

## National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy

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This is a joint policy statement as endorsed by the governments of:

The Commonwealth of Australia  
The State of New South Wales  
The State of Queensland  
The State of South Australia  
The State of Tasmania  
The State of Victoria  
The State of Western Australia  
Australian Capital Territory  
Northern Territory

The following statement of goals forms the basis for co-operation and collaboration between educational institutions, States and Territories and the Commonwealth, in association with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These are **long-term goals** to guide the development of agreed educational strategies for meeting the different education needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the States and Territories.

### Long-term goals for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education

#### *Involvement of Aboriginal people in educational decision making*

1. To establish effective arrangements for the participation of Aboriginal parents and community members in decisions regarding the planning, delivery and evaluation of preschool, primary and secondary education services for their children.
2. To increase the number of Aboriginal people employed as educational administrators, teachers, curriculum advisers, teacher assistants, home-school liaison officers and other education workers, including community people engaged in teaching of Aboriginal culture, history and contemporary society, and Aboriginal languages.
3. To establish effective arrangements for the participation of Aboriginal students and community members in decisions regarding the planning, delivery and evaluation of post-school education services, including technical and further education colleges and higher education institutions.
4. To increase the number of Aboriginal people employed as administrators, teachers, researchers and student services officers in technical and further education colleges and higher education institutions.
5. To provide education and training services to develop the skills of Aboriginal people to participate in educational decision-making.
6. To develop arrangements for the provision of independent advice from Aboriginal communities regarding educational decisions at regional, State, Territory and National levels.

#### *Equality of access to educational services*

7. To ensure that Aboriginal children of pre-primary school age have access to pre-school services on a basis comparable to that available to other Australian children of the same age.
8. To ensure that all Aboriginal children have local access to primary and secondary schooling.
9. To ensure equitable access for Aboriginal people to post-compulsory secondary schooling, to technical and further education, and higher education.

*Equity of educational participation*

10. To achieve the participation of Aboriginal children in pre-school education for a period similar to that for all Australian children.
11. To achieve the participation of all Aboriginal children in compulsory schooling.
12. To achieve the participation of Aboriginal people in post-compulsory secondary education, in technical and further education, and in higher education, at rates commensurate with those of all Australians in those sectors.

*Equitable and appropriate educational outcomes*

13. To provide adequate preparation of Aboriginal children through pre-school education for the schooling years ahead.
14. To enable Aboriginal attainment of skills to the same standard as other Australian students throughout the compulsory schooling years.
15. To enable Aboriginal students to attain the successful completion of Year 12 or equivalent at the same rates as for other Australian students.
16. To enable Aboriginal students to attain the same graduation rates from award courses in technical and further education, and in higher education, as for other Australians.
17. To develop programs to support the maintenance and continued use of Aboriginal languages.
18. To provide community education services which enable Aboriginal people to develop the skills to manage the development of their communities.
19. To enable the attainment of proficiency in English language and numeracy competencies by Aboriginal adults with limited or no educational experience.
20. To enable Aboriginal students at all levels of education to have an appreciation of their history, cultures and identity.
21. To provide all Australian students with an understanding of and respect for Aboriginal traditional and contemporary cultures.