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EDITORIAL

The traditional concepts of intelligence as transferred from the non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners have failed to appreciate or even take into account the unique and very special intellectual skills of these cultures. Work by Professor Gardner in identifying "types of intelligence" may be of value to teachers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island learners in offering more, and possibly more appropriate, "types of intelligence". His ideas are contained in his book Frames of Mind which was published 10 years ago and is creating renewed interest in Australia with Professor Gardner's current visit.

Professor Gardner claims that there are seven types of intelligence. These are:- linguistic ability; logical and mathematical ability (both of these are the most widely recognised forms of academic skill); musical intelligence (ability to think in tones and rhythms); spatial intelligence (the ability to see sculptors); bodily kinaesthetic intelligence (the gift of fine motor movement e.g., surgeons, artists, dancers); interpersonal intelligence (skill in understanding other peoples' feelings, actions, and motivations) and intrapersonal intelligence (this type of intelligence involves self-knowledge and decision making skills). It could be argued that teachers, to be effective teachers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island learners would need to have high levels of the last two abilities.

Certainly, any extension of the traditional and totally inadequate (for teachers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island learners) conception of intelligence is welcomed and this one with its emphasis on inter- and intrapersonal abilities and on "cultural" skills may be helpful in recognising, understanding and catering for the special intellectual skills shown by our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island learners.

Best wishes

Dawn Muir.

Dawn Muir - Honorary Editor