



HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

Engaging multicultural communities in sustainable behaviour

Joshua Brown and Michael Burke, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

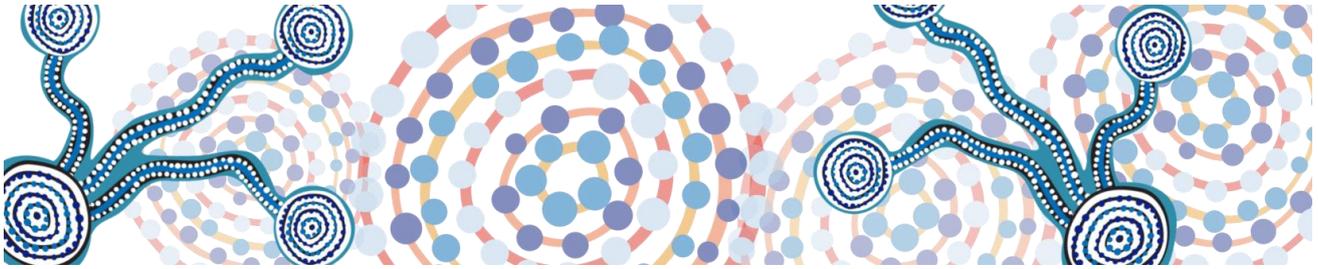
Abstract

Australia has a culturally diverse population. Currently, 30% of Australia's population were born overseas, coming from over 200 countries and speaking many languages. A growing population puts increasing pressure on the sustainability of Australia's natural resources. Furthermore, increasing cultural diversity means that natural resource management agencies face a raft of challenges engaging with culturally and linguistically diverse communities about sustainable practices.

In Western Australia, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is responsible for the sustainable management of the state's aquatic natural resources and environment. To achieve this outcome the Department uses an integrated approach of fisheries management; research and assessment; and education and enforcement.

Recreational fishing regulations apply to all members of the community. Good communication of these rules is important, as is educating the community about the importance of sustainable behaviour. To successfully engage with a culturally diverse community and encourage voluntary sustainable practices cannot only be challenging, but also extremely rewarding and integral to the sustainability of our fisheries and aquatic environment.

Communicating sustainable messages to culturally and linguistically diverse communities requires a multi-faceted approach. We invite you to join us in an open discussion, where we can share ideas, experiences and possible solutions to successful engagement across cultures and communities.



Speaker Profile

Joshua Brown, Coordinator of Community Education

Joshua Brown is the Coordinator of Community Education at the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The Community Education section aims to raise awareness and understanding of the sustainable management of the State's fisheries and aquatic natural resources, leading to sustainable behaviour and stewardship of the aquatic environment. The school and community based education and engagement programs are supported by a range of resources, including the Department's fisheries education website Marine Waters.

Michael Burke, Manager of Licensing and Registration

After a decade as a high school Science teacher, Michael ventured into the world of environmental education outside of the classroom with a secondment as the Community Education Officer on Rottnest Island. This was followed by stints as Landcare Education Officer for the Department of Education and Statewide Education Officer for the Department of Environment's *Ribbons of Blue* program.

Looking to get back to the marine education field, Michael was lucky enough to gain a position as Community Education Coordinator and then Manager Community Education at the former Department of Fisheries WA. In these positions he developed and implemented school and community education programs raising awareness and understanding of the aquatic environment and the science that underpins sustainable fisheries management, aiming to engender sustainable behaviour and stewardship of WA's aquatic resources.

Michael is currently the Manager of Licensing and Registration at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

