

Workshop 09: Engaging with the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health competencies – exploring what this means for practitioners and educators

Presenters

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Overview

In 2021, the newest National Competency Standards for Dietitians in Australia were published, which for the first time included explicit competency standards related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural responsiveness in practice. This workshop is bringing together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal dietitians with a wealth of experience across dietetics practice, education, research and governance (including members from the Australian Dietetics Council, the Dietitians Australia Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group and the Indigenous Nutrition Interest Group) to facilitate an explorative deep-dive into what these competencies mean for the profession, and how we can better understand and enact these as dietitian practitioners and educators. This workshop will delve into important and sometimes challenging topics including colonisation, power, racism and self-reflection. As such, we invite you into a brave space for courageous and humble conversations

Learning outcomes

- Explore aspects of the new competencies
- Participate in self-reflection and reflexivity
- Generate new understandings of what these competencies mean
- Build confidence in using the competencies to guide your practise/teaching

Target audience

Dietetics practitioners and educators who want to engage meaningfully with the new competency standards regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural responsiveness and what this means across the profession. This is not a cultural safety workshop and it is encouraged (although not required) that participants have participated in cultural safety or awareness training sessions elsewhere.

Workshop abstract

The 2021 Competency Standards for Dietitians in Australia mark an important policy-created imperative for dietetics as a profession to engage more deeply with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural responsiveness as it relates to practice and education. No longer side-lined as a special interest, the new competencies clearly mark Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and social justice to be the responsibility of all dietitians. Sensitive and vital issues including the ongoing impact of colonisation, systemic racism, power, privilege and responsibility are aspects of cultural responsiveness that call us to explore what this means for dietetics. This workshop invites the profession to provoking and brave discussions which will help chart a way forward for these competencies. Participants will be involved in critical appraisals, discussions, generation of ideas and ways forward and will have opportunities to raise questions for discussion. The aim of this workshop is to contribute to equipping dietitian practitioners and educators in wrestling with and understanding our roles in supporting our profession to be culturally responsive workforce.