

9. Annexure A – Pocket Guide

This Guide is designed to assist readers, teachers, students and theatre professionals when working with published manuscripts containing Indigenous themes (**Works**). These works may contain Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (**ICIP**) as well as culturally sensitive material.

ICIP

ICIP refers to the rights that Indigenous peoples have in all aspects of cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression.

The terms [cultural heritage](#), [traditional knowledge](#) and [traditional cultural expression](#) are interrelated, embodying the complexities and intricacies of Indigenous peoples' heritage, knowledge and cultural expressions across the world.

Indigenous people have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

ICIP encompasses both the tangible (sites, objects) and intangible aspects of Indigenous knowledge (oral stories, performances), including the following:

ICIP	Examples
Cultural knowledge	Knowledge of Country, ecological knowledge, land management techniques, scientific, agricultural, medicinal, technical knowledge, cultural and spiritual knowledge, knowledge of practices and ways of being, knowing, doing
Cultural expression	Stories of Country, art, designs, symbols and literature
Language	including oral or written expressions of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages
Performances	Traditional ceremonies, dance, music and song
Cultural objects	including arts, crafts, ceramics, jewellery, weapons, tools, photographs, textiles, contemporary art practices
Ancestral remains	including DNA and hair samples
Sites	Places, significant sites, birthing areas and burial grounds, location of men's and women's business
Information	Information about people, places and practices, secret and sacred material and information
Documentation	Documentation of Aboriginal peoples' heritage in all forms of media including films, photographs, images, recordings, artistic works, books, reports, research and records taken by others, sound recordings, data and digital databases

Table 1: ICIP examples

ICIP is linked to people, land and identity, and is communally owned by Indigenous communities. Attached to ICIP are obligations to protect ICIP so that it can be passed on to future generations. The diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia is reflected in the diversity of ICIP from those communities, and the cultural protocols and customary laws that safeguard the integrity of that ICIP.

While all Indigenous peoples have a role to care for ICIP, certain persons of authority within each community may have specific rights to know and share knowledge, and to give or deny permission to use and share certain ICIP. Indigenous cultures are not fixed – they are constantly evolving. This means that the nature of ICIP may also evolve.

Culturally Sensitive Material

Culturally sensitive material includes:

- ICIP that contains secret and sacred information and knowledge or restrictions on use;
- content that contains the names of Indigenous persons who are deceased; or
- stories and information that may cause distress to Indigenous persons.

It is important to observe any restrictions around use of this material and to handle it with care and sensitivity because the Work may cause distress to Indigenous readers, performers and viewers. Cultural warnings should be acknowledged when teaching, performing or discussing these Works.

Culturally Responsive Approach

You need to consider ICIP and adopt a culturally responsive approach when working with Works containing ICIP by:

- reflecting on and sharing your own and if teaching or directing, your students' or performers' ideas, lived experiences, values, and beliefs;
- being open to others' ideas, lived experiences, values, and beliefs;
- valuing a diversity of voices and experiences;
- promoting the development of further cultural knowledge;
- creating culturally safe spaces where diversity and sensitivity is valued;
- acknowledging proper attribution for ICIP;
- adhering to any protocols or limitations regarding the Work; and
- observing any cultural warnings for culturally sensitive material.