



Acknowledgment of Country



Occupational therapy professional and cultural competencies: Have we got what it takes to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

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Contextualising our discussion....



Professional cultural competencies

- ❖ Are contextualised by historical, political, social and cultural factors.

The current NAIDOC theme, **We all stand on sacred ground: Learn, respect and celebrate**, will be used to answer the question: Have we got what it takes to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?

Knowledge

Celebrate: The broad understanding of culture.

Learn: The local impact of cultural, political and historical patterns on occupations and OT.

Respect: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, knowledge systems and lived experiences.



Values

Celebrate: The increasing variety of paradigms in OT.

Learn: To better understand how OT discourse and practice sometimes does not reflect OT values.

Respect: The feelings of discomfort that may result from exploring and growing values



Skills

Celebrate: A broad range of generic skills.

Learn: In partnership, to extend and grow professional skills.

Respect: Through action, growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander OT workforce.



Attributes

Celebrate: OT literature beginning to reflect on power and privilege.

Learn: To break down Western power and privilege to create "third spaces" in OT.

Respect: That we are only at the beginning of our professional cultural competency journey.





The way forward for occupational therapy:

1. Develop and maintain collaborative and authentic partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
2. Expand occupational therapy knowledge and practice so that encompasses and respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research and knowledge
3. Grow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander occupational therapy workforce