

Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra has laid the following foundations for understanding how and why First Nations are still disempowered today.

DJALKIRRI / FOUNDATIONS OF UNDERSTANDING

We must acknowledge that:

- Most of us have been brought up, educated and influenced by the dominant paradigm and most of our belief systems, ideologies and perceptions of the world are framed within this dominant world view.
- First Nations have a very different world view that is in many instances in direct conflict with our own.
- Within Australia there are hundreds of First Nations and each have their own world view, culture and laws. We cannot use a one size fits all approach in our understanding of them and the solutions that are appropriate.
- Different First Nations within Australia have been affected by colonisation to varying degrees, under different methods and at different times across history. The impact varies across each Nation and all have their own stories, trauma and truths.
- First Nations world views are often misunderstood, misrepresented and still considered 'primitive' and 'less sophisticated' than the dominant.
- The dominant world view demands that First Nations engage only within the dominant paradigm, meaning that they are always operating in a foreign space, compromised and never in their full power and autonomy.
- We can all inadvertently make this demand on First Nations people in the way we ourselves operate through our own conditioning.
- Only through mutual respect of diverging worldviews can there be meaningful and empowering political and social change that is not tokenistic and compromised.