ABORIGINAL EDUCATION STRATEGY

Impact report

June 2024

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners throughout South Australia, and we pay respect to the custodians of the lands on which the initiatives to advance the goals of the Aboriginal Education Strategy are being delivered.

We respect their spiritual relationship with Country and acknowledge that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to those living today.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and we acknowledge the cultural authority of Aboriginal people of South Australia and across Australia.

Dedication to children and their families

The Aboriginal Education Strategy is dedicated to the children and young people in our communities, all of whom deserve access to high-quality early childhood and school education, and pathways. Aboriginal children and young people have a right to be raised strong in spirit and identity and connected to culture in education and care environments that provide every opportunity for lifelong learning and wellbeing, reflective of Aboriginal ways of knowing, doing, becoming, belonging and being.

Our Goals

Aboriginal children develop foundations for success in the early years

Aboriginal children and young people excel at school

Aboriginal children and young people are on pathways to success

Our Enablers

Aboriginal Voice Framework

Aboriginal knowledge, perspectives and expertise inform policy and projects system-wide.

Aboriginal Funding Reform

Funding arrangements for schools for Aboriginal children and young people are predictable and flexible, supporting improved learning outcomes.

Expert Advisory Panel (under review)

Aboriginal community and stakeholders inform decision making, strengthening delivery, accountability, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the Aboriginal Education Strategy.

Aboriginal Workforce Plan

An improved level of cultural awareness, understanding and respect across our workforce and within our workplaces; Aboriginal employees feel supported to build their careers and to seek leadership opportunities.

Aboriginal Voice and Partnerships

Consistent with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the Department for Education's Stretch Reconciliation Plan, a key principle of the Aboriginal Education Strategy is community engagement: we will hear, seek and respect the voices of Aboriginal people and organisations, and encourage the participation of Aboriginal students, carers, families and communities across our services.

Since January 2023:

- 17 Aboriginal community-controlled organisations have been engaged or supported by the Department for Education to co-design, inform and/or deliver initiatives in tranche 2 of the Strategy.
- The Aboriginal Voice Framework has been launched.
  - 86 Aboriginal employees from across corporate and sites, regional and metro, have registered for the Voice.
  - 60 Voice consultations on policies and programs have taken place.

Goal 1

Aboriginal children develop foundations for success in the early years

Since January 2023:

- Pilot child development screening check program, Little Murras, with Nunkuwarrin Yunti has commenced, providing information, support and referral pathways provided to parents and caregivers of Aboriginal children.
  - Child development checks have been provided to 64 Aboriginal children through the pilot, who may not otherwise have had access.
  - Home visits have been introduced to overcome barriers experienced by some families in accessing and attending appointments.

Access to support

"There have been some successful outcomes with families getting support, networking with services... One example was shared where the Linker assisted a parent to get child-care subsidy to get their child into childcare"

Little Murras Aboriginal Child and Family Linker

Goal 2

Aboriginal children and young people excel at school

Since January 2023:

- A Priority Learners Team has been established, providing tailored support to focus LETs and schools to improve Aboriginal learner achievement.
  - Working with 10 schools and 4 networks comprising 10 partnerships, reaching 31% of Aboriginal learners in South Australian public schools.
  - Examples of more effective school-wide structures, systems, policies and procedures to support Aboriginal learner achievement are emerging in supported schools.

Teaching Aboriginal learners of English as an additional language or dialect (EALD)

"My knowledge of teaching EALD learners was minimal when I began teaching at Fregon... Through my journey with the EALD Hub project my confidence has grown... The Hub provided me with advice and practical strategies to increase students' ability and confidence in speaking, reading and writing.

The sharing of success with students and families has created a culture where learning is valued. "

Classroom teacher, Fregon Anangu School
EALD Hub Focus School

- Educators in Focus Schools are participating in professional learning to develop their capabilities in culturally responsive, explicit teaching of Standard Australian English for Aboriginal learners of English as an additional language or dialect (EALD).
  - 10 coaches are working with 20 schools, statewide, including 9 Anangu schools.
  - Improved teacher capability and confidence indicated in teachers' self-reflections as part of their professional learning, together with classroom level evidence of growth in their students' proficiency in Standard Australian English.

Growth in phonics achievement

"In 2023, 44.3% of Aboriginal students scored at or above the expected achievement score, an improvement of 4 percentage points from 2022."

- Active collaborations with Aboriginal revival language organisations and owners to develop Aboriginal languages curriculum resources have grown from 3 to 6.
- $1.88M distributed to schools to support Aboriginal learners in years R to 6 to learn their or another Aboriginal language; $443,000 distributed to schools to support Aboriginal languages programs for all students in years R to 12.
  - Since 2019, the number of schools with an Aboriginal languages program has grown from 46 to 66 in 2024.
- Professional resources, learning and support continues to be provided to Anangu Personalised Learning Coordinators so they are confident in their abilities to develop One Plans.
- Anangu Educators are accessing Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara teaching materials and resources and professional learning to support their work in delivering a culturally affirming and locally meaningful education for their children.
  - Anangu Educators have reported that the WARU resources are helpful and 'make it easy,' with growth in some sites in Anangu-led first language instruction, and facilitation of First Language phonics data collection.
- Teaching and learning resources across multiple learning areas have been developed with Aboriginal Communities, supporting growth in educator confidence in delivering Aboriginal contexts in the curriculum.
  - Feedback from trial schools indicates that students are engaged in learning about Aboriginal contexts.

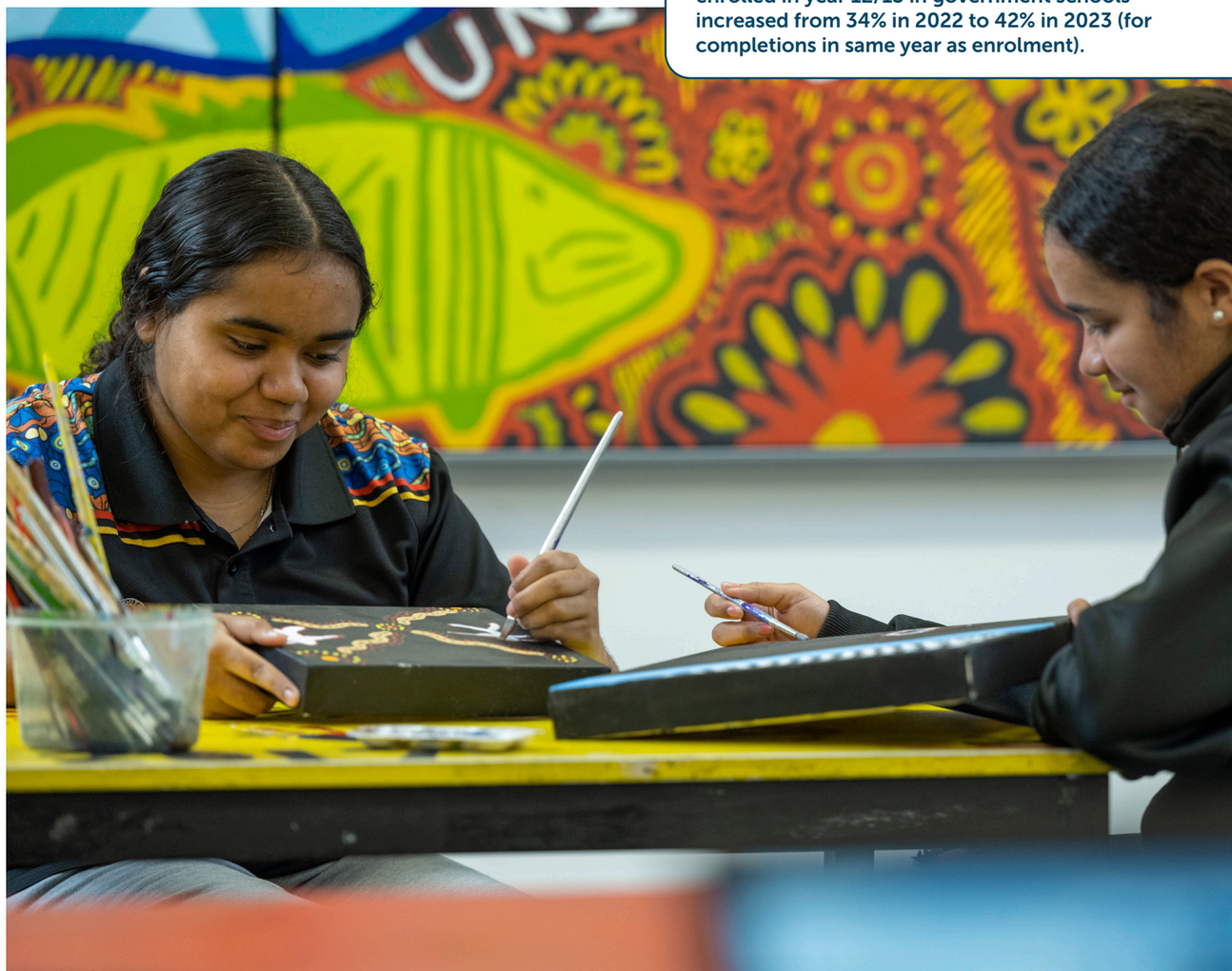
Goal 3

Aboriginal children and young people are on pathways to success

Since January 2023:

- Internal review of South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy and Workabout program will inform the development of an Aboriginal Pathways state-wide strategic service model.

SACE completion rate for Aboriginal students enrolled in year 12/13 in government schools increased from 34% in 2022 to 42% in 2023 (for completions in same year as enrolment).



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