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ABSTRACT

Envirocare, a digital learning space designed to integrate Indigenous Knowledges and histories into Australian university curricula.

This presentation describes Envirocare, an online resource developed to integrate Indigenous Knowledges and histories into Australian university curricula. In line with Universities Australia's strategic directives, which advocate for comprehensive engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content, the project responds to the challenge of balancing culturally appropriate content with workload considerations for First Nations contributors. Envirocare emerged from collaborative efforts between Deakin University, the Australasian Council of Environmental Deans and Directors, and First Nations rangers and educators, emphasizing authentic community voices through interviews and co-creation. This open-access, technology-enhanced learning platform aims to foster cultural intelligence by immersing learners in Indigenous perspectives on science, knowledge systems, and practices. Its modular design enables implementation across diverse educational levels, encouraging deep reflection and cultural literacy among students. The project underscores the importance of trust-building and inclusive content creation involving nine different communities, demonstrating how respectful, collaborative approaches can advance educational innovation. This presentation will highlight the way Envirocare enables educators to incorporate Indigenous knowledges authentically. Ultimately, Envirocare exemplifies a milestone in digital educational practice—supporting equitable, culturally respectful, and transformative learning experiences that enrich student understanding and promote social inclusion in Australian universities.

IAN CLARK
ACEDD

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Cultural Sensitivity First Nations rangers and educators, emphasizing authentic community voices through interviews and co-creation. Envirocare exemplifies a milestone in digital educational practice—supporting equitable, culturally respectful, and transformative learning experiences that enrich student understanding and promote social inclusion in Australian universities.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Associate Professor Ian Clark is the Executive Officer for the Australasian Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (ACEDD), an association of people drawn from Australian and New Zealand universities and with line responsibility for environmental science and/or environmental studies programs and endeavours. He has more than 35 years research and tertiary teaching experience in environmental management and sustainability.