

# Working Together: Indigenous & non-Indigenous health educators as Intercultural Leaders for change

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Curtin University was the first Australian University to implement a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) committed to reducing health disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, of which the implementation of a compulsory core unit on Indigenous Culture and Health (ICH) to all inter-professional health science students has been instrumental. However while the *cultural content* of ICH meets a critical need, the *intercultural context* driving the conception and delivery of the unit through a partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, offers a unique approach to not only building cultural competency in non-Indigenous health graduates, but going beyond the historically polemic Indigenous/non-Indigenous space towards one that is a more inclusive and intercultural. This presentation offers an overview of the Intercultural Academic Leadership programme (IALP) that was developed and delivered to Indigenous and non-Indigenous ICH educators. The

IALP develops the teaching capacity of ICH educators to work reflexively to deliver Indigenous based content that invites and supports students to critically examine their own positioning and engagement with racial narratives. It also supports educators to develop Intercultural Leadership capabilities to improve health education, practice, and advocate for system change. Evaluations of the IALP suggest its capacity to build capacity in educators to enhance the teaching and learning and experience for students, as well as contribute to meaningful, institutional and curriculum change.