



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

CULMS001B Work with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material

Revision Number: 1

CULMS001B Work with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material

Modification History

Not applicable.

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to work with Aboriginal or Torres Strait cultural material in a culturally appropriate manner. The unit focuses on the specific cultural and consultative requirements for the sourcing, handling, interpretation and exhibition of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material. This includes appropriate consultation with the traditional custodians of cultural material. Ideally, this unit would be trained and/or assessed in conjunction with other technical museum practice units. No licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of endorsement.

Application of the Unit

Application of the unit

This unit has particular application to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The cultural knowledge necessary to achieve competency in this unit may only be accessible to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples. This unit also recognises that there is no single Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture. The unit deals with complex and interrelated elements of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultures, which are the cultural and intellectual properties of specific communities across the continent and islands of Australia. These may only be interpreted by appropriate persons, for example those recognised by the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community as an Elder or custodian of local cultural knowledge.

Any organisation or individual planning to train or assess this unit would be expected to work in a culturally appropriate manner with the appropriate Aboriginal or

Torres Strait Islander community, for example through the establishment of a local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander reference group. In particular, it is vital to ensure respectful integration of any local cultural knowledge or protocols that will inform the implementation of the unit.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units Nil

Employability Skills Information

Employability Skills The required outcomes described in this unit of competency contain applicable facets of Employability Skills. The Employability Skills Summary for the qualification in which this unit of competency is packaged, will assist in identifying Employability Skills requirements.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency. Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1 Source Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material	1.1 Identify <i>cultural material</i> which may be appropriate for exhibition or display within a given <i>museum collection</i> 1.2 Take steps to identify and confirm traditional ownership of cultural material and consult with appropriate community 1.3 When appropriate, use consultations with traditional custodians to determine suitable keeping place for materials not authorised for general exhibition 1.4 Negotiate permission and advice for the use of cultural material in accordance with <i>cultural protocols</i> 1.5 Complete administrative process in accordance with <i>cultural protocols</i> 1.6 Take account of <i>issues and protocols</i> in relation to the return of cultural material to local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities
2 Handle Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material	2.1 Describe, move, store and maintain cultural material in accordance with the wishes and cultural requirements of custodians 2.2 Communicate specific <i>cultural requirements</i> to colleagues to ensure material is handled appropriately at all times and with the agreed involvement of traditional custodians or Indigenous people
3 Prepare Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material for exhibition	3.1 Consult with custodians to determine culturally appropriate approaches to promotion, exhibition and display of material, including <i>limitations</i> on mode of exhibit 3.2 Develop culturally appropriate <i>interpretive approaches</i> in consultation with custodians 3.3 Develop <i>exhibition support materials</i> which take

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

account of cultural protocols in consultation with custodians

- 3.4 Communicate *requirements for the exhibition* of cultural material to colleagues

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- research skills to source material relevant to a given context
- communication and negotiation skills to liaise and consult with community members and custodians
- literacy skills to develop support materials for an exhibition of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material.

Required knowledge

- scope of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material which may be appropriate for exhibition or display
- appropriate keeping places for cultural material not suitable/forbidden for exhibition or display
- issues and protocols relating to the return of cultural material to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities
- copyright, moral rights and intellectual property issues and legislation with particular reference to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material
- sources of support for the development of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander collections
- current conventions of collection management and its adaptation including appropriate consultations and respect for traditional custodianship when working with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material, including non-western concepts of collecting
- cultural protocols and appropriate consultations for the negotiation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community permission to use cultural material
- cultural protocols and appropriate consultations for the identification, movement, storage and maintenance of cultural material in the relevant community context
- cultural protocols and appropriate consultations for the exhibition of cultural material in the relevant community context
- current industry policy on the acquisition and management of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material.

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The Evidence Guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

Evidence of the following is essential:

- knowledge of the cultural protocols and practices as well as appropriate consultative processes associated with the handling of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material
- application of knowledge to a particular collection and community context.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Assessment must ensure:

- involvement in the assessment process of persons approved of by Elders, appropriate persons or custodians of the relevant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community
- access to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural material or information on material when access is not available.

Method of assessment

A range of assessment methods should be used to assess practical skills and knowledge. The following examples are appropriate for this unit:

- direct questioning combined with review of portfolios of evidence and third party workplace reports of on-the-job performance by the candidate
- evaluation of a project undertaken by the candidate to develop and exhibit a collection within an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community
- evaluation of a project undertaken by the candidate to research and document the cultural significance of particular cultural materials
- oral or written questioning to assess knowledge of appropriate protocols and consultation processes.

Holistic assessment with other units relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role is

EVIDENCE GUIDE

recommended, for example:

- other collection management units.

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. Essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) may also be included.

Cultural material is defined as 'objects, collections, artworks, specimens, structures or sites' and includes:

- archaeological material
- books and manuscripts
- cultural sites/buildings
- ethnographic material
- film/audiovisual material
- flora and fauna
- furniture
- photographs
- post colonisation
- technological/industry items
- textiles
- works on paper/canvas

A museum collection is defined very broadly and may relate to:

- cultural heritage
- history
- art
- science
- plants and animals
- other aspects of the natural environment
- materials with a cultural/spiritual significance
- living styles
- ceremony e.g. dance, music
- any other heritage resource

Cultural protocols may relate to:

- identification of appropriate people to be consulted
- ways in which consultations should be conducted
- occasions when consultation is required
- handling of cultural material
- display of cultural material
- communication about cultural material
- acknowledging participation and ownership

RANGE STATEMENT

Issues and protocols related to the return of cultural material to communities may relate to:

- local consultations and agreements on return of material
- undertaking appropriate processes to facilitate return of material
- negotiation with current holders of material
- identification and representation of recipients/custodians
- how and where to return cultural material

Note: The return of human skeletal remains has a specific set of cultural consultations and requirements that must be observed.

Cultural requirements for the handling of material may relate to:

- who can describe or handle material
- when material can be handled
- the way material should be transported
- use of equipment or tools
- storage of material
- who can view material
- access to material and associated research

Limitations on exhibition of cultural material may relate to:

- identification
- access e.g. issues around women's and men's business, secret, sacred material
- interpretation/descriptive or explanatory writing
- consultation with and involvement of appropriate Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members
- fragility of the material

Interpretive approaches may relate to:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community wishes for the way material is interpreted
- consultation with and involvement of appropriate Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members
- knowledge of existing collections

RANGE STATEMENT

Exhibition support materials are those developed with appropriate consultation and permissions and may include:

- advertising materials
- interpretive documents
- photographs
- online information
- merchandising
- publications

Requirements for the exhibition of cultural material may relate to:

- restrictions on those able to interpret material for visitors
- special handling requirements/restrictions
- access restrictions
- placement of items within the collection
- environmental requirements

Unit Sector(s)

Not applicable.

Competency field

Competency field Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Museum Practice