



Conducting Educational and Research Activities Involving Australian Indigenous People Procedures

1. POLICY SUPPORTED

A separate entry under the heading POLICY SUPPORTED was not required when this procedure was last reviewed

2. APPLICATION

All Staff

3. EXCEPTIONS

Nil

4. DEFINITIONS

(Note: Commonly defined terms are located in the [Curtin Common Definitions](#). Any defined terms below are specific to this document)

CAS

Means the Centre for Aboriginal Studies which has oversight for Indigenous education and research.

5. PROCEDURES

Curtin staff and students interested in working with Indigenous people, whether through teaching or learning programs, research or any other initiatives, need to take into consideration the following factors:

5.1 The history of Indigenous people in general

Most Indigenous Australian groups will be able to direct you to appropriate agencies or individuals in their region in relation to local historical and community relations and issues.

5.2 Indigenous diversity

Although Indigenous Australians may have common factors that unite them (such as the importance of land, kinship relationships and Dreamtime concepts) there is also a great deal of diversity between different groups that must be acknowledged and respected.

5.3 Protocols for entering and researching a community

All persons undertaking a University activity that requires entry into an indigenous community, or access to community information, must:

- 5.3.1 Inform the Director of the CAS.
- 5.3.2 Be aware of cross-cultural issues relevant to Indigenous ethical conventions and social justice.
- 5.3.3 Ensure policies and procedures, which are their responsibility, refer to relevant Indigenous ethical conventions and social justice issues.
- 5.3.4 Be aware of the role of the CAS when they seek to teach, research or create images around Indigenous themes and ensure a coordinated approach to all Indigenous activity undertaken by the University.
- 5.3.5 Determine the following for the community in which you are planning to work:
 - Do you require a permit to enter the community?
 - Who is the first person to be seen within the community?
 - Will you be able to stay in the community? If so, determine whether there are any areas off-limits to you.
 - Is it a dry (non-alcohol) community?
 - What is the appropriate dress and body language for working with specific groups? For example, in some areas and/or with particular people it may be

inappropriate to look directly into a person's eyes. Wearing revealing clothing may be considered rude.

5.4 Performance Indicators

- 5.4.1 Regular Reports to the Curtin Indigenous Policy Committee on the nature and extent of coordinated Indigenous education-related activity across the University.
- 5.4.2 Annual evaluation of the procedure, followed by the reporting of this evaluation to the Curtin Indigenous Committee.

6. OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS/LINKS

[Role of the Centre for Aboriginal Studies Policy](#)

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Policy Manager	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
Approval Authority	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
Review Date	1 st April 2013

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved/ Amended/ Rescinded	Date	Committee / Board / Executive Manager	Approval / Resolution Number	Key Changes and Notes
P1.1	Approved	30/11/2001	Academic Senate	AS 353/01	Attachment 1 to Document No AS 158/01
A006/P1.1A	Amended	09/05/2007	Council	C 58/07	Document No 00390/07
	Administratively Updated	20/03/2008	Director, Legal and Compliance Services		Reformatted and Amended to Reflect Organisational Chart
	Administratively Updated	19/08/2009	Director, Legal and Compliance Services		Formally Reviewed, Minor Text Amendments
	Administratively Updated	17/06/2010	Director, Legal and Compliance Services		Amended to Reflect Organisational Change
	Administratively Updated	06/10/2015	Director, Legal and Compliance Services	EC 76/15	Executive Manager Title Changes
	Administratively Updated	18/01/2017	Director, Legal and Compliance Services		Approval Authority updated