



Five Questions to help you on your way:

How broad can your story be?

Within one story or project there can exist multiple stories and experiences that can be told. Extending your project to include the history and experiences of Aboriginal (and ethnic) groups or families in your area can enrich the project greatly. By presenting a range of Indigenous perspectives, your project has the potential to be comprehensive, inclusive, holistic, and community oriented.

Whose voices should be heard?

Often projects or stories surround specific individuals and/or groups. Thus projects must include the voices of all these people. However, many community projects only interpret one individual or group's experience, overlooking other equally important narratives, which remain unheard.

Where you are intending to include Indigenous content in your project, combine literature research with talking to Indigenous community members to:

1. Find out which personal and group stories to include in the project;
2. Identify the appropriate individuals, and/or group representative, who are responsible for these stories; and
3. Ask their permission to include these stories in your project.

Who do you know already?

Your personal, sporting and business contacts are an important source for finding out information for your project. Where you would like to include Aboriginal content in your project, these contacts can help you to identify and approach the appropriate Indigenous people and organisations within your community. Use your contacts as either a starting or an end point.

Who can help you find more information?

Small businesses and non-government organisations (such as local Aboriginal corporations and cultural centres), as well as state and federal departments (such as the Department of Indigenous Affairs), can assist you to develop a project. At least one of these businesses will have an office in your town or region and will be able to give you assistance in a number of ways. For example, they could provide information; get involved in your project or give you names and addresses for other businesses/departments that can be of help.

It is not always apparent by the name of the Indigenous organisation that it can be of help. But you can find this information out by (in some instances) researching annual reports and looking at their websites. Alternatively, approach the organisation directly.

Have you considered a joint project?

Joint or collaborative projects between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities can broaden and enrich a project and those working on it. Shared responsibility, creativity and ownership of a project are some of the benefits of working together. Joint projects can also give you access to a different range of resources and interpretations that can be woven together to create a truly unique story.

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