



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.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION*

CDC AND ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Alan Fidock, former principal of Evatt Primary School (A.C.T.) has been appointed the Curriculum Development Centre's Co-ordinator for Aboriginal Education.

CDC is presently committed to a program of development in the broadly defined area of Aboriginal education curriculum (education for and about Aborigines). However this program rests upon policy directives and guidelines from such bodies as the Commonwealth Government, the Schools Commission and the CDC's Council.

EARLY FUNDED PROJECTS

An early definition of priorities by the Centre's interim Council included Aboriginal Education and among the first funded projects were those relating to Aborigines in North-East Arnhem Land and the production of an Aboriginal Studies Bibliography.

The *Aboriginal Australian: North-Eastern Arnhem Land* project was proposed by the Evatt Primary School Board and was funded at \$20,000 over two and a half years. Dr Don Williams, principal lecturer in Education at the Canberra College of Advanced Education is developing and trialing resource materials with Alan.

Children have been involved in the selection, development and evaluation of the materials in a way that encourages them to formulate their own learning objectives. The development phase of this project is expected to be completed later this year and materials will be ready for trialing in selective schools during first term 1978.

The *Aboriginal Studies Bibliography* is designed to improve the quality of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies information service to teachers. The CDC has funded \$65,000 over two years to the Institute to produce a comprehensive annotated bibliography and teachers' manual on all aspects of Aboriginal life, history and culture.

.....

*Reprinted with permission from CDC News July 1977. Curriculum Development Centre, News 2.

RECENT PROJECTS

Aboriginal education projects to be funded and supported by the CDC Council during 1976-77 were: a *Manual of Activities and Ideas for Teachers Working in Aboriginal Schools*; *English Language Materials for Aboriginals*; and *Aboriginal Culture Materials*.

The first of these projects has been given a budget of \$7,000 during 1977 to survey Aboriginal schools and gather details of activities and ideas for school programing and curriculum development in manual arts, home economics and community-based school projects for use by teachers appointed to schools in tribal Aboriginal communities throughout Australia. The details of these suggested activities and ideas will then be compiled and printed in the form of a teacher manual.

The English language project is a co-ordinated materials production organised under the auspices of the CDC to achieve the development of a kit for teacher education, in-service training programs for teachers using ESL materials for Aboriginals, an oral language program integrated through pre-school, infants and primary levels, a core reading program for use from pre-school to primary with supplementary readers, and pre-reading material and supplements. This project has been allocated \$160,000 in 1977-1980.

In 1974, Professor Betty Watts in association with the University of Queensland Press, received a grant of \$2,000 to investigate the feasibility of producing multi-media materials for the study of Aboriginal culture. This study resulted in a proposal to develop a range of materials and the CDC has now agreed to fund the *Aboriginal Culture Materials* project at a cost of \$100,000 under the direction of Alan Fidock.

CO-ORDINATOR'S ROLE

A recent survey by the Centre has indicated that many institutions, departments and individuals throughout Australia are currently preparing or have developed materials about and for Aboriginals. Some have been developed by individuals or small groups at the school or classroom level in order to meet a specific local need, while others are the results of projects similar to those funded by the CDC.

As Co-ordinator, Alan is expected to liaise closely with those involved in similar programs in the States and Territories,

advising them of the Centre's activities and providing the means by which each will learn of the activities of the others. To do this, he is travelling throughout Australia to meet those preparing and teaching curriculum materials to and about Aborigines.

It is hoped that he may be able to advise and assist developments currently taking place, and to provide information and an interchange of ideas to people involved in similar projects.

He will also work in close association with a CDC Aboriginal Education Management group, soon to be appointed. This group will seek advice from and include in its membership a representative of the Government's new National Aboriginal Education Committee. Fresh initiatives may be required from CDC as a result of the liaison.

It is also hoped that during 1977-78 one or two Aborigines will be attached to the Centre to contribute to a definition of needs and tasks in this area and to strengthen their own expertise in various facets of curriculum development.

The CDC invites any submissions of developed materials (e.g. courses, programs etc.). We would also like to receive samples of information about work currently being done. Areas of need in Aboriginal Education can be conveyed to Alan Fidock when he visits your State or Territory.

.....