



Your one-stop-shop for cross-cultural training and diversity management solutions

Dr. Polly O. Walker
Ph.D., Conflict Transformation MA, Educational Administration
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Dr. Polly O. Walker is of Cherokee and American Settler descent. She grew up in New Mexico, on the traditional lands of the Mescalero Apache and developed an interest in cross cultural competency and cross cultural conflict transformation through her experiences there. She has extensive experience and degrees in education and was awarded a Ph D at The University of Queensland for her work on transforming conflict between Aboriginal and Settler Australians. One focus of her thesis was an exploration of deep culture of Aborigines and settlers and the effect that such worldview differences have on appropriate and effective processes of managing conflict. She has lectured in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit and in the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland. She frequently holds a position as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the University of Queensland where her work focuses on culturally appropriate ways of transforming intergenerational conflicts.

She is also a trained facilitator of a computer assisted dialogue process, Creative Dialogue and Design (CDD), which has been used internationally as a cross cultural peace building tool. She has co-facilitated a number of CDD sessions, including with a community peace building project in Cairns, and with MEDCO, a Philippines development and peace building organization.

Polly was a co-facilitator in a Dialogue and Healing Project, a participatory process of developing culturally appropriate strategies for refugees who had experienced trauma. She was also a co-trainer in a series of anti-racism workshops sponsored by Brisbane City Council and Caboolture Shire Council. She has facilitated training on culturally appropriate mediation and conflict transformation with chiefs and community leaders from a number of provinces in Vanuatu and in The Solomon Islands.

Polly has a personal and professional interest and commitment to peace building and community healing through building bridges of understanding between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples, institutions and agencies. She has an extensive background in educational development, leadership, management and program delivery including twenty-four years of experience in providing services that addressing a wide range of learning needs from primary to post graduate education.