

## Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children: A framework for understanding online course

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this resource may contain images or names of people who have passed away.

### About this course

This course is designed to assist non-Indigenous practitioners to develop the skills and understanding to build genuine partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities.

It invites you to approach this learning with curiosity and a willingness to reflect on the cultural lens everyone brings to interactions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, as well as consider the impact this has on engagement with those families.

The course provides a Framework for Understanding that will enhance your engagement with families and is based on the narratives and lived-experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### Why was this course developed?

The barriers to mainstream service providers working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities are well researched. At times, these barriers can seem impenetrable and positive practice can seem out of reach. With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children disproportionately represented



1HR 30MIN

Start course

in child protection, homelessness services and juvenile justice systems, we know that mainstream services increasingly must work with these children, their families and their communities and must be able to do so effectively.

At times this story of over-representation and disadvantage shapes our interactions and can create a story that might be for some but is not for all. How do you get to know the families and avoid getting caught in a story potentially coloured by white ways of doing business?

This course has been developed from the Emerging Minds [Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families and Children Toolkit](#). It draws on the expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultants, practitioners and organisations, along with non-Indigenous practitioners and organisations. Rather than focusing on why it is difficult to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, their families and communities, it will explore how non-Indigenous practitioners and services can develop genuine connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to create the best conditions for effective service delivery; services based on respect, learning and creating shared understandings.

## How was this course developed?

This course was developed with support and guidance from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to specifically support non-Indigenous practitioners in mainstream organisations to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Emerging Minds would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, children, practitioners and organisations have provided in the development of this course.

Emerging Minds would also like to recognise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander National Consultancy Members, and the dedicated professionals who inform our work for the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

## Who is this course for?

This course is for non-Indigenous practitioners who work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities.

## What is included in this course?

This course includes readings, videos and reflective activities. It is designed to be undertaken individually, but can also be used as a prompt for conversations between colleagues.

## Learning outcomes

This course will help you to:

- understand the history and context of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, families and individuals
- gain a clearer understanding of the context of a presenting problem or issue within families' lives
- understand the worries, concerns and aspirations that families have regarding their children's social and emotional wellbeing

- develop a deeper understanding of the context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families' experiences, and how this affects wellbeing, as well as contributes to the protective factors that help families recover
- broaden your understanding of the role and influence of kinship and family relationships in infants' and children's social and emotional wellbeing.

## Assessment

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resources developed by Emerging Minds aim to 'decentre' the expert. With this fundamental principle in mind, and with guidance from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultancy Group, this course will not provide you with a certificate.

The reasoning behind this is as follows:

- Cultural competency trainings should be provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations.
- Emerging Minds does not endorse this resource being used to meet cultural training requirements.
- Engaging with, and valuing, local knowledge and connections is the core principle for any work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and therefore takes precedence over a centralised training course.