

The background is a dark blue-grey color. It features several large, stylized, concentric circular patterns made of many thin, overlapping lines in various colors including yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, and green. These circles are arranged in a way that suggests movement or depth. There are also several solid, organic shapes in colors like yellow, orange, and pink scattered across the composition. 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.

