

KNOW YOUR COUNTRY CAMPAIGN FACT SHEET

KIDS DESERVE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES AND CULTURES FROM FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL EDUCATORS

This campaign is about closing a critical yet still overlooked gap in our education. A good primary school education, featuring regular, positive relationships with people from the local First Nations community will set our children up for life-long learning around and appreciation of our shared history, respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures.

PROBLEMS THIS CAMPAIGN IS ADDRESSING

- Most children are missing out on a quality education about local First Nations people, cultures, histories and perspectives in school.
- Teachers often aren't confident or properly supported to authentically deliver the First Nations cross-curriculum priority.
- Schools aren't funded to employ local First Nations community members to assist teachers, students and the school itself.
- There is no universal, national system for schools to formally engage and fairly pay local First Nations communities for sharing their knowledge with all students.

For millennia the cultures, lores, ceremonies and connection to the lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been strong and enduring. It is core to our understanding of ourselves as a nation, and shouldn't be treated as optional.



Cultural Educator from the La Perouse Community - Aunty Maxine Ryan with students from Chifley Public School in Sydney, NSW

SOLUTION

Every child across this vast continent deserves to learn from the wisdom of the first custodians of the Country they live on. This way, the next generation will be equipped to make better decisions that impact the lives of First Nations peoples. Our society can be grounded in the First Nations ways of being, doing and knowing.

This campaign calls for Federal, State and Territory Ministers to commit ongoing funding for every primary school to employ locally app First Nations Cultural Educators.

This will equip teachers and schools with the resource required to embed existing First Nations knowledge priorities in the curriculum. First Nations Cultural Educators will be able to build authentic and meaningful relationships between schools and local First Nations communities.



Cultural Educator Phyllis Marsh at West Moreton Anglican College, Qld

WHAT DO CULTURAL EDUCATORS DO?

The role of First Nations Cultural Residents would be co-designed at the local level by the school and the First Nations community. Cultural Educators could help:

- EMBED** First Nations knowledge and perspectives across the curriculum.
- BUILD** in schools and students authentic and meaningful relationships with their local First Nations communities.
- GUIDE** student and staff learning and development, including coordinating community-based and on-Country learning experiences, cultural awareness and capability training for students and school staff.
- IMPLEMENT** existing school strategies, such as Reconciliation Action Plans.

WAYS TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Visit knowyourcountry.com.au to sign the petition as an everyday Australian and grab assets to help Acknowledge the First Nations Country you're on | Parents and teachers can download educational resources | Principals can sign up their school | Organisations can join a growing list of allies.

KNOW
YOUR
COUNTRY