

The image features a dark blue background with several abstract, colorful elements. In the top left, there is a large, multi-layered circular pattern composed of concentric rings of dots in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, and pink. To its right, a stylized profile of a person's head is shown in shades of orange and yellow. In the bottom right, another circular pattern of concentric rings is visible, primarily in shades of green and yellow. A smaller, similar pattern is located at the bottom center. A small, solid pink shape is positioned to the left of the bottom-center pattern. The overall style is modern and artistic.

Truth-telling

The Be You Cultural Actions Catalogue has resulted from extensive consultation, over an 18-month period, with community members, Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers (AIEO), Aboriginal Teaching Assistants (ATA), Aboriginal medical service workers and educators in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

The process of truth-telling not only brings to light Australia's history of colonial conflict and dispossession, it's also a way that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples share who they are, how they feel, their spiritual connection and their connection to Country and their own experiences.

By sharing their stories, communities across the Kimberley and Pilbara informed this culturally responsive resource for primary and secondary educators. It offers an insight into the collective sentiment families and caregivers expressed – a strong desire for a safe learning environment for their children and the importance of promoting healthy social and emotional wellbeing practices in schools and the wider community.

The 'Journey of health and wellbeing' animated video, developed by the Western Australian Department of Health, can help promote understanding of Aboriginal Peoples' experiences from colonisation to the present day. You can watch it here: <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/News/The-journey-of-health-and-wellbeing>

Education plays a significant part in sharing and understanding stories, and being culturally responsive requires two-way learning. Furthermore, educators are in a unique position to notice and support children and young people who may be showing signs of social and emotional wellbeing issues. As an educator you become a part of the truth-telling process, assisting children and young people to share their stories.

Be You recognises that many Aboriginal-identifying students walk between two worlds – Aboriginal and Western ones – and that two-way learning is central to the development of the whole child. To better understand and meaningfully connect with students and their caregivers, it's important educators are prepared to learn and be open to delivering lessons in a manner that resonates with children and young people. For some educators, this can mean finding peace in their discomfort and reward within in a challenging environment.

It's intended that newly arrived educators who are unfamiliar with rural or remote environments, use this resource to gain an improved understanding of four topics which – in the eyes of community members – are central to being regarded as a "Good teacher... someone you can trust":

AIEOs/ATAs

Walk softly

Identify and build connections

Provide flexible, culturally responsive education

As with many initiatives that are co-designed, "the strength is in the story". Therefore, this resource contains the stories and experiences of Aboriginal people from both regions to enable you to understand the local context and encourage awareness of the connection between the concepts.

