



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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EDITORIAL

In 1985 the National Aboriginal Education Committee published a document, *Philosophy, Aims and Policy Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education*. The section on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies stated that -

Aboriginal Studies should become an integral part of the education of all Australians. It must be taught with a high degree of respect and understanding so that an accurate knowledge of the cultures and lifestyles, and thus Aboriginal-Australian history, can be developed.

and

Aboriginal Studies has a dual purpose. While it can create an avenue for young Aboriginal children to develop or maintain a pride in their cultural heritage it can also be used as an effective tool in sensitising the non-Aboriginal to the rich and complex aspects of Aboriginal society. Such an understanding and appreciation will lead to a more harmonious multicultural Australia.

Much of this issue of *The Aboriginal Child at School* is focussed on Aboriginal Studies programs and resources. We hope that these will be helpful for teachers who are considering developing their own Aboriginal Studies Programs for classes where Aboriginal children are in mainstream education or for non-Aboriginal learners.

Best wishes

Dawn Muir.

Dawn Muir - Hon. Editor

* *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 (double-spacing is
* preferred) can be transcribed and prepared for publication.
* Please share your ideas and successes.
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