



# ACT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AGREEMENT 2019—2028

Delivering equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

## SIGNIFICANT FOCUS AREA: LIFE LONG LEARNING

RESPECT IS GIVEN TO PRESERVING THE WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING CULTURES WHICH ENHANCES SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EMPOWERS ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES TO FULLY ENGAGE IN LIFELONG LEARNING AND POSITIVE GENERATIONAL EXPERIENCES

### WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME BY FOCUSING ON:

- Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into learning programs, with a focus on local history, culture and knowledge.
- Keeping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage alive and current.
- Assisting teachers in becoming confident and capable in teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, with their histories, cultures and languages visible throughout school communities and learning programs.
- Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and adults at all stages of life to experience and enjoy the learning journey of choice.
- Supporting ACT Government employees to be culturally competent/literate with access to cross cultural training and immersion programs commensurate with their roles.
- Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ACT Government employees in their journey of lifelong learning.

## TARGETS TO ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME

These targets are indicative and may be updated following the Closing the Gap refresh.

Targets will be monitored and reviewed periodically throughout the implementation of the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028*:

### Closing the Gap

- Increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the top two bands of NAPLAN reading and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 by an average of 6 percentage points by 2028.
- Decrease the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the bottom two bands of NAPLAN reading and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 by an average of 6 percentage points by 2028.
- Halve the gap in attainment of Year 12 or equivalent qualifications between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous 20-24 year-olds by 2020.
- 47 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (aged 20-64 years) have completed Certificate III or above, including higher education, by 2028.



## TARGETS TO ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME (CONT.)

### ACT

- 95 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are enrolled in early childhood education.
- Increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people achieving an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate (Year 12) or equivalent qualification.
- Increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people employed through the employment inclusion program (supporting traineeships and apprenticeships).
- All teachers in ACT public schools have access to cultural integrity/cultural competency professional learning by 2021.
- 90 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the care of the Director-General have a cultural care plan that incorporates learning about their family, culture and community as an essential component of their learning.
- Demonstrate cultural competency and proficiency of ACT Government employees.
- Increase in the retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT Public Service.
- Increase rates of ACT Government employee participation in cultural competency training.

## PRIORITY ACTIONS

**The Priority Actions will be progressed during the first 18 months of the Agreement. Further actions will be determined over the course of the Agreement.**

- Provide all teaching staff in ACT public schools access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural integrity/cultural competency professional learning.
- Create dedicated learning environments in schools and education institutions where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is nurtured, celebrated and shared with the broader community.
- Develop mechanisms to support all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be enrolled and attending regularly in early childhood education under the universal access to preschool for three-year-olds.
- Support for children and young people to develop and achieve positive educational outcomes that better support them to participate fully in adult life.
- Support the achievement of training and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through apprenticeship, traineeship, cadetships and other skills-based pathways.
- Develop quality curriculum resources on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, histories and knowledge.
- ACT Government employees understand the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural protocols.
- Create holiday programs and resource kits through Libraries ACT branches celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.
- Strengthen the Education Directorate's School Leaver Survey to capture better longitudinal data.