

KIDS DESERVE TO LEARN 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, appreciation of our shared history, respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures.

POLICY GOAL

Federal, State and Territory Education Ministers agree to fund all public and private primary schools to employ locally approved, First Nations Cultural Residents.

PURPOSE

We must develop and implement strategies to reduce systemic racism. In education systems this can be accomplished by empowering strong, local, First Nations voices to advise educators and teach students about their community's own cultures, experiences and perspectives.

Additionally, the existing cross-curriculum priority of First Nations peoples' histories, cultures and perspectives is not universally implemented in an authentic way. We need to set a higher standard.



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

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.

Every child across this vast continent deserves to learn from the wisdom of the first custodians of the land 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.

HOW?

It is vital to create space for self-determination in the education system. One way to do this is through First Nations people being present and engaged in shaping and delivering local, authentic teaching around First Nations cultures and perspectives, relevant to their communities.

The role of First Nations Cultural Residents would be to help :

1. **EMBED** First Nations knowledge and perspectives across the curriculum.
2. **BUILD** in schools and students authentic and meaningful relationships with their local First Nations communities.
3. **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
4. **IMPLEMENT** existing school strategies, such as Reconciliation Action Plans.

CAMPAIGN GOAL

The *Know Your Country* campaign is First Nations-led and provides an open-source framework for First Nations organisations and allies to work together and advocate for the Policy Goal to become a reality across all education systems. Our ask is for all Parliaments to commit to funding this new policy before the elections and make it an ongoing budget priority. For more information visit knowyourcountry.com.au

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