Developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives

When planning a course of study teachers should identify ways to strengthen students’ appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives by encouraging engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:

- frameworks of knowledge and ways of learning
- contributions to Australian society and cultures
- ways of life and social contexts.

The Indigenous perspectives section of the QCAA website has a collection of resources to help teachers engage with Indigenous histories and peoples [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/577.html](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/577.html).

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Handbook* (available from [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/8848-teaching.html](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/8848-teaching.html)) includes information about:

- establishing a supportive school and classroom environment
- consulting and collaborating with local Indigenous communities
- dealing with sensitive issues
- selecting appropriate resources and texts
- removing barriers to student success and engagement.

**Specific advice for English Extension**

Teachers can support developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in English Extension courses of study by providing opportunities for students to engage with suitable literary texts and theoretical approaches to these texts.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives can be developed in English Extension courses of study by, for example:

- including in teaching and learning the close study of literary texts by Aboriginal authors and Torres Strait Islander authors that represent the experiences of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- providing opportunities for students to engage with theoretical approaches that are concerned with literature produced by colonised peoples, such as postcolonial theory
- designing and implementing learning experiences that reflect Aboriginal peoples’ and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ frameworks of knowledge and ways of working.

Refer to *Reference materials* on the English Extension 2011 webpage [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/17601.html](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/17601.html) for links to resources supporting teachers to develop Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in English Extension courses of study.