

ANROWS

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH  
ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

*to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children*

CALD PAR

# Cultural Safety Principles

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ANROWS CALD PAR Workshop 2, Brisbane, 27-28  
September 2018

# Cultural Safety

- The concept of cultural safety emerged from nursing practice with Maori communities in New Zealand in the late 1990s.
- In the Australian context it has been used in relation to healthcare with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- With the diversity of the communities we work with, our cultural safety principles provide a guide for inclusive, respectful and empowering engagement.
- Our efforts to promote cultural safety exist in the context of ongoing coloniality, racism and discrimination. We acknowledge the ongoing resilience of the communities we work with in this context.

# What is cultural safety?

A commonly used definition of cultural safety is that of Williams (1999, p. 213) who defined it as:

*an environment that is spiritually, socially and emotionally safe, as well as physically safe for people; where there is no assault, challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are and what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience of learning together.*

# Our principles

- Critical reflection and inclusive dialogue
- Decolonising research
- Prioritising safe working practices.

# Next steps

- Discuss and note your feedback on the principles during the workshop and in the week afterwards.
- Send this feedback to us and we will revise the principles so that they reflect all our perspectives.

# Activity

***Cultural safety:** an environment that is spiritually, socially and emotionally safe, as well as physically safe for people; where there is no assault, challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are and what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience of learning together (Williams, 1999, p. 213).*

For the next five minutes, turn to the person next to you and talk over these questions:

- **What would it take for you to feel culturally safe in this initiative?**
- **What would it take for your project participants to feel safe?**