



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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the stockmen who raised him from the age of ten to his early teens and gave him his treasured gift of an education. His continuing affection for them is evidenced by the dedication of his novel to them. It is heartwarming to read of the kindness and protectiveness he engendered in almost all he met, especially in our present climate of exposed child exploitation and abuse.

Although bitterness is absent and he takes care to make it clear he believes 'not all white people are bastards' he does lash out at the authorities who destroyed so many Aboriginal families. He pulls no punches when he rails at 'those rotten government and political bastards destroying families using the dirtiest weapon they had, churches, self-righteous bloody despots running government slave labour camps'.

The novel is written in a direct and conversational tone, making it accessible to readers of all ages and reading levels. It could be used in a variety of educational settings (high school and tertiary) as a literary text or as an adjunct to an Australian History course or an Aboriginal Studies unit. *Warrigal's Way* is full of yarns and Anderson is an adept storyteller, but the novel is also an important history showing our nation through the eyes of an Indigenous man, and it will no doubt join the growing number of similar successful publications. It is a book pervaded by a generosity of spirit which should ensure its position in the hearts of all Australians. □



Hand-in-Hand Parents and Teachers Make a Difference

As a parent, have you ever asked 'What can I do to give my child the best start to learning words and numbers?'

As an early childhood educator, have you ever asked 'What resources are available for me to share with parents about literacy and numeracy?'

A new literacy and numeracy package for parents is currently being developed by the office of the Queensland School Curriculum Council (QSCC) which will provide some of the answers to these questions.

The package, with the working title *Hand-in-Hand*, is designed for parents of young children and will contain information that explains the nature of literacy and numeracy development from birth. The package includes a poster, brochure (available in six community languages), six topic cards, a handbook and a video.

Throughout the materials, parents will recognise daily routines like sharing a meal and bedtime

and see how these activities contribute to a young child's knowledge about 'words and numbers'. Early childhood educators will also be able to refer to these materials to assist in effectively incorporating home experiences in their education programs.

The initial draft of materials is currently being revised by project team members before final production in March 1997. The complete package will be distributed in late May 1997 to coincide with *Under Eights Week* and will be available for loan from key early childhood, health and community centres. After the initial distribution, packages will be available for sale to interested organisations or individuals.

If you would like more details on either the project or the availability of the completed package, please contact Belinda Macartney, Project Officer (07) 3235 4726. □