



# 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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# ABORIGINAL STUDIES

Aboriginal Studies requires a genuine understanding of Aboriginal world view and intellectual traditions if it is to be taught effectively. For this reason, teaching Aboriginal Studies must only be undertaken by those teachers who have a qualification gained on the basis of knowledge, academic skill and experience in the area.

While Aboriginal Studies is increasingly being introduced as a subject into high schools, and updated as a unit in the primary Social Studies syllabus, a real understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures can only be achieved if Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island perspectives are included across the curriculum. As such pre- service teacher training should include compulsory education in Aboriginal Studies for all prospective teachers.

Schools looking to introduce Aboriginal Studies must first consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities to ensure the perspectives they are presenting are culturally relevant and sensitive to the children attending their school.

