Chapter 3 Reimagining social work from an Aboriginal theoretical perspective

Online readings

[‘Preparing for culturally responsive and inclusive social work practice in Australia: Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ – Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)](https://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/7006)

*Please be advised that this article contains the names and images of deceased persons.*

The AASW is the professional representative body of social workers in Australia. This information sheet provides introductory information on culturally responsive and inclusive practice for social workers working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities. Culturally responsive and inclusive practice encompasses not only knowledge and awareness of Indigenous cultures, but also the social worker’s ability to identify, understand, and reflect on their own values, cultures and social positioning.

[‘Working and walking alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people: A practical guide for non-Indigenous workers’ – Judy Atkinson, Margaret Hayes, and Caroline (Carlie) Atkinson](https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/working-and-walking-alongside-first-nations-children-and-young-people-a-practical-guide-for-non-indigenous-workers/)

Emerging Minds is a national organisation dedicated to the mental and emotional health and wellbeing of Australian infants, children, adolescents and their families. The practical guide provides information, concepts, practical skills and suggestions for non-Indigenous workers working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, families and communities. This resource draws on storytelling, to highlight not only the impacts of trauma across generations, but also children’s capacity for resilience and compassion in the face of painful circumstances.

Multimedia links

[Mentoring Indigenous Inmates – Uncle Jack Charles, TEDxSydney [YouTube]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYvJ6CVuOUk)

*Please be advised that this video contains images, voices and names of deceased persons.*

Uncle Jack Charles was a Boon Wurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Woiwurrung and Taungurung man and respected Elder. In this video, Uncle Jack talks about his experience of being a former heroin addict, a thief and a regular in the Victorian prison system. Uncle Jack highlights why the Victorian corrections system needs to rely on local Elders to mentor, educate and support the recovery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in youth detention centres.

[Welcome to Country – The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies [YouTube]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQ0MbnY0DO0)

Jude Barlow is a Ngunnawal Elder in the Australian Capital Territory. In this video, she talks about what Welcome to Country and Acknowledgment of Country mean, and provides advice about when and how to ensure cultural protocols are enacted.

[What Is It Like To Be Aboriginal? – Tui Raven, TEDxUWA [YouTube]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9y1T3JfzRGE)

Tui Raven is a Yamaji/Nyungar Yorga from Western Australia. In this TEDx Talk, she talks about what it is like to be an Aboriginal person in Australia, and poses questions for reflection – in 20 years, what kind of stories would you like hear an Aboriginal person telling?