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DOES THE JOURNEY EVER END? EXPLORING THE CULTURAL LEARNING JOURNEY OF STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY FIRST YEAR ONLINE COURSES



TILLMAN, GAIL
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
THE WOLLOTUKA INSTITUTE



Mrs. Gail Tillman
The Wollotuka Institute
The University of Newcastle.

**Does the Journey Ever End? Exploring the Cultural Learning Journey of Students
in University First Year Online Courses**

Synopsis:

This doctoral research project centers on the cultural learning journey of students. It investigates the outcomes when incorporating cultural standards into online teaching practice.

'Does the journey ever end? Exploring the cultural learning journey of students in university first year online courses.'

The Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle incorporates the Indigenous activities of the University. In recent years the Institute has developed and implemented a set of cultural standards that it seeks to impart to all of its students, including through online pedagogies. This doctoral research project will centre on the cultural learning journey of a range of students enrolled in two online first year courses at The Wollotuka Institute. Using mixed methods, it will investigate the student outcomes when incorporating cultural standards into online teaching practice. Furthermore, through analysis of surveys, yarning and work samples, this project will seek to ascertain how effective cultural standards are in online teaching and learning initiatives. This includes investigating the extent to which first year undergraduates have become culturally competent practitioners. This research will also develop an online cultural teaching and learning framework. Finally, it will contribute to a research area that has been neglected, and as a result, is under-investigated and underdeveloped, both nationally and internationally.