

NESA Commitment to Aboriginal Education

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) is committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal communities and supporting teachers, schools and schooling sectors to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people. Our vision is that collaboration across all sectors and government departments will deliver both continual growth in attainment levels of Aboriginal students and greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges, histories and cultures for all students.

In articulating this goal, our starting point is our NESA Charter and the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy* vision that “all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people achieve their full learning potential, are empowered to shape their own futures, and are supported to embrace their culture and identity as Australia’s First Nations Peoples”.

In developing and implementing specific initiatives, NESA is guided by the following key principles:

Recognition: NESA recognises Australia’s First Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land and the centrality of the land for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. NESA also recognises the importance of Aboriginal Peoples having a strong and clear role in determining and developing educational policies, including actions and strategies to support Aboriginal students’ engagement and achievement.

Respect: NESA respects Australia’s First Peoples as custodians of humanity’s oldest living cultures, which remain strong and vibrant sources of inspiration, identity and meaning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and which enrich Australian society.

Engagement and collaboration: NESA develops and maintains trusting relationships with local communities and stakeholders, working in partnership with the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (NSW AECG Inc.), the peak body for Aboriginal education and training, to ensure a genuine Aboriginal voice is heard and that policies, including actions and strategies to support Aboriginal Peoples are developed in a respectful and collaborative way.

Strength-based approach: NESA believes that with relationships involving high expectations and support, and high quality teaching and authentic learning experiences, every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and young person can develop their talents, fulfill their potential, achieve excellence and contribute with integrity to improving Australia’s future.

Accountability: NESA, schools, sectors, partnering agencies, communities, and other stakeholders need to be willing to be held accountable for their efforts and contribution to the achievement of improved outcomes.

Reciprocity: NESA will seek to ensure that engagements between agencies and communities are reciprocal in terms of demand, action and benefit.

Planning: NESA’s commitment to these principles will be reflected in a systematic and practical way through NESA’s Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021 and related initiatives.

The NSW AECG Inc. commits to supporting and working closely with NESA on this journey.

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Chairperson, NESA



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