

# AIJA Indigenous Youth Justice Conference

## Panellist

Day 2 - Session 15: “Significance of culture to well-being, healing and rehabilitation”.



## Vanessa Edwige

Head of Social and Emotional Wellbeing  
Coxinall Ridgeway

Vanessa Edwige is a Ngarabal woman from Emmaville, NSW. Vanessa is a registered psychologist and the Chair of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association. Vanessa is a Director on the Board of Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia. Vanessa has worked in Redfern, NSW for the last 23 years working with Aboriginal children, young people, families and community to provide culturally responsive psychological support for adverse childhood experiences, intergenerational trauma and supporting cultural resilience.

Vanessa currently works part time as the head of social and emotional wellbeing for Coxinall Ridgeway and works privately writing psychological reports for people in contact with the judicial system. Vanessa has been writing these reports for the last nine years. Vanessa is a member of the independent advisory panel for the NSW Public Defenders Bugmy Bar Book project and is a co-author for this project on the significance of culture in relation to treatment and healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.