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Bio Sketch
Norm Sheehan (PhD Qld) has worked in Aboriginal adult education in New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland since 1980. Norm recently completed a PhD in education entitled Indigenous Knowledge and Higher Education: Instigating Relational Education in a Neocolonial Context. Norm is Lecturer in the Unit and is currently completing a community-based research project that aims to establish computer-based learning programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the University of Queensland's Ipswich campus.

Area(s) of Expertise
Indigenous methodologies
Indigenous Education

Current Research Activities

Testing Ground: Investigating Indigenous Knowledge Programs and Indigenous Research Methodologies in Higher Education” is lead by Dr Norm Sheehan (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit) and Professor John Western (School of Social Science) and funded by Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Indigenous Funding for 2006-2007.

This project will contribute to Australian social cohesion through the non-divisive Indigenous Knowledge approach to the teaching of Indigenous issues. Indigenous Knowledge Research is a new methodological development that will afford research in many cross-cultural contexts including those where literacy and numeracy skills are low. This research methodology has national and community significance because it fosters social cohesion in investigating problematic contexts through methods that bridge across groups and build community capacities to engage, identify and implement self-owned solutions. This research will facilitate the instigation of informational gathering structures in the most marginalized sectors of the Australian community.

Two Key Publications