

Key questions in evaluating resources

Accuracy and support

- Is the material accurate: truthful, exact and free from error?
- Do illustrations and photographs portray Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people positively?
- Are stereotypes avoided? Does the material refer to?
- Is the material accurate?
- Does the material over-generalise?

Balanced nature of material

- Are illustrations and photographs positive and accurate portrayals of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people, and relevant to the text?
- Are photographs accompanied by captions which name the Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander persons/Language Groups and where they come from?
- Are stereotyping and racist connotations present?
- Is the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies acknowledged?
- Does the resource emphasise sacred and profound aspects of Aboriginal cultures and Torres Strait Islander cultures to the exclusion of other cultural groups?
- Does the material use derogatory terms that offend Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people?
- Does the resource trivialise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander technologies?
- Is the material biased /does it distort the real issues?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation

- Is the author an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person?
- Does the resource acknowledge Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander participation in the research, writing and presentation process?
- Has the material been endorsed by local, regional, state or territory AECGs or endorsed by other Indigenous groups?
- Is the material acceptable to the local community?
- Does the material use appropriate terminology?

Exclusion of content of a secret or sacred nature

- Does the material show and/or talk about secret or sacred items?
- Does the publication use the name of a deceased person?

Reference: National Aboriginal Studies and Torres Strait Islander Studies Project (1995) Resource Guide for Aboriginal Studies and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Carlton, Vic: Curriculum Corporation.