



# West Moreton Anglican College

## Policy & Procedures: 3.18 Indigenous Education Policy

### CONTENTS:

	Page
1.0 Introduction .....	2
2.0 Policy Statement .....	2
3.0 Resource Documents and Links.....	3
3.1 Anglican Church Southern Queensland Reconciliation Action Plan 2016 – 2018.....	3
3.2 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy .....	3
3.3 Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Schools .....	3
3.4 Advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Training .....	3
3.5 What Works. The Work Program .....	3
3.6 Reconciliation Australia .....	3

## 1.0 Introduction

The vision of the College is to create an environment where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are empowered to achieve their full potential. We believe an integrated and inclusive approach to learning, where all cultures are valued and respected will help us to achieve this. Through partnership with local communities, the College, students, staff and parents inclusive, our curriculum will be enhanced. We also embrace the philosophy that by sharing Indigenous perspectives and building on local cultural knowledge and experience we will help to enhance the education of all students in the College.

## 2.0 Policy Statement

All Anglican schools, regardless of the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled, are asked to embrace authentic partnerships in Indigenous education by:

- a) Implementing staff training and development of high levels of cultural and linguistic understanding and competency to inform best practice strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;
- b) Developing, through strategic plans, curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs that are inclusive and reflective of our stated beliefs. Consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, parents and community groups are essential to this process and suggested strategies include:
  - constructing social, emotional and physical environments which create a sense of welcome and inclusion;
  - promoting high expectations for the learning outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;
  - partnering with parents and local communities in the educational decision making process;
  - inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to lead worship in keeping with their culture;
  - acknowledging and participating in cultural festivals and significant events;
  - inviting Elders to teach about their histories, cultures and languages;
  - developing units in Religious Education which promote an understanding of Indigenous spirituality and its relation to Christian faith;
  - designing specific support structures for new and continuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families;
  - developing reconciliation policies and protocols among all students;
  - promoting opportunities for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families to get together with those from other Anglican and neighbouring schools; and
  - developing knowledge and understanding of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and languages.
- c) Ensuring governing bodies are exposed to and educated in issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- d) Providing opportunities for parents to learn more about those issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- e) Supporting an Anglican "Foundation" to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student access to schools;
- f) Encouraging the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff; and
- g) Increasing the participation and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through to the completion of Year 12.

### **3.0 Resource Documents and Links**

#### **3.1 Anglican Church Southern Queensland Reconciliation Action Plan 2016 – 2018**

This RAP document outlines the Anglican Church's approach to reconciliation.

<http://anglicanchurchsq.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CSC5154-Reconcilliation-Action-Plan-A5-Booklet-single-pages.pdf>

#### **3.2 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy**

The Education Council plan that sets out the commitment of education ministers to the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

It identifies priority areas intended to inform local approaches and summarises national collaborative actions expected to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

[http://www.scseec.edu.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/ATSI%20documents/DECD\\_NATSI\\_EducationStrategy.pdf](http://www.scseec.edu.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/ATSI%20documents/DECD_NATSI_EducationStrategy.pdf)

#### **3.3 Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Schools**

A key action by the Department of Education and Training under 'The Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan'.

A practical guide for administrators of school learning communities to ensure inclusive school processes and practices that promote a greater understanding of the histories, cultures, values, beliefs, languages, lifestyles and roles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Used as a professional development tool to assist teachers with including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of viewing the world (people, places and things, their language and interrelationships).

[http://indigenous.education.qld.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/eatsips-docs/eatsips\\_2011.pdf](http://indigenous.education.qld.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/eatsips-docs/eatsips_2011.pdf)

#### **3.4 Advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Training**

Department of Education and Training draft action plan, used in the consultation process, to drive higher expectations in early childhood education, school education, vocational education and training, and higher education.

<https://indigenousportal.eq.edu.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/adv-ed-atsi-action-plan.pdf>

#### **3.5 What Works. The Work Program**

Website that helps schools plan and *take action* to improve educational outcomes, managed by National Curriculum Services (teacher professional association).

<http://www.whatworks.edu.au/dbAction.do?cmd=homePage>

#### **3.6 Reconciliation Australia**

Website (of the independent not-for-profit organisation) which promotes and facilitates reconciliation by building relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/>