



Family Worker Training + Development Programme Inc Policy Statement: Definition of Aboriginality

Family Worker Training + Development Programme bases its definition of Aboriginality on currently accepted practice and community understanding that there are three criteria for confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage that are usually accepted by government agencies and community organisations. They are:

- being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- identifying as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- being accepted as such by the community in which you live, or formally lived

This definition is in line with the current practice and requirements of NSW State Government; Federal Government; Anti-Discrimination Law guidelines and many Aboriginal community organisations and Government agencies.

Family Worker Training + Development Programme also recognises that past and present injustices against Aboriginal people has caused, and continues to cause, significant harm to individual and collective Aboriginal cultural identity. As such this Agency proactively respects and supports the rights of individuals to be recognised as Aboriginal based on the above definition regardless of their appearance, where they live, or how they live.

Family Worker Training + Development Programme further recognises that Aboriginal community and culture is a rich, diverse and evolving entity and that the definition of Aboriginality can sometimes be a complex and emotive issue within the Aboriginal community itself. As an agency we respect the right of the Aboriginal community to explore and debate these issues as a part of community business.