



ONE-PAGER

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL EDUCATION AT ----- SCHOOL

Insert photo from your school context here

At **[Insert school name]**, we value **[fill in the blank]**, and we are committed to strengthening our relationships with our local Aboriginal **[or fill in specific name]** community and improving Aboriginal education at our school. This year, we are hoping to employ a local Aboriginal Cultural Educator so that all students become better educated about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges, histories and cultures.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

First Nations communities have long fought for greater authority and agency in connection with formal schooling. Although the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers mandate that all teachers should have an understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, and the ACARA Cross-Curriculum Priorities require the teaching of First Nations perspectives across all disciplines, many teachers feel ill-equipped to teach this in a meaningful way.

Research shows that partnerships between schools and First Nations communities, and the embedding of First Nations cultural knowledge and perspectives in schools, can improve schooling for ALL students. Visit www.knowyourcountry.com.au to learn more.

HISTORY

Australian schools were not originally designed to sustain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' connection to their communities and culture; in fact, they were overt tools of assimilation. Australia has a long way to go to right these wrongs and to show Aboriginal people that schools are safe places for them and their children.

There is also a pattern of mainstream Australia believing negative stereotypes and historical inaccuracies about Aboriginal people and culture. This has resulted in many non-Indigenous Australians not believing that learning about First Nations culture will be relevant or meaningful to them. However, this is beginning to change, with a 2020 survey of over 1,000 Australians showing that most are unsatisfied with how they were taught First Nations histories and cultures in school, and they wish they knew more.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

A Cultural Educator will work at our school _ days a week, collaborating with teachers to plan, implement, and evaluate the integration of First Nations perspectives across the curriculum.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

We hope, through working with a Cultural Educator, to build and sustain positive relationships with our local Aboriginal community. We hope to build our teachers' capacity to work with Aboriginal perspectives in the curriculum in meaningful, non-tokenistic ways. And we hope that our students will become well-educated about Aboriginal histories and perspectives, and that we prepare them to be culturally aware and to advocate for reconciliation in their communities.

For more information, please contact **[Insert name]**, **[Insert role]** via **[Insert email address]** and/or **[Insert phone number]**.