

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives Statement 2013–2015



Purpose

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is committed to embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into all aspects of its work. This statement identifies the priority areas for action for 2013–2015 to support QCAA staff, stakeholders and partners in ensuring that Aboriginal perspectives and Torres Strait Islander perspectives inform the work of the QCAA.

These perspectives reflect individual and community experiences, cultural beliefs and values. They acknowledge and connect Aboriginal peoples' and Torres Strait Islander peoples' ways of knowing, viewing and relating to the world.

Principles

- Only Aboriginal communities and Torres Strait Islander communities can define the protocols and processes for their knowledge.
- QCAA products and services aim to provide a balanced representation of cultural, social, spiritual and political beliefs, respectful of the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.
- QCAA products provide opportunities to connect with members of Aboriginal communities and Torres Strait Islander communities and to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing.
- QCAA is committed to embedding Aboriginal perspectives and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into QCAA products, services and organisational environment including:
 - curriculum development (syllabuses, advice, guidelines and resources)
 - assessment
 - recognition and accreditation
 - professional development (internal and external)
 - human resources policy and communications.

QCAA affirms that:

- Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the first Australians, and have the oldest living cultures in human history
- Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have strong cultural traditions and speak diverse languages and dialects, other than Standard Australian English
- teaching and learning in Queensland schools should provide opportunities for students to deepen their knowledge of Australia by engaging with the perspectives of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- positive outcomes for Aboriginal students and Torres Strait Islander students are supported by successfully embedding Aboriginal perspectives and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across planning, teaching and assessing student achievement.

Priorities 2013–2015

Partnerships

- Connecting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and individuals.
- Providing advice and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations about applying for recognition of structured community-based learning programs and projects.
- Raising awareness and supporting the work of the QCAA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Committee with community and organisational networks.
- Developing and maintaining partnerships with government and non-government organisations that have policy focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

Promotion

- Promoting key events pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education (internal and external) through networks, QCAA communications and conferences.
- Promoting QCAA products and services within Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community forums and events.
- Promoting and supporting the work of QCAA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education staff through internal, community and organisational networks.

Cultural engagement

- Maintaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on QCAA committees.
- Facilitating and supporting senior QCAA management participation on external committees focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.
- Encouraging and supporting QCAA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to engage with Indigenous professional networks and programs.

Products and services

- Continuing to ensure that Aboriginal perspectives and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are embedded in QCAA products and services.
- Maintaining cultural awareness processes, programs and support for QCAA staff and committees.
- Ensuring QCAA products and services reflect Commonwealth and State Government policies and priorities about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

More information

If you would like more information, please email IndigenousPortal@qcaa.qld.edu.au, or phone 3864 0310. Or visit the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/3024.html