

Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

FIRST ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

20 January 2012

Commonwealth and State and Territory Ministers today released the first Annual Report for the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014*.

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010–2014* was developed by the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs and commits all governments in Australia to a unified approach to *Closing the Gap* in education outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

“The Plan reflects commitments by federal, State and Territory governments to introduce substantial structural and innovative reforms in early childhood education and schooling for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders,” Chair of the Ministerial Council, the Hon. Dr. Elizabeth Constable MLA said.

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan* outlines 55 key actions at national, systemic and local levels, across six key areas including:

- Readiness for school;
- Engagement and connections;
- Attendance;
- Literacy and numeracy;
- Leadership, quality teaching and workforce development; and
- Pathways to real post-school options.

“The release of the first Annual Report delivers on the commitment by the Ministerial Council to report publicly on the actions and targets of the plan. Information contained in the report will be used by education Ministers to inform ongoing efforts in education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students,” Minister Constable said.

This report reflects that the implementation of actions under the plan commenced in 2010. Patterns, trends and best practice will become evident in subsequent years of reporting.

The Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers have agreed through the Council of Australian Governments to achieve six significant targets designed to close the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, which include:

- Halving the gap in reading writing and numeracy by 2018; and
- Halving the gap in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates by 2020.

“Access to quality education is something we want for all children and closing the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students is an absolute priority for all governments,” Minister Constable said.

The first Annual Report for the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014* can be found online at www.mceecdya.edu.au

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