



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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EDITORIAL

In this edition of *The Aboriginal Child at School* we have a considerable range of ideas and issues. Joan Hunt's experience of 'officialdom' while acting on behalf of Aboriginal parents shows how intimidating, and even threatening, an institution like a school can be, and that special ways must be developed to encourage and welcome parental participation in their children's school life.

It is with interest we note the next step in Billy Kerr's Metaplan approach to needs assessment within the Aboriginal community of Coonana. The sense of ownership of and responsibility for any programs developed following the needs assessment must be much higher in the community members than for any program that is perceived to be imposed from 'outside'.

The account of "Counting at Pularumpi" which relies on very detailed observations by Robert McRoberts, and the evaluation of the Westcap Computer Reading Program by Wayne Scott, are excellent examples of 'action research' that can be undertaken satisfactorily only by someone who is involved in the community on a day-to-day basis over a considerable period of time.

An article we have reprinted from the *Van Leer Foundation Newsletter* describes how total reorganisation of the New Zealand Ministry of Education has "put education into the hands of the community".

Best wishes

Dawn Muir

Dawn Muir - Honorary Editor

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*The Aboriginal Child at School is able to accept articles
*and ideas in almost any form - handwritten text/notes,
*typed or printed material (LINE AND A HALF OR DOUBLE LINE
*SPACING, PLEASE) tape recordings can be transcribed and
*prepared for publication
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*Photographs - PRINTS - colour or black and white, are also
*appreciated.
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*Please share your ideas and successes.
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