

Clinton Neumann is the Manager Operational Capability for the Rural Fire Service in Queensland. Responding to an identified need for improved understanding and increased cultural capability, Clinton connected with Zeke Shaw Indigenous Consultancy (ZSIC) through Supply Nation to deliver high quality, safe and effective Cultural Awareness Training workshops and staff induction programs for the Rural Fire Service workforce.



Clinton envisions the ZSIC Cultural Awareness Training Workshops as a transformative experience for members of the Rural Fire Service (RFS). Through these workshops, he hopes to see participants develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for Indigenous culture, leading to a more inclusive and supportive workplace.

The long-term desired outcome is for Rural Fire Services to become a culturally competent organisation, equipped with the knowledge and understanding to effectively work with and serve Indigenous communities – These are outcomes that can be achieved through working hand in hand with Zeke Shaw Indigenous Consultancy.

“I believe that embracing and embedding an understanding of Indigenous culture within Queensland’s RFS is vital for fostering a positive and inclusive work environment. By appreciating the rich history, beliefs, and values of Indigenous communities, the RFS can become a stronger organisation that reflects the diversity of the people it serves. This cultural incorporation will enhance communication, collaboration, and trust between RFS personnel and the communities they serve.”

~ Clinton Neumann, Manager Operational Capability, Rural Fire Service, QFES

Clinton emphasises the importance of co-design, participation, and shared ownership in the journey towards cultural awareness in RFS. Through meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities, RFS can develop programs and initiatives that truly resonate with the people they work to support. By incorporating Indigenous perspectives and knowledge, RFS can make more informed decisions and incorporate lasting, positive change within the organisation and the communities they work within.

“The knowledge of traditional custodians is an essential component for understanding how the landscapes and vegetation has been shaped and the role that fire plays in that story. By improving knowledge sharing and information exchange, we can better understand how and why fire effects country. The Cultural Awareness Training is an essential component of gaining perspective on how to engage with respect and humility.”

~ Clinton Neumann, Manager Operational Capability, Rural Fire Service, QFES

Clinton encourages his colleagues to embrace this opportunity for growth and learning, keeping an open mind and heart as they embark on their journey towards cultural awareness.

By working together, Rural Fire Services and Zeke Shaw Indigenous Consultancy can build a stronger, more inclusive future, fostering a sense of unity and belonging for all. This cultural understanding and connection will create a lasting positive impact on both the organisation and the communities they serve, paving the way for a brighter future.

Clinton Neumann

Manager Operational Capability

Rural Fire Service

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

