

Glossary

Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (AIEO) – an Aboriginal staff member in a learning community employed to support Aboriginal students, promote cultural and inclusive practices and act as a liaison between the school and the community.

Aboriginal Teaching Assistant (ATA) – an Aboriginal staff member, usually in a Catholic school, who plays a similar role to an AIEO.

Be You – a national mental health in education initiative, delivered by Beyond Blue, Early Childhood Australia and headspace. Be You’s vision is for every learning community to be positive, inclusive and resilient.

BETLS Observational Tool – a Be You template for documenting observations about a child or young person. BETLS stands for behaviour, emotions, thoughts, learning and social relationships. You can find out more about it and how to use it here: <https://beyou.edu.au/resources/betls-observation-tool>

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Code-switching – the process of changing one’s behaviour, particularly language used, to suit any given context.

Community council – representative group of community members.

Country – Aboriginal Peoples talk about Country in the same way that they would talk about a person: they speak to Country, sing to Country, visit Country, worry about Country etc. Country is not a generalised or undifferentiated type of place, but a living entity with a yesterday, today and tomorrow, with a consciousness, and a will toward life.

Cultural Actions Catalogue – a planning and implementation tool that identifies quick wins and longer-term actions, and helps you adapt activities relevant to a specific learning community.

Cultural Advisor – an Aboriginal person who provides cultural support for Aboriginal people and helps non-Aboriginal people improve their understanding to create culturally safe and welcoming environments.

Education Assistant (EA) – a teaching aide who provides classroom support to the educator and students, sometimes directly assisting children or young people with additional needs.



Educator – a staff member working in an early learning service or school, whose role is to educate children or young people.

Inclusion – for Be You, inclusion is about ensuring opportunity for everyone to be who they are and achieve their best social and emotional wellbeing.

Kinship – a feature of Aboriginal social organisation and family relationships, kinship is a complex system that determines how people relate to each other and their roles, responsibilities in relation to one another, ceremonial business and Land. This system determines who marries who, ceremonial relationships, funeral roles and behaviour patterns with other kin.

Learning community – an early learning service or school.

Liyan or Mabu Liyan – a Yawuru concept, which is difficult to explain in English. It describes and recognises the continued connection between the mind, body, spirit, cultures and the Land. It also encapsulates family, community and what gives meaning to one's life. Mabu Liyan describes the essence of what it is to have and to know a good life.

Martu – a grouping of several Aboriginal Peoples in the Western Desert, comprising five Language Groups: Mandjildjara, Kartudjara, Keiadjara, Putidjara and Wanman.

Natural helper – a key community member who people turn to for advice.

Ranger – an Aboriginal person employed to protect native plants and animals, maintain cultural sites, reduce wildfires and control feral animals and invasive weeds. They combine traditional knowledge with modern techniques to protect Land and sea.

Unconscious bias – a social stereotype about a certain group (such as a racial or identity group) you have formed outside your own conscious awareness.

