

Mandatory Aboriginal cultural education: What does it mean?

Aboriginal Education and Training Policy



What does the Policy say about Aboriginal cultural education?

Section 1.1.4 of the Policy states that the Department will provide Aboriginal cultural education for all staff...as it is everybody's business.

Section 1.2 states that Aboriginal education and training involves continuous, lifelong learning. It includes:

- mandatory Aboriginal cultural education through professional learning and career development experiences for all staff (section 1.2.3).

Through these statements of the Policy, the Department acknowledges that competencies in Aboriginal cultures are essential understandings and skills for people working in a service that delivers education and training.

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What is the background to this mandate?

Many voices have spoken about the importance of all staff being able to connect competently, respectfully and sensitively with Aboriginal people.

"Repeatedly, teacher and community consultations and submissions expressed the urgent need for all staff to be provided with an Aboriginal cultural education component..."

The Report of the Review of Aboriginal Education 2004 (page 124)

How will this be achieved?

Mandated Aboriginal cultural education will be achieved through all staff undertaking pathways in *Building Cultural Competencies in Aboriginal Cultures*.

What do you do next?

Engage and build relationship with Aboriginal peoples and communities to improve education and training outcomes by:

- Identifying and selecting the best learning pathway for you in 'Building Cultural Competencies in Aboriginal Cultures'
- Reflecting and refining what you already practice that engages with Aboriginal learners and communities, and
- Applying your learning in your work site, and
- Sharing your successes in Aboriginal education and training.

Further information

To understand the information provided here in context please refer to the Policy. You can download the Policy from the web: https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/students/access_equity/ab_orig_edu/PD20080385.shtml

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