

GETTING IT RIGHT

Creating partnerships for change

Integrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge in Australian social work education and practice

Associate Professor Sue Green and Associate Professor Joanna Zubrzycki



With the UNIVERSITY OF NSW & Funded by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching

The background is a watercolor-style illustration in shades of brown, tan, and orange. It features several horizontal, wavy bands of small, dark brown circular dots, resembling a traditional pattern or perhaps a microscopic view of a biological structure. The overall texture is soft and painterly.

**Acknowledgement of country, Elders and
traditional custodians**

Presentation outline

- Project objectives
- How might reforming Australian social work curriculum address racism?

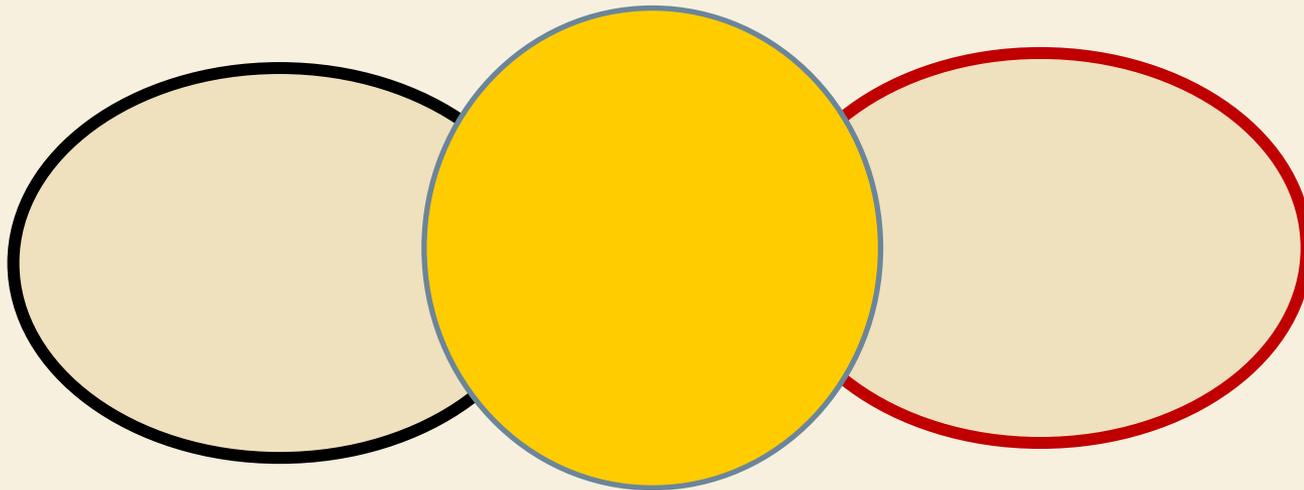
Project background

Two year national project, funded in late 2011 by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council – now called Office of Learning and Teaching (DEEWR)

Aim - To make a substantial contribution to the process of Indigenising Australian social work education in order to better prepare social work graduates to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Situating Indigenous World Views and Practices in the Academy and the Profession

Third Cultural Space



The yellow centre represents spaces of not knowing — third cultural space of innovation and creation. Model by J Davis (2008).

National context

1. AASW Education and Accreditation Standards
 - Statement of specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander curriculum content for social work qualifying courses:
 - Developed by an Indigenous reference group
 - At the end of 2011, draft Statement circulated nationally
 - By the end of 2012, Standards to inform all Australian qualifying courses

National context

2. Growing body of evidence that social work practice that is informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives can lead to more culturally effective and creative practices
3. The integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge in higher education also encourages more Indigenous people into the profession

How might social work curriculum reform address racism?

1. Social work has a particular history with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people which cannot be ignored
3. Colonisation has created a legacy for everyone and racism is one expression of that legacy

Addressing racism through curriculum reform

3. Our own cultural identities – reflecting on who we are/how do others view us/how might this impact on our practice?
4. The privilege of whiteness and how this influences practice, processes, policies and structures – challenges race neutral discourse

Addressing racism through curriculum reform

5. The importance of self-awareness and the danger of 'othering'

6. The importance and need to reflect on our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

7. Racism can be experienced between members of different cultural groups as well as by outsiders (individuals), at all areas and levels of service delivery

Contact Details

- Joanna Zubrzycki
Project Leader

Joanna.Zubrzycki@acu.edu.au

Ph: (02) 6209 1159

- Drashna Hammer
Research Associate

Drashna.Hammer@acu.edu.au

Ph: (02) 6209 1156