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MEDIA RELEASE

2012 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

The Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) today released the 2012 Annual Report for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014.

“The Action Plan demonstrates a strong and united commitment by governments in Australia to *Closing the Gap* in education outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students,” the Chair of SCSEEC, Minister Piccoli, said.

The Annual Report for the 2012 school year highlights the contributions of all states and territories and the Australian Government in implementing 55 key actions in the Action Plan under six domains: readiness for school; engagement and connections; attendance; literacy and numeracy; leadership, quality teaching and workforce development; and pathways to real post-school options.

These actions are designed to assist in achieving Council of Australian Governments targets, including halving the gap in reading, writing and numeracy by 2018, and halving the gap in Year 12 (or equivalent) attainment rates by 2020.

Examples of specific initiatives highlighted in the Annual Report include:

- providing universal access to four-year olds in remote communities
- engaging parents and carers in early learning activities including dual generational play groups, parent workshops, books in homes, parent coaching and transition to preschool programs
- supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander attendance through Education Support Officers
- analysing data and applying English as an Additional Language or Dialect pedagogies to enhance literacy and numeracy outcomes
- supporting development of staff cultural competency
- providing access to school-based, accredited training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

“The 2012 Annual Report reflects the collective efforts of government and non-government education providers across Australia who are committed to driving real and sustained improvements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people,” Minister Piccoli said.

The 2012 Annual Report can be found online at www.scseec.edu.au.

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