

FACILITATING CULTURAL TRANSITIONS AND CHANGE

Presenter: Dr Christine Hogan, Development consultant and author.

Transitions are a normal part of life, yet international students are rarely taught how to manage them effectively. Time spent in enabling students to take responsibility for and manage their 'transition time' both on arrival in and departure from Australia is time well invested.

Christine has been facilitating cultural transition workshops for international students in Australia and in the UK over the past ten years. Her action research is compiled in her sixth book entitled, "Facilitating cultural transitions and change". Processes and models from this work will be explored in the workshop including:

- Ten generic transition coping skills
- Identifying and managing feelings
- The power of myths and stories: the hero/heroine's journey (Joseph Campbell)
- Identifying cultural values and behaviours and building communication bridges.

Christine's workshops with students are interactive, student centred workshops designed to boost self confidence so that students have the skills to take ownership of their current and future cultural transitions. Activities are designed to enable students to become more aware of their own cultural values and behaviours and then compare them to their first observations during their first experiences in Australia. They compare what they know about their own culture to what they have observed in Australia. In this way behavioural "cultural bridges" be made and understood.

The return home is also significant since students need to be well equipped to manage their cultural reintegration into their families, workplaces and communities. They need to know how to transfer their new knowledge and skills to local contexts and how to manage change. This is essential to ensure they apply the learning from their courses in Australia effectively.

Dr Christine Hogan is a consultant in community development in Australia, Asia, the Pacific & Africa. Christine has worked in on projects with in Kiribati, Lao PDR, Thailand, Senegal, Abu Dhabi, Myanmar, Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal, and Hong Kong with various agencies including, the World Bank, SNV Netherlands, UNDP and AusAID.

Christine is now focusing on cross-cultural communication in educational and workplace settings, climate change adaptation, disaster preparation & development projects. Previously, she was an Adjunct Professor with the Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute. She also taught full time and co-ordinated the Masters in Human Resource Development for 12 years at Curtin University.

Christine is the author of six books:

Facilitating cultural transitions and change (2013); Facilitating multicultural groups (2007); Practical facilitation (2003); Understanding facilitation (2002); Facilitating empowerment 2000/2012; Facilitating learning (1999).

For more information please see:

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