

CAMD Case Study – INDIGENOUS CULTURES:

Impact program

Migration Museum, History SA, Adelaide

Established 2009 and available 2012

Understanding Indigenous Culture - Cultural Sensitivity Training for Schools, Government and the Workplace

Since 1999 the Migration Museum has delivered the Impact program to present the history not only of immigration to South Australia but also the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal peoples. This multi-media chronological history features the major events and policies that impacted upon Aboriginal people in this State. The program presents the material from an Aboriginal perspective through a workshop with elements of role-play. The latter is important because it requires the personal involvement of participants, each of whom becomes a historical player and has to make individual choices with large consequences. Sessions of between one and half to four hours are tailored to the needs of each client group.

Developed initially for schools, the need for a history component in larger cultural sensitivity training programs has seen external agencies take up the program. As a result of this some 5,000 to 6,000 adults have benefited from the program and feedback suggests that many have found it attitudinal and life changing. The program has never been promoted and it has been taken up only through word-of-mouth. In the past decade it has been delivered to judges and magistrates, was mandatory training for police cadets and South Australian Housing Trust staff, the Governor's Leadership program, the Courts Administration Authority, Department of Transport, Attorney-General's Department and Radio Adelaide. It has provided professional development for teachers and has been presented to inmates of the Cavan and Magill Training Centres and to Yatala prison guards through the Department of Correctional Services. It has also been used at conferences and presented to Lands Rights lawyers and to young Aboriginal trainees in the Department of Transport. It is now mostly delivered as the history component in larger cultural sensitivity programs and in association with Aboriginal presenters. The program continues to be requested by schools and adult groups.

The Migration Museum has a constant thread through its main galleries of the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people in South Australia and there is a separate multi-media interactive program on this subject in the twentieth century gallery.

Further information: <http://www.history.sa.gov.au/migration/edu/programs.htm>