as a people
in a Capitalist society?**



Rules of advancement in a capitalist society



1. **You have capital**



2. **You are an entrepreneur and can contribute to wealth creation**



3. **You are educated and creative and have knowledge and you can contribute to wealth creation**

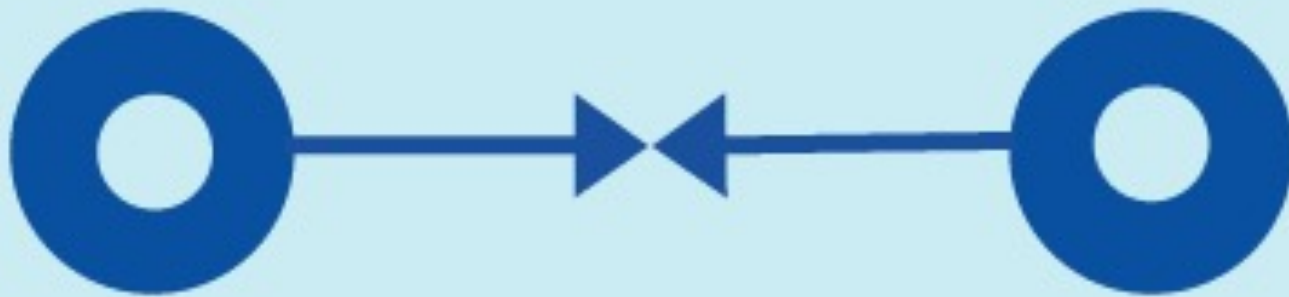
**But for those who want to advance
there are more snakes than ladders
in a capitalist society**





Snake No.1

Get blackfellas to fight amongst each other






Snake No.2

Get poor people to discourage and pull each other down



Who the hell do you think you are?



You're a useless black cunt like the rest of us



Snake No.3

Get blackfellas to aim low

**Dont think you can climb
that ladder ... be satisfied
with what you got**





Snake No.4

Get blackfellas preoccupied with grog and drugs





Snake No.5

**Get blackfella to think they dont care
about money and property**



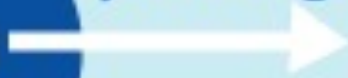


Snake No.6

**Get blackfellas to be jealous of other blackfellas
- but not whitefellas**



**Look across at
your neighbour**



**Dont look
upwards**



Snake No.7

**Weaken blackfellas by
encouraging them to feel sorry for themselves
so they never get organised**



**You are a victim!
You can't help it if you
are heading downhill**





Snake No.8

Confuse blackfellas by making snakes look like ladders



**The white friends and some
blackfellas have the job
of creating this confusion**

How do we climb up as a people?





Ladder No. 1

We need to understand how this capitalist society works



Ladder No. 2

**We need a zig-zag strategy to climb upwards
- because there are many snakes and many ladders**





Ladder No. 3

We have to get sober and get clear from drugs



Ladder No. 4

**We have to get unified and we must
be strong and have trust amongst our people**



Ladder No. 5

We have to get our people educated



Ladder No. 6

We have to have mutual support and reinvestment in our own people - people who climb up the ladders must make sure the next mob can follow them up the ladder



Ladder No. 7

**We must stop wasting our capital
- and giving it back to whitefellas to make them more rich**



Ladder No. 8

**We must wake up to confusions:
recognise that many of the ladders are in fact snakes**



Ladder No.9

**We must wake up to the confusions:
recognise that many of the snakes are in fact ladders**



Ladder No. 10

We must understand that many of our "friends" cause the confusion - in fact that is thier function in society