

The following transcript is provided for people with a hearing disability or those who are experiencing audio-visual difficulties. Learners are encouraged to watch the video where possible to gain the full benefit of this educational tool.

## **Cultural Capability for Mental Health eLearning**

### **Chapter 2 Page 20**

#### ***Know your client's culture, know your own culture***

**Deanne Minniecon, Team Leader (Indigenous Health) Preventative Health Directorate,  
Queensland Health:**

"I think the most important thing is to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' traditions, their cultures, their beliefs, the ways that they do things and the different languages that they come with. We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are different across communities. They speak different dialects. They have different customs, different beliefs, different ways of doing things, so I think we need to firstly acknowledge the differences and don't just assume that every Aboriginal Islander person is the same.

Even in the Torres Straits you'll get different languages, so on the Eastern Islands they speak Meriam Mir, I think, and on the other side of the Islands they'll speak Kala Lagaw Ya. So it's acknowledging that even within that small little group there is differences in languages, so we have to acknowledge that sort of thing. Also have to acknowledge, I guess, your own cultural background, as well as the students or the workers own cultural background, their histories, their belief systems and how that actually impacts on the work that they do with the client, and what they bring and some of the challenges that will bring to that particular workplace, I guess, or working with those clients.

So really acknowledging first up 'what do you come with?', and 'what's your cultural baggage?', 'what's your history' and how that's impacting on service delivery. So I think that's really important. I think it's important to be respectful with the client and the client's family. So if a client comes in, it's treating them with respect rather than assuming they don't know much.

Thank you to **Griffith University** and the **Community Forensic Mental Health Service** for the permission to use this video.