



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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EDITORIAL

One focus of this issue of *The Aboriginal Child at School* is Aboriginal Studies and its importance in the school curriculum. Aboriginal Studies should be an important significant component of every Australian's education - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. Appropriate teaching resources are now becoming more readily available and are generally more appropriate to the effective teaching of the subject at the school level because Aborigines have a real role in the preparation of such material. A number of books and materials designed for use in Aboriginal Studies programs have been included in this issue of the journal.

The articles by Ralph Folds, Djuwalpi Marika, and Robin McTaggart stress how critical the factor of "choice" is in developing interest in, a commitment to, and a sense of responsibility for (empowerment) education, systems, and programs. Where there is no "choice", no sense of being in control or part of the decision making process, there is a sense of alienation, disinterest, and resentment.

The case study by John Ramsland on the Birpai of Manning exemplifies the importance of incorporating local Aboriginal history into the school curriculum. His work presents a useful model for undertaking a study of local history as a co-operative effort by local historians, Aborigines and teachers. The children's interest and pride in and identity with their own community's cultural history must have increased significantly during this study.

Best wishes

Dawn Muir.

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