



Indigenous Education

Background

The Australian Government is committed to Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

Closing the Gap has become a national priority with all governments working together through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to reach the following targets:

- to close the gap in life expectancy within a generation
- to halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
- to ensure all Indigenous four-year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years
- to halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for Indigenous children within a decade
- to halve the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 equivalent attainment by 2020, and
- to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Progress

The Australian Government has committed \$2.1 billion over four years to improve the educational outcomes of Indigenous Australians in the areas of early childhood, schooling, vocational education and training, and tertiary education.

An Indigenous Education Action Plan (the plan) has been drafted through the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA).

The plan will identify schools with significant Indigenous enrolments that are struggling and ensure all governments are working together to focus on these schools, provide intensive support and improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students.

The plan is being developed in consultation with Indigenous Australians and will include a focus on:

- readiness for school
- attendance
- school leadership and quality teaching
- literacy and numeracy
- parental and community engagement, and
- pathways to real employment opportunities.

There are also a range of current government programs and initiatives running in local communities that are successfully assisting with improving Indigenous education.

The Sporting Chance Program is an Australian Government initiative that uses sport and recreation as a vehicle to engage Indigenous young people in schooling, improve educational outcomes and post-school options, including long term employment.

The Indigenous Youth Leadership Program provides scholarships to Indigenous students primarily from remote areas to attend high performing schools or universities.

Other programs include the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program, Dare to Lead, What Works, Personalised Learning Plans for Indigenous students, Parental and Community Engagement and Stronger Smarter.

Further information

For more detailed information on the plan or any of the Indigenous education government programs, please visit www.deewr.gov.au/indigenous.