



The University's preferred style, as recommended by the Koori Centre, is to use the term 'Indigenous Australians'. If a writer wants to distinguish between the descendants of the original inhabitants of Australia or the Torres Strait Islands they can refer to 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' or, separately 'Aboriginal people' (or 'an Aboriginal person') or 'Torres Strait Islanders'.

- Indigenous should always be spelt with a capital 'I' when referring to Indigenous Australians; when being used generically (for example, to discuss the indigenous peoples of the world) a lower case 'i' is used.
- The use of the word 'Aboriginal' as an adjectival noun should be avoided, but it is acceptable to use it as an attributive adjective such as in the Aboriginal Education Unit or an Aboriginal student. Aboriginal when referring to the Indigenous people of Australia should always be spelt with a capital A.

*Background:*

It is important to observe the preference of title of an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander. Some Indigenous Australians object to being labelled 'Aborigines', as this was a term imposed on them by the British, and is the general term for any indigenous people. Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people prefer to be known by the terms from their own languages. For example:

Koori (Sydney area)

Murri (Western NSW and Nth Queensland)

*(Note that the spelling of these names may vary)*

The Indigenous people of the Torres Strait Islands have a separate linguistic and cultural identity to Aboriginal people. The preferred name is Torres Strait Islanders and Murray Islanders, not abbreviations such as Islander or TSI. However, the abbreviation of TI is generally acceptable.

Take care not to ignore the history of the Indigenous people of Australia with expressions such as: "Captain Cook discovered Australia". As the history of Australia spans many thousands of years, such statements are insulting and inaccurate.

For further information telephone the University's Koori Centre on +61 2 9351 2046.