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BRISBANE URBAN ABORIGINAL MATERIALS KIT

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The *Brisbane Urban Aboriginal Materials* were developed in response to a need - that is the scarcity of teaching materials related to urban Aboriginal lifestyles. They provide classroom materials for teachers which give insights into the lifestyles of Aboriginal people in Brisbane at this time.

The materials provide both teachers and students with an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the culture of urban Aborigines in Brisbane. In doing so, it is hoped the materials will enable teachers to present an accurate and positive view of urban Aboriginal lifestyles.

The stimulus for the project was derived from one particular Brisbane Aboriginal family - the Project Family. No attempt was made throughout the materials to define this family, or any other Aboriginal family referred to as being 'typical' of Brisbane urban Aboriginality. Instead, there is an attempt to encapsulate the diversity of lifestyles present within this cultural group.

The Project Family - A Source Book was written with the needs of upper primary school students in mind. The activities included in the materials address the needs of a range of year levels from middle primary school to lower secondary school. Through the utilisation of these, it is hoped that teachers and students will be able to gain a greater appreciation of the full and meaningful lives of Brisbane Aboriginal people.

MATERIALS

The *Brisbane Urban Aboriginal Materials Kit* contains the following components:

- *An Introductory Book* which provides background information about the Project and an introduction to the materials;

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- *A Background Information Book for Teachers*: This book offers historical and cultural information which would assist in introducing the materials to students;
- *The Project Family - A Source Book*: This provides insight into the lifestyle of the Project Family. This Source Book is intended to offer a stimulus to students before they undertake the activities contained in the activity cards;
- *Activity Cards and Resource Sheet for Students*: This is a collection of resource information for students and Activity Cards based upon this information;
- *An Audio-Visual Component*: This consists of nine slides and a commentary provided on an audio tape. In addition, a video which reproduces the content of the slides and audio-tape is included;
- *Stimulus Photographs of the Project Family* (in colour): These are intended for use in conjunction with the *Project Family - A Source Book*.

Mr Neil McGarvie, Principal Education Officer of the Aboriginal and Islander Education Branch within the Department of Education said that the materials had been developed through a consultative process with members of the Aboriginal and Islander Education Branch, consultants, teacher-developers and members of the Aboriginal Community in Brisbane involved.

"The *Brisbane Urban Aboriginal Materials* have been reviewed by representatives of the Aboriginal and Islander Education Branch within the Department of Education and by members of the Aboriginal Community of Brisbane with regard to the cultural authenticity of the materials," he said.

A TEACHER'S VIEW

Mrs Chris Williams, one of the teacher-developers and a member of the Aboriginal Community in Brisbane said of the materials, "I use the materials in my classroom. I think they provide an excellent opportunity for teachers and students to take a possibly new and different look at the cultures and lifestyles of urban Aborigines."

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