

## Welcome

With NAIDOC Week 2009 (July 5-12) fast approaching and Brisbane serving as host city, there is anticipation in the air as Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff work towards statewide celebrations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, cultures and achievements.

The Division of Indigenous Education and Training Futures (DIETF) is hosting a statewide departmental celebration via video-conference on Wednesday, July 8, from Education House, Brisbane and at locations such as Thursday Island, Townsville, Cairns, Roma and Cherbourg.

The event will feature contributions from Elders and young people, in keeping with this year's NAIDOC theme of *Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth*.

Next week is State Education Week, which culminates with the *Creative Generation State Schools Onstage* concert at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre on June 6. DIETF is proud to sponsor the Indigenous aspects of the concert that encompass a dance sequence with Far North Queensland students (see story page 2) and William Barton on didgeridoo.

Thank you for your continuing support.

**Terry Kearney, Assistant Director-General**

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## STATEWIDE NEWS

### Celebrate NAIDOC statewide July 8

Minister for Education and Training Geoff Wilson, DET Acting Director-General Julie Grantham, Elders, community leaders and staff across Queensland will join together for a statewide video-conference to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2009 on July 8 from 10.30am.

Schools, TAFEs and work units across the state are encouraged to host their own event at the same time at TAFE venues, which can be video-conferenced to the Department's Mary Street, Brisbane, headquarters.

The department also is hosting interactive displays at the state's largest NAIDOC Week celebration, the Musgrave Park Family Fun Day on July 10, and other events around the state.

A calendar of Indigenous cultural events is being collated, including NAIDOC Week for placement on the DET website and schools, TAFEs and other organisations are invited to register their event.

For more information on the video-conference, NAIDOC Week celebrations around Queensland, the calendar or to download artwork or other resources, visit the Department's [website](#) or email: [Indigenous@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:Indigenous@deta.qld.gov.au) or tel. 07 3237 1350.

### Queenslander wins poster competition

Luke Mallie, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artist from Mackay, has won the prestigious National NAIDOC Week Poster Competition from among a record 140 entries.

Mr Mallie's artwork entitled *Carrying On Our Culture* is created from acrylic, water colour and ink on paper.

The painting reflects the 2009 NAIDOC Week theme of *Honouring Our Elders, Nurturing Our Youth* with an image representing Indigenous elders teaching the young to carry on the culture as they grow into adults.

Mr Mallie is of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. His mother, Annie, is from the Kuku Yalanji Nation, which covers the Mossman/Daintree area north of Cairns; and his father, Aaron, is from Kubin on Moa Island in the Torres Strait. Luke is the youngest of seven children.

Mr Mallie grew up in Brisbane, but after completing a BA of Visual Art (majoring in painting) at the Queensland College of Art, he moved to Mackay where he now lives and works. He has worked as a graphic designer, web developer, and TAFE lecturer. He also paints commissioned artwork for small and large businesses, local schools, government organisations, and private buyers.

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Over 100,000 posters of the artwork will be distributed around the country to promote NAIDOC Week celebrations.

The NAIDOC poster has a long history going back to 1972 when the first poster was created to promote what was then known as Aborigine Day.

The posters represent a historical record of past and present issues affecting Indigenous peoples in Australia and Mr Mallie's artwork has now taken its place in this prestigious gallery.

For more information on NAIDOC Week, and to see Luke Mallie's winning artwork or order posters, visit [www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au)

### Indigenous art opens state's big concert

North Queensland artist and TAFE student Julieanne Fisher's painting *Hunting for bush food* is brought to life by more than 50 students from Far North Queensland schools in the opening sequence of the *Creative Generation - State Schools OnStage* concert at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre on June 6.

The young dancers have been rehearsing over the past month in Cairns and Weipa with leading Queensland artist Gail Mabo, choreographer Jason Jia and ex-Sydney Dance Company member Chris Sheriff.

"Working with these talented and enthusiastic students has been a wonderful opportunity to share the culture and history of Queensland," Ms Mabo said. She credits her passion for dance and pride in her culture to her father, land rights activist Eddie Mabo.

Ms Fisher said her art was inspired by childhood experiences: "When I was small, being raised in an Aboriginal community, there was often no money, so my family would go out hunting and fishing for food. This painting is based on some of the traditional food we caught when we went fishing".

Ms Fisher was born in Stanthorpe and raised on Woorabinda Aboriginal reserve west of Rockhampton. She is a descendant of the Jetimarral tribe, whose traditional lands stretch from Maryborough to Rockhampton.

A contemporary artist, she is a Diploma of Visual Art student at Tropical North Queensland TAFE. Her artwork is inspired by life experiences or nature. When she was young, she did not want to be an Aboriginal artist, but now that she is older, she finds it hard not to pick up a brush and paint anything that might make an interesting story.

Celebrating the state's 150th birthday, *Creative Generation - State Schools Onstage 2009* features students from across the state including 29 vocalists who worked with vocal coaches and professional artists leading up to the show.

The fifth annual *Creative Generation - State Schools Onstage* also featured leading Queensland performers including:

- Australia's leading didgeridoo performer William Barton
- Australian country music legend and 2008 Australian of the Year Lee Kernaghan
- Queensland pop sensation Ricki-Lee
- Aria award winning band Operator Please
- So You Think You Can Dance 2008 winner Jack Chambers
- 2008 Australian Idol finalist Chrislyn Hamilton
- Internationally acclaimed tenor David Kidd
- Leading Queensland jazz singer Ingrid James
- Australia's Got Talent 2009 runner up Jal Joshua Lebumfacil
- Performers from Zen Zen Zo, Flip Side Circus and Raw Dance Company
- Queensland's leading session singer Renae Suttie
- Queensland leading baritone singer Sean Brown.

More than 2500 performers celebrate the Q150 theme of *our people, our places and our stories*, with a symphony orchestra and stage band, massed choir and dancers.

Tickets for shows at 1.30pm and 7pm are available at Ticketek outlets, by phoning 132 849 or at [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au).

For more information, visit [www.creativegeneration.qld.gov.au](http://www.creativegeneration.qld.gov.au)

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### Bright Sparks at NAIDOC and beyond

Adding to the excitement at the Department's display at Musgrave Park Family Fun Day on July 10 will be the Bright Sparks booth, a venture of the Department's Year of Creativity.

Visitors to the DET marquee will be able to be filmed being creative and send a special postcard postage free.

The Bright Sparks booth continues to tour Queensland with stops at Gladstone City Library (June 1-17, book on 4976 6400), Gympie Regional Library (June 22-27, 5481 0859), Dunwich Community Hall (July 8, 3829 8305); Victoria Point Library (July 9; 3829 8305); Sunnybank Hills Library (July 14, 3407 0571), Nerang Library (July 21, 5581 6706), Logan Hyperdome Library (July 27, 3412 4163), Ipswich Library (Aug 21, 3810 6767), Brisbane Writers Festival (Sept 9-11, no bookings required).

For more information on [Bright Sparks](http://yearofcreativity.deta.qld.gov.au/bright-sparks.html) visit: <http://yearofcreativity.deta.qld.gov.au/bright-sparks.html>

### Success stories in the spotlight in Cairns

Best practice, innovative strategies and clever solutions will be in the spotlight at the Queensland Indigenous Education Conference hosted by the department's North Queensland region in Cairns on June 22-23.

The conference theme of *Cradle to Employment-Closing the Gap* will be explored in sessions featuring schools that are changing the way education is delivered for Indigenous students.

Terry Kearney, who heads the Division of Indigenous Education and Training Futures, is delivering the opening keynote address.

Presentations will come from:

. Western Cape College, which has applied the Cradle to Employment initiative since 2006 to change education delivery and significantly improve outcomes, in partnership with parents and communities.

. Tagai State College, under the banner *Navigating Yumi to a Successful Future*, depicts a journey of high expectations, quality education delivery and innovation by Indigenous educators for Indigenous children.

. Cairns West State School in Cairns city, which has more than 70 per cent Indigenous enrolment has adopted the Academic Success Guarantee and in partnership with parents commits to a 'whatever it takes' approach to individually case-manage students to ensure they meet targets.

Kuranda District State College's Djabugay Dance Group's Bama Dayal troupe will showcase their talent at the conference.

Experts will conduct in-depth sessions:

- Dr Peter Grootenboer from Griffith University will guide delegates through the latest in mathematics research and implications for Indigenous learners.
- Francis Murray from the Northern Territory, a recognised authority on English as a second language and literacy applications.
- Laurel Downey from James Cook University discusses the latest in neurobiological research and brain development and learning consequences.

For more information or to register for the Queensland Indigenous Education Conference please email [Ellenah.Pothin@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:Ellenah.Pothin@deta.qld.gov.au) or tel. 07 4046 5221.

### Record Year 12 retention helps close gap

Josh Mallet, a first-year education undergraduate at the University of the Sunshine Coast, was one of a record number of Indigenous students enrolled in Year 12 in Queensland in 2008.

The Deception Bay State High School graduate was one of 1840 Indigenous students enrolled in Queensland schools in Year 12 last year, a 92 per cent increase from 960 in 1999, according to recent Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

Assistant Director-General Indigenous Education and Training Futures Terry Kearney said the increase was the result of focused Indigenous education strategies and the Queensland Government's commitment to closing the gap in outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

"Partners for Success has been the major policy framework informing Indigenous education in Queensland since 2000, targeting improved outcomes in attendance, retention, achievement and workforce capacity," Mr Kearney said.

"These strategies identified the need to raise the standard for senior schooling and take on post-schooling pathways."

There are almost 39,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Queensland state schools, or about eight per cent of all state school students. One-fifth of Indigenous state school students live in remote areas, 24 per cent in rural areas and 56 per cent in urban communities.

Josh Mallet was one of 57 Indigenous students at Deception Bay State High School last year, at the state average of eight per cent of the 714-strong student population.

"We had an Indigenous Support Officer who Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students could go to for one-on-one support, someone who believed in our ability to achieve," Josh said.

Mr Kearney said new approaches reaping results included the extension of service commitments, originally put in place for Year 12 students in the Torres Strait and Cape York, to all year levels in schools across the Far North Queensland region.

"Some 129 Far North Queensland state schools and work units are implementing a service commitment that is transforming the way state education is delivered in the region," he said.

"The service commitment is a vision of high expectations for all students that commits the school to every student completing senior

schooling to achieve an OP and enter university, or progress to VET or be in paid employment.

"In Mount Isa, the Spinifex State College, with its residential facility, has opened greater access to Year 12 schooling.

"We are also partnering with Noel Pearson and the Cape York Institute, are involved in the educational elements of the Welfare Reform trial being run at Mossman Gorge, Aurukun, Hope Vale and Coen and working closely with Dr Chris Sarra's Indigenous Education Leadership Institute to develop Indigenous leaders."

Mr Kearney said Education Queensland teachers were embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into all aspects of schooling and Indigenous Schooling Support Units were delivering professional development and support programs.

### QATSIF scholarships target QEC

The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) is offering two-year scholarship funding to Queensland secondary schools to support their efforts to attract and retain Indigenous students starting Year 11 in 2010.

QATSIF chairperson Dr Cindy Shannon said the Foundation's first initiative was designed to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieving their Queensland Certificate of Education (Queensland's new senior schooling qualification).

"Secondary schools with a track record of supporting Indigenous students and enhancing awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history have had the opportunity to apply for the Foundation's funding to build on the hard work they have already done," Professor Shannon said.

"We want to invest in the future of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and believe that partnering with successful educational bodies is the best way to start our work.

“We are pleased to have the support of all three educational sectors: State, Catholic and Independent as well as the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee on this important initiative.”

The Foundation was established in November 2008 as an independent public foundation which serves Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by providing a secure funding source for bursaries and scholarships.

For more information visit: [www.deta.qld.gov.au/indigenous](http://www.deta.qld.gov.au/indigenous) or tel. 07 3237 1035.

### Snapshot of children to improve lives

Between May and July this year, schools around Australia are taking part in the nation-wide Australian Early Development Index (AEDI).

The AEDI looks at how young children are developing in the years before they begin school. As part of the AEDI, schools around Australia will be collecting information on children in their first year of school, which in Queensland is Prep.

The findings will give communities a snapshot of young children’s development that will help them to understand how their children are developing and where improvements can be made to give children the best start in life.

The index will involve teachers completing an online ‘checklist’ – a survey or questionnaire – for every child in their class.

A project looking at the relevance and sensitivity to the needs of Indigenous children is being conducted by the Centre for Developmental Health and the Kulunga Indigenous Research network at Perth’s Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

For national rollout, the AEDI has been adapted for Indigenous children after consultation with Indigenous cultural consultants and Indigenous educators and stakeholders across metropolitan,

rural and remote sites to ensure the AEDI checklist is culturally inclusive and appropriate for use with Indigenous children.

One of the key adaptations is that if the teacher of an Indigenous child is not of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent themselves, it is recommended the teacher completes the checklist for the child collaboratively with an Indigenous staff member. Additional information for schools is on Page 4 in the AEDI Guide for Schools.

Summary results of the AEDI checklists will be available for communities based on whole groups of children in a way that means no-one will be able to identify individual children.

For more information on the AEDI and I-AEDI go to [www.aedi.org.au](http://www.aedi.org.au) or contact Queensland AEDI Coordinator [Kathy Treichel](mailto:Kathy.Treichel@det.qld.gov.au) on tel. 07 3237 0838.

### Banking traineeships close July 31

Young Indigenous people with an interest in banking are invited to apply for traineeships with ANZ Bank.

The Aboriginal Employment Strategy, an Aboriginal not-for-profit organisation committed to building career-path thinking among young Indigenous people, has placed more than 4000 Indigenous Australians in employment in the past 11 years, according to *The Weekend Australian* (25 October 2008).

ANZ has recruited more than 200 Indigenous trainees in its branches around Australia since 2003 and is one of the organisations working with AES.

Indigenous students currently completing Year 10 are invited to submit an expression of interest for the school-based traineeships. The traineeships start in December and run for the duration of Years 11 and 12 as students complete a Certificate II qualification in Business or Financial Services.

*Expressions of interest for school-based traineeships at ANZ close July 31, 2009. Applications for full-time traineeships are open all year.*

For further information visit:  
<http://www.aboriginalemploymentstrategy.com.au/Home.aspx?element=1&category=1> or  
[www.anz.com/indigenousemployment](http://www.anz.com/indigenousemployment)

### Lighthouse Grants build collaborations

More than 40 applications were received from schools, training and arts organisations for grants of up to \$25,000 in the second round of Indigenous Lighthouse Grants that closed in May.

The grants aim to benefit Indigenous Queenslanders by building collaborations across the education and training sectors.

Last year 11 grants were allocated including \$20,000 for the Queensland Theatre Company to provide Murgon and Townsville Indigenous students with drama training.

Through the Indigenous Drama and Development project, students at Murgon and Kirwan State High schools will participate in workshops with experienced theatre performers.

The workshops will develop their drama skills and increase confidence, improve communication skills and empower young Indigenous people to present their own culture in their own way.

Their teachers will also gain valuable professional development in drama.

A grant of \$5950 was provided for Bundaberg North State High School Indigenous students to develop a bush tucker garden and a two-day cultural event in collaboration with local Elders and artists.

Through the Celebrating Indigenous Culture Project, Indigenous students are establishing a long-term bush tucker garden that can be used by the Indigenous culture group, SOSE and science classes.

They are also working with Gurang Gurang elder Burnie Johnson, Eileen Monroe from the Jinjinburra Corporation, artist Arthur Conlon and didgeridoo player Adrian Ross to develop and present a two-day cultural event that also will involve all of the school's Year 8 students.

Maroon State School received \$2720 for students to produce a book of local Indigenous stories in collaboration with a local storyteller and artist.

Through the Indigenous Book Development project, all 15 students at the small rural school from Prep to Year 7 worked with Indigenous Elder George Curry to write and illustrate stories using Aboriginal words wherever possible.

The project helped to retain local cultural knowledge, teach Indigenous language, embed Indigenous perspectives in the school and build community links.

A total of \$180,000 is available for Indigenous Lighthouse grants each year for three years from 2008.

The projects strengthen partnerships, build positive relationships among diverse cultural groups and are open to all Queenslanders.

Indigenous Lighthouse Grants reflect the Government's commitment to closing the gap in outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders in education, employment and training.

They also support the Queensland Government's *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* ambition for world-class education and training.

For more information visit:  
[www.deta.qld.gov.au/indigenous/lighthouse](http://www.deta.qld.gov.au/indigenous/lighthouse)

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## REGIONAL NEWS

### Tagai TAFE signals fresh approach

Thursday Island TAFE campus has been renamed Tagai TAFE under a new collaborative arrangement with Tagai State College.

The campus is jointly administered by Tagai and Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE (TNQIT) to offer students from Tagai secondary campus and adult students a wider choice of vocational education and training.

TNQIT director Jo Pyne said the name change signalled a fresh approach to vocational education and training in the Torres Strait.

"This is an exciting time for TAFE in the region as we work with Tagai to deliver vocational education and training which meets the needs and interests of the Torres Strait in terms of skills and

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employment development for island communities,” Ms Pyne said.

Tagai State College principal Don Anderson said the new arrangement was a key part of the strategy to improve synergies and linkages between education and training in the Torres Strait region.

“By bringing Tagai and TAFE closer together we can offer students more options for education, training and employment,” Mr Anderson said.

“A seamless approach to the delivery of education and training in the Torres Strait will improve outcomes consistent with education and training reforms throughout Queensland.”

Tagai TAFE is led by Head of Campus Craig Whittred, who has taught in the Torres Strait for 14 years, with student support manager Regina Turner and business development manager Alex Woodcock.

Tagai TAFE offers courses from Certificate 1 to Diploma level across 11 industries including business, tourism, carpentry and marine.

For more information visit: [deta.qld.gov.au/tagai](http://deta.qld.gov.au/tagai)

### Roadmap to country delivers skills

[Road Map to Country](#) is a pilot project to develop a training program to support small business development in the Indigenous communities of Doomadgee and Kubin, on the island of Moa.

The project, nearing completion after almost 18 months, focuses on building capacity in the communities’ tourism and outdoor recreation industries and develops resources to help stakeholders implement the project in other community settings.

The project has the support of Service Skills Australia, a not-for-profit, independent organisation that is one of 11 industry skills councils funded by the Australian Government to support skills development.

Outcomes are expected to include the identification and development skill sets that lead to Certificate III qualifications and the development of a flexible approach to the delivery of training to ensure the needs of the communities are met, as well as strong engagement with the communities in the use of a range of delivery modes, including mentoring, skills transfer and recognition of prior learning.

Roadmap to Country also aims to deliver the production and promotion of a step-by-step, best practice process for developing Indigenous programs in vocational education and training.

For more information visit: [http://www.serviceskills.com.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=822&Itemid=2118](http://www.serviceskills.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=822&Itemid=2118)

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Qld students star on national TV quiz

Students from 30 south-east Queensland schools are featured in the first 100 episodes of a new Indigenous children’s game show, *Letterbox*, airing from June 1 nationally on [NITV](#).

The program, produced by Brisbane-based Indigenous production house Carbon Media, highlights the importance of literacy and numeracy and IT skills. Local Elders feature in traditional language segments.

For more information visit: [nitv.org.au](http://nitv.org.au)

### Indigenous uni students engage more

Indigenous Australian university students reported slightly higher levels of participation in active and work integrated learning, greater interactions with staff and considerably higher early departure intentions compared to non-Indigenous students, a recent survey found.

A representative sample of more than 25,000 students from 29 Australian and New Zealand universities participated in the latest cycle of the Australasian Survey of Student Engagement

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(AUSSE), conducted in 2008 by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). The survey included 1408 Indigenous students (4.8 per cent).

Other findings included:

- . Indigenous Australians reported higher interaction with staff (26.4 per cent) compared with non-Indigenous students (22 per cent)
- . Being Indigenous had little influence on participation in extracurricular activities
- . Students with grades between 50 and 60 appeared considerably more likely to consider departing than others – 11.5 per cent for first year students and 12.2 for later-year students. Certain groups of students were over-represented in this category, however, including Australian Indigenous students (20.1 per cent).

See the full report at [http://www.acer.edu.au/documents/AUSSE\\_2008-StudentEngagementReport.pdf](http://www.acer.edu.au/documents/AUSSE_2008-StudentEngagementReport.pdf) (91 pages).

## IN BRIEF

### Former Origin Greats (FOGS) Indigenous Employment and Career Expos

June 10 - Rockhampton Showgrounds  
 July 29 – Cairns Entertainment Centre  
 August 12 – Mackay Entertainment Centre  
 September 9 – Mount Isa Civic Centre  
 October 7 – Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

Indigenous job seekers and students have the opportunity to connect with Queensland's most prominent employers and education and training organisations and meet former rugby league State of Origin stars at five locations in 2009.

For more information visit: [www.fogs.com.au](http://www.fogs.com.au) or tel. 07 3331 5715 or email: [admin@fogs.com.au](mailto:admin@fogs.com.au)

#### We welcome your contributions

This newsletter is published by the Division of Indigenous Education and Training Futures in the Department of Education and Training. Please send contributions to the [editor](mailto:carmel.carrick@deta.qld.gov.au): [carmel.carrick@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:carmel.carrick@deta.qld.gov.au) or visit [www.deta.qld.gov.au/indigenous](http://www.deta.qld.gov.au/indigenous)