



Culture and the courts

A primer on cultural competency and engagement

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- It is important to understand cultural protocols and practices when engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, particularly in relation to gender roles and mourning processes.

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- Legal practitioners should understand the importance of relationships within communities, and the difficulty in rebuilding relationships in case something happens.

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- Sensitivity is essential to avoid re-traumatising the family during the coronial process.

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- Practitioners should increase their cultural safety knowledge to be a part of the collaborative process and build good relationships.

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- Improving cultural competency and understanding involves reflecting on personal relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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- It is important to acknowledge where you have a lack of exposure to these communities and seek academic guidance to navigate cultural protocols.

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- Accessing sources authored by indigenous individuals and engaging with community and elders is crucial.

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- Be interested but know your limitations when working in different communities.

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- Consult with justice groups to understand cultural obligations and tailor approaches accordingly.

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- Seeking knowledge, practicing it, and striving for improvement is essential for successful engagement with communities and clients.