



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

This article was originally published in printed form. The journal began in 1973 and was titled *The Aboriginal Child at School*. In 1996 the journal was transformed to an internationally peer-reviewed publication and renamed *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*.

In 2022 *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education* transitioned to fully Open Access and this article is available for use under the license conditions below.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

- b) "I can now walk down the street and hold my head high."
- c) "I am no longer a nobody."

Many such comments can be given; however, the above, simple as they appear, contain deep rooted ingrained feelings which have contributed to the overall scene as it exists today among Aboriginal people. This is what the College is all about - *we are interested in PEOPLE.*

The greater percentage of last year's students are now involved in the employment of their choice: no longer labourers, no longer the pick and shovel men, but in schools, in offices, in apprenticeships, in government employment, in teacher training programs, in further training for social welfare and residential care work. These are people who were labelled 'drop outs', 'useless has beens'. These gifted people who need a fresh and more realistic approach to themselves and their abilities.

In closing, I reiterate that this College is the most meaningful adventure ever in the field of Aboriginality. This is because it operates at the grass roots level, excluding no one but offering encouragement to all.

NOTE

In recent years several Colleges of Advanced Education have been offering courses in Aboriginal Studies.

In 1974 the School of Arts at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, with a grant from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, commenced a ten week course in Aboriginal Studies. The aim of the course, offered to third year trainee teachers, was to broaden the outlook of prospective teachers of Aboriginal children.

Topics covered during the course included an examination of the nature of race and racism; the historical context of Aboriginal-white relations; and the contemporary situation of urban and tribal Aboriginal Australians.

Several guest lectures were delivered by visiting politicians, educationalists and community workers. Senator N. Bonner lectured on "Aboriginal Land Rights"; Mrs. Kath Walker spoke on "Aboriginal Culture and Identity", and Professor Betty Watts discussed "Teaching Strategies in Aboriginal Education".

The Aboriginal Studies course, co-ordinated by Peter Wicks, Lecturer in Humanities at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, is continuing in 1975. Such courses can be expected to facilitate the development of teachers who are sensitive and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal students.

.....

EDITORIAL NOTE

Teachers who undertook courses such as this during their initial teacher education are invited to send in their comments, particularly in the light of their teaching experience since graduation.

.....

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies is anxious to photocopy or acquire manuscripts which relate to Australian Aborigines. Many papers and letters written by early European settlers in Australia may be of historical and scientific interest.

If you are in possession of anything like this, which you are willing to loan (for photocopying) or donate to the library, please contact -

*The Senior Bibliographer
AIAS F.O. Box 553
CANBERRA CITY. A.C.T. 2601*

.....