

Being culturally aware: using critical thinking



ACCURACY

A statement can be clear but inaccurate.

Aboriginal people can only speak for the country they are the custodians of, however they do have 'whole of country' perspectives and interest (song and story lines go across country boundaries). This does not mean what they say is not applicable on other lands, but that you may hear different things from different Aboriginal witnesses. Like all other groups and communities in the world, Aboriginal people do not always agree with each other.



BREADTH

An argument that considers only one viewpoint but ignores other perspectives lacks breadth.

Speaking to one Aboriginal person is not representative of the views of all Aboriginal people. Some Aboriginal communities may prefer to have a whole of community voice.



RELEVANCE

A statement can be clear, accurate, precise but irrelevant to the issue.

Past, present and future are intertwined as is country, culture and community. As custodians of the land, it can be difficult to talk about land without talking about everything else, as they are intertwined.



LOGIC

When the combination of thoughts is mutually supporting and makes sense in combination, the thinking is logical.

Logic is contained within the paradigm that shapes it. The white anglo-saxon paradigm of country, community and culture is different to the Aboriginal paradigm. To understand the logic, seek to understand the paradigm first. (For example, 'country' has religious significance. If you were planning to build a highway through a piece of significant land, replace the word land with church/temple/mosque and you may get a sense of the logic of wanting to protect what may appear visually plain.)



CLARITY

When a statement is vague or fuzzy we can't tell if it's accurate or relevant.

Culturally, learning is passed on through story. This means there needs to be a willingness to allow the story to unfold (yarning). The path of the conversation can seem wide ranging, but Clarity is arrived at by respecting the conversation, rather than driving for the desired transaction or piece of information.



DEPTH

Statements lack depth when they fail to deal with the complexities of the issue.

There are some topics may not be shared with the Jury for cultural reasons. This could be seen as a lack of depth but in reality it is a respect of culture.