

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY

✓ The Aboriginal Education and Training Policy defines the Department's commitments in this area in schools, TAFE NSW Institutes and community education settings. It was developed in response to the Aboriginal Education Review 2004, in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and key partners.

### 1.Objectives - Policy statement

#### 1.1

##### Commitments

#### 1.1.1

The NSW Department of Education and Training including schools, TAFE NSW and community education settings (The Department), is committed to improving the educational outcomes and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students so that they excel and achieve in every aspect of their education and training.

#### 1.1.2

It is the goal of the Department, that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students will match or better the outcomes of the broader student population.

#### 1.1.3

The Department is committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of the histories, cultures and experiences of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of Australia.

#### 1.1.4

The Department will provide Aboriginal cultural education for all staff and education about Aboriginal Australia for all students, as it is everybody's business.

#### 1.1.5

The strength, diversity, ownership and richness of Aboriginal cultures and Custodianship of Country are respected, valued and promoted.

#### 1.1.6

The Department is committed to collaborative decision making with Aboriginal Peoples, parents, caregivers, families and their communities.

#### 1.1.7

The Department recognises the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated (NSW AECG Inc) as the peak Community advisory body to the Department on Aboriginal education and training at all levels and in all stages of planning and decision making.

#### 1.1.8

These commitments affirm the inherent right of Aboriginal students to fair, equitable, culturally inclusive and significant educational opportunities so that all students obtain a high quality education as a platform for enriching their life chances and achieving their full potential.

#### 1.1.9

Aboriginal education and training is core business for all staff.

### 1.2

**Aboriginal education and training involves continuous, life long learning. It includes:**

#### 1.2.1

delivery of quality education and training to Aboriginal students in schools (including where relevant preschools), TAFE Institutes and community education settings

#### 1.2.2

education about Aboriginal Australia for all students

#### 1.2.3

mandatory Aboriginal cultural education through professional learning and career development experiences for all staff

#### 1.2.4

identifying and engaging the NSW AECG Inc and Aboriginal communities as partners in Aboriginal education and training.

### 1.3

**The Department values the skills, experiences and knowledge of Aboriginal people and will:**

#### 1.3.1

increase the participation and retention of Aboriginal students in schools, TAFE Institutes and community education settings

#### 1.3.2

increase employment, promotional opportunities and retention of Aboriginal people in a broad range of positions across all areas of the Department

#### 1.3.3

engage the NSW AECG Inc and Aboriginal communities as partners in Aboriginal education and training.

### 1.4

**The Department will improve lifelong learning pathways for Aboriginal learners. This will include transitions:**

#### 1.4.1

from home to school

#### 1.4.2

through primary and secondary education

#### 1.4.3

from school into further study and employment

#### 1.4.4

through vocational education and training and other pathways into further study or sustainable employment.

## 1.5

### **The Department in partnership with the NSW AECG Inc and Aboriginal communities and organisations will:**

#### 1.5.1

value and acknowledge the identities of Aboriginal students

#### 1.5.2

provide supportive and culturally inclusive learning environments for Aboriginal students

#### 1.5.3

assist Aboriginal students to access educational opportunities in a range of settings

#### 1.5.4

implement:

- Aboriginal studies programs
- Aboriginal languages programs
- Aboriginal cross-curriculum content within schools
- Aboriginal perspectives in relevant further/alternative education and training programs.

#### 1.5.5

incorporate the cultural contexts, values and practices of local Aboriginal communities into the mainstream delivery of education and training.

## 1.6

### **The Department will consult with local Aboriginal communities and support teachers to:**

#### 1.6.1

develop and demonstrate their high expectations of all Aboriginal students

#### 1.6.2

engage and motivate Aboriginal students for successful participation in education and training

#### 1.6.3

encourage Aboriginal students to pursue personal excellence, including a commitment to learning

#### 1.6.4

use quality teaching and assessment practices and resources that are culturally inclusive

#### 1.6.5

enable Aboriginal students to achieve age appropriate syllabus outcomes in schools and module and course completions in vocational education and training

#### 1.6.6

provide all students with opportunities to develop deeper understandings of Aboriginal histories, cultures and languages through:

- Aboriginal studies
- Aboriginal languages
- Aboriginal cross-curriculum content in schools
- relevant studies in TAFE and community education.

## 1.7

### **Working together to build capacity within Aboriginal communities**

#### 1.7.1

The Department will work with other government agencies and non-government organisations to build capacity within Aboriginal communities to ensure that Aboriginal people participate as equal partners in education and training.

## 1.8

### Training and assistance

#### 1.8.1

The Department will provide appropriate and relevant training and resources to assist with the implementation of this policy in line with the key focus of achieving improved educational outcomes in Aboriginal education and training.

## 2. Audience and applicability

### 2.1

The policy applies to all employees of the Department.

### 2.2

Programs funded by the Department are expected to operate in line with the policy.

## 3. Context

### 3.1

The *NSW Aboriginal Education and Training Strategy 2009-2012* (pdf 1.5MB) is the Department's plan to improve the educational outcomes and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The Strategy incorporates a shared responsibility for planning and targeted support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

### 3.2

The *NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Plan 2003-2012: Two Ways Together* within the context of *The State Plan: A New Direction for New South Wales*, provides the New South Wales context for priority actions within the *NSW Aboriginal Education and Training Strategy 2006 -2008*

### 3.3

*Securing a Collaborative Partnership into the Future* provides the philosophy of, and commitment to, the partnership between the NSW AECG Inc and the Department.

### 3.4

*The Report of the Aboriginal Education Review Yanigurra Muya: Gangurrinyma Yaarri GuurulawYirringin.gurray Freeing the Spirit: Dreaming an Equal Future 2004* details the findings and recommendations from the Aboriginal Education Review.

### 3.5

*Australian Directions in Indigenous Education 2005 - 2008 (under review)* provides the national directions for Aboriginal Education and Training.

### 3.6

*The Technical and Further Education Commission Act (1990)* requires that TAFE NSW provide Aboriginal people with access to technical and further education services, including a range of appropriate specialised services.

### 3.7

*The NSW Anti-Discrimination Act (1977)* along with the *Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act (1975)* make racial discrimination and vilification illegal in New South Wales.

### 3.8

#### Document history and details

## 4. Responsibilities and delegations

### 4.1

The Director-General is responsible for ensuring the implementation and monitoring of the policy and reporting to the Minister, the NSW AECG Inc and the broader NSW community on the implementation of the policy and achievements within Aboriginal education and training.

## **4.2**

### **Regional, Institute and state office directors are responsible for:**

#### 4.2.1

consulting with the NSW AECG Inc and communities

#### 4.2.2

implementing the policy

#### 4.2.3

developing plans that comply with the policy

#### 4.2.4

monitoring the effectiveness of their plans

#### 4.2.5

reporting on achievements in Aboriginal education and training against outcomes and targets.

## **4.3**

### **School principals are responsible for:**

#### 4.3.1

consulting with the NSW AECG Inc Local and Regional levels and Aboriginal communities

#### 4.3.2

implementing the policy

#### 4.3.3

incorporating strategies within the school plan that comply with the policy

#### 4.3.4

monitoring the effectiveness of their plans

#### 4.3.5

reporting on achievements in Aboriginal education and training against outcomes and targets.

## **4.4**

### **Institute managers are responsible for:**

#### 4.4.1

consulting with the NSW AECG Inc Local and Regional levels and Aboriginal communities

#### 4.4.2

implementing the policy

#### 4.4.3

developing plans that comply with the policy

#### 4.4.4

monitoring the effectiveness of their plans

#### 4.4.5

reporting on achievements in Aboriginal education and training against outcomes and targets.

## **4.5**

### **All staff**

#### 4.5.1

in schools, TAFE Institutes, regional offices, state offices and Adult Community Education (ACE) are responsible for implementing the policy and ensuring their actions comply with it.

#### 4.6

##### **The Director, Aboriginal Education and Training**

#### 4.6.1

is responsible for publication and currency of the policy and coordination of support material through consultation with, and endorsement from, the NSW AECG Inc.

### **5. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements**

#### 5.1

The Department will report on outcomes for Aboriginal students in the Department's Annual Report.

#### 5.2

The Director, Aboriginal Education and Training will monitor progress on the implementation of this policy and report to the Director-General.

#### 5.3

In honouring the *Securing a Collaborative Partnership into the Future* partnership agreement, the Department will collaborate with the NSW AECG Inc in the monitoring and evaluation of strategies and will report on progress in implementing this policy against outcomes and targets for Aboriginal education and training. The Department will also consult with NSW AECG Inc on future policy directions.

#### 5.4

Regions and Institutes will report annually through their regional and Institute reports.

#### 5.5

Schools will report through their annual school reports.

### **6. Contact**

Director, Aboriginal Education and Training (02) 9244 5790.