

TALKING UP OUR STRENGTHS

Use these cards as reminders about the importance of our history, kinship bonds, and the strengths and values so deeply rooted in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. The images offer a way to nurture pride and help people put into words, memories, feelings, ideas, hopes and dreams.



It's NAIDOC Week in July, a special time to celebrate the contributions of Indigenous Australians all around the country. It's also a time to share stories—stories that strengthen pride in Indigenous culture and help a younger generation of Indigenous children to grow and flourish.

Designed to be used by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians alike, *Talking Up Our Strengths* is a resource to build appreciation of the richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. This unique set of 22 photo-montage cards, developed in conjunction with SNAICC*, explores themes of identity, pride, the past and future, connection, heroes, land and much more.

Suggestions for teachers

Talking Up Our Strengths can be used to explore Indigenous culture in the classroom and to broaden conversations about cultural diversity and social justice:

- Look closely at the cards. Which symbols, events or people do you recognise? Choose one to research.
- Use the cards to reflect on the strengths and values of your school or any community you are part of. Invite your students to create a similar set of cards or posters featuring words and images that are important to them.
- Invite your students to reflect on the importance of traditions. Ask questions such as: Who taught you to be proud of your culture? Which card(s) show that person or those people best? Which card(s) reflect your favourite family or community traditions?
- Invite a leader of your local Indigenous community to speak to your class. Use the cards to help your students form questions to ask.

Storytelling and reflection

Use the cards to tell stories or explore the relationships between ideas by laying them out in a sequence. Some questions might be:

- Can you order the cards to show how important certain aspects of your life are to you?
- How do your strengths (or the strengths in your community or family) build on each other? What strengths are needed before others can grow?
- In the future, what strengths would you like to see developed in your life? In your family or community? In Australian society? In which order?

Fostering awareness in organisations

Cards from *Change by Design* and *Respect and Justice* can be used in conjunction with *Talking Up Our Strengths* to build cultural awareness and inclusive practice in teams, groups and organisations.

- Lay out the *Talking Up Our Strengths* cards on the floor or table. Using the *Change by Design* cards, reflect on your engagement with Indigenous peoples and different aspects of Indigenous culture. Does your team/group/organisation: ...think about what is going on? ...take the initiative? ...value contact with others? ...respect difference?
- Use the *Respect and Justice Cards* with *Talking Up Our Strengths* to reflect on how the principles and practices of the Strengths Approach contribute to building respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities. Pick cards from each set that seem to speak to each other and use the pairings as prompts for discussion. Why do these pairings seem significant? For example:
 'Our Knowledge' and 'How do we challenge stereotypes?'
 'Our Sport' and 'How do our similarities connect us?'
 'Our Struggles' and 'How do we nurture our wellbeing?'



TALKING UP OUR STRENGTHS

22 full colour cards, each 160 mm x 140 mm,
Polypropylene box, 24-page booklet
ISBN: 9 781 920945 411
Booklet authors: Russell Deal, Rosie Elliott
and Veronica Johns
Designer: Tim Lane

Product Code: 4825

* Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this publication contains images of people who have since passed away.

