



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*.

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Today we can look around and see what has been achieved throughout the states - legal and medical services, housing, education, land rights and Aboriginal controlled communities. Young men and women graduating from Law School, Medical School, becoming teachers, nurses, qualified tradesmen, agriculturists, sportsmen and many more.

We, the older people of this generation must inspire and educate children to continue the struggle to fight for our rights.

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SOME CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES

*J. Marsden

I am an Aboriginal teacher aide working in State schools. When I was offered the job, I just thought that it was a chance to earn extra money. I thought I had a balanced, well-adjusted, confident outlook on life, until I actually started working in schools. The school is a busy bubbling hive of activity and the children quickly sort you out.

I first worked with a mixed group of boys and girls, mainly listening to them read or measure things. As time went by and I got to know the children (in particular Aboriginal children) my interest grew and I wanted to help them as much as I could. It took about 14 months to get the teacher's confidence in me, and courage for me to ask the teacher if I could work with that child to try to help him/her in a particular area. I got a good response from the teacher and the child. My confidence grew and so did the children's

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confidence grow in me, and they began to ask for help with all sorts of problems.

The next school year I'm hoping to work with the children in any area that they are having problems with.

I feel that if Aboriginal children and their parents don't grasp the opportunity now, it will be too late, especially as the world advances rapidly into the computer age.

I hope that in years to come I can go to see an Aboriginal doctor, dentist, lawyer, or go into a shop owned by an Aboriginal person.

SHARE YOUR SUCCESSES

The Aboriginal Child at School is designed principally to be a national forum whereby teachers of Aboriginal children may exchange insights about their students' learning, and teaching strategies they have developed that have proved successful.

Readers of the Journal find the practical teaching ideas developed by teachers in the field to cater for the specific characteristics of their students, school and community, particularly valuable.

The Aboriginal Child at School is able to accept articles and ideas in almost any form - handwritten text, tape recordings, notes, as well as typewritten material can be transcribed and prepared for publication.

Please share your ideas and successes.