



AITSL: National Dialogue
Indigenous Cultural Competency in the Australian Teaching
Workforce
18 & 19 May 2021

AITSL is exploring how teachers and leaders in schools across Australia can be supported to enhance their Indigenous cultural competency. This multi-year project involves extensive consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts, communities and the teaching profession and is being guided by the AITSL Advisory Group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education.

The 2 day national dialogue involved First Nations People, Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators from all sectors, states and territories. The Participants were provided with a Progress Report from the consultations and research that had taken place up until January 2021. The four areas of discussion at the National Dialogue were:

1. What does a culturally competent teaching workforce (including teachers, school leaders, and schools) look like?
2. What does a teacher/school leader need to be culturally competent? What will it take?
3. What does cultural safety look like in schools?
4. What might be some of the challenges or barriers we face in developing a culturally competent teaching workforce?

There were keynote speakers and researchers on Day 1 and consultative workshops for all participants on Day 2. The next step is for AITSL to analyse the feedback and consultations to develop key themes and actions for the future. One key feedback point was that a new title was needed as it was felt “competency” was not the concept to use. There was great enthusiasm amongst the participants for actions to be implemented urgently. AITSL’s findings will be released later this year.

