

## Glossary

It was decided to include in the guide a glossary of appropriate terminology. When we talk about appropriate terminology we mean the correct terms to use when referring to Aboriginal peoples and their cultures.

Below is a list of current appropriate terminologies along with their definitions.

### **Aborigine Aboriginal (capital A)**

*Aboriginal* and *Aborigine* are Latin-derived English terms which when written with a lower case “a” are used to describe any original inhabitants throughout the world. Using upper case denotes a racial group and respect for that group. Example: Italian, English, Aboriginal people/groups. It is important to note that the term ‘Aboriginal’ is more appropriate than ‘Aborigine’, and should always be used when referring to Aboriginal people, their history and culture.

### **Aboriginal English**

Aboriginal English is a dialect of English. It is the first language, or home language, of many Aboriginal children in NSW and throughout Australia. Aboriginal English is a recognised form of communication in NSW government schools.

### **Custodians and owners of language groups**

We can define custodian and owner in two ways: (1) A custodian is the keeper of the targeted language group, whereas the owner may not be the custodian. The owner may give rights to a person to look after and teach the language, who is thus called the custodian. The custodians are the community itself. (2) Owners can also be the custodians, if the owners feel that there is no one else to look after the language, or when they feel that no one else can be true to the language. Not all Aboriginal communities will have identifiable owners and custodians. The best thing to do would be to consult your Aboriginal community through the local AECG or community organisations.

### **Cultural diversity**

Cultural diversity refers to the varied and different beliefs, attitudes, skills and tools by which communities structure their lives and interact with their environment.

### **Dreamings, Creation stories, Dreaming stories**

NSW Dreamings, Creation stories or Dreaming stories are the appropriate terms as they describe Indigenous beliefs as ongoing today. *Dreamtime* is used by many people to refer to the period of creation.

### **Elders**

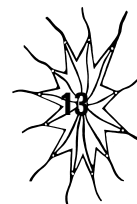
Elder is a custodian of knowledge and Lore. Elders are those people chosen and accepted by their own communities as people who have permission to disclose cultural knowledge and beliefs. Elders are highly respected people within Aboriginal communities. Proper consultation with local Aboriginal communities will lead schools to recognised Elders.

### **Indigenous peoples**

In Australia, Indigenous people are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### **Invasion**

An invasion is the forced takeover of land and the subjugation of its people.



**Language group** A language group is an Aboriginal group identified by the use of a common language (both verbal and non-verbal) and identified with a particular territory.

**Protocols** Protocols are guidelines for all people to follow to establish and maintain positive and mutually beneficial relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, communities and their organisations.

**Reconciliation** Reconciliation is a Commonwealth initiative to promote understanding between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community. The process seeks to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage.

**Respect** Respect is a term used commonly in NSW Aboriginal communities. It refers to the way an individual treats others. Showing respect occurs in many ways, such as waiting to speak, not asking too many direct questions, ensuring that people are not made to feel uncomfortable or uneasy, and generally showing regard for the ideas, beliefs and cultures of others.

Respect is related to protocols. When consulting, showing respect implies that community opinion is sought from all, or a wide range of, Elders and other community members.

