# Intercultural Capability glossary

See also the glossary for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority.

belief

A view or position that is held to be true.

belonging

A person’s sense of connection to and acceptance in a community or place.

critical perspective

A way of looking at something that involves analysing different evidence, ideas and claims, particularly concerning issues of power, representation and justice.

cultural communities

Groups of people who belong to a culture and hold its knowledge and customs.

cultural diversity

The existence of a wide variety of cultures in society.

cultural practices

The ways in which culture is expressed, such as through group membership, cultural celebrations, customs, roles, stories and other arts practices, rituals, food, language and everyday ways of doing things.

cultural safety

The practice of ensuring a respectful environment for the expression of diverse cultural and social identities of individuals and groups, and recognising, protecting and advancing their needs and rights.

culture

A set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of a society or social group, encompassing all the ways of being in that society or social group; includes knowledge, worldviews, beliefs, values and practices.

discrimination

The unjust or prejudiced treatment of a person or group, often on the grounds of ethnicity or race, religion or belief, gender, age, sexual orientation or disability.

empathy

The ability to understand and relate to the thoughts, feelings or emotions of someone else; often described as ‘standing in someone else’s shoes’ or ‘seeing through someone else’s eyes’.

identity

Our sense of who we are as an individual or group; people have multiple and intersecting identities relating to, for example, culture, worldview, profession, gender, sexuality and disability.

inclusion

Granting respect, and equal access to opportunities and resources, to diverse individuals and groups.

intercultural

Relating to or involving interactions and influences between different cultures.

intercultural experience

Encounter of connection with another culture.

intercultural relations

Interactions, communication and connections between individuals and communities from different cultures.

intercultural understanding

Learning about and understanding different cultural perspectives and practices through interaction and engagement with different cultural groups, texts, stories, arts, contexts and events.

non-religious

Not relating to a religion; often involving a scientific worldview and practices such as civil ceremonies and seasonal festivals; non-religious individuals and communities can be rationalists and atheists who do not believe in God or gods, or they can be ‘spiritual but not religious’ and/or have a strong connection to nature.

religious

Relating to religion, where a religion is a system of beliefs and practices that can provide meaning and community, often involving otherworldly dimensions such as worship of a god or multiple deities.

respect

An attitude or orientation towards something or someone (including oneself) involving acknowledgement of, careful attention towards and/or valuing of them, as well as conscious actions in accordance with this attitude**.**

social cohesion

The extent of belonging, connectedness, equity and solidarity among members of a society.

spiritual

Relating to spirituality, which is the experience of connectedness to something beyond oneself, such as consciousness or nature, often involving individual or collective worldviews and practices that can provide meaning and a sense of community.

stereotyping

Assigning a stereotype to an individual or group, where a stereotype is a generalised, fixed and often unfair and untrue idea or representation of particular people or things; stereotypes can be positive or negative.

worldview

A set of concepts, stories and/or beliefs about the nature of the world around us that inform our thinking, knowing, values and actions; these concepts, stories and/or beliefs can have a non-religious, religious and/or spiritual basis.

worldview diversity

The existence of a wide variety of worldviews in society, including indigenous, scientific, philosophical, spiritual and religious worldviews.