



Partners in Indigenous Education



A Policy for Queensland Anglican Schools

The Indigenous art on the cover of this brochure and replicated on the Aboriginal message sticks has been designed by the Queensland Anglican Schools System's Indigenous Education Officer and noted artist, Maxine Zealey. Maxine comes from the Goreng Goreng people of the Bundaberg area and is a direct descendent of Lexie Dublin (Granny Clarke) and Lena Horton. Married with four children, three grandchildren, Aaron John, Jai Cowan and Nikkari Lee.



The focal point of both the painting and the Anglican Schools' Indigenous Education Policy is the Cross. The wavy lines of the four arms of the Cross signify the waters and streams referred to in Amos 5:24, "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

These streams are flowing from the large white centre circle, which represents both the throne of God and the Aboriginal ceremonial circle. Surrounding this circle are small figures and many dots representing people from all cultures united with a common goal - the vision of reconciliation becoming a reality through the Grace of God. Radiating from behind the Cross are rays of light, symbolising the coming of the Light to the Torres Strait Islander people.

The background of the painting is a deep green colour representing the richness of the land. Blue is used to depict the waters surrounding the Torres Strait Islands and Australia. The cream border with yellow oxide dots signifies the continuous journey of the Indigenous Education Policy, and its implementation to achieve the objectives outlined in this document. The yellow oxide dots also represent the sand, and the cream line signifies the froth at the waters' edge, where the water meets the land.

The brown circles and crescents represent the Council of Elders coming together. The four kneeling figures on either side of the Cross signify the four bearers of the Christian Gospel message. All of these elements combine to illustrate the development of an integrated education system that promotes Indigenous culture and spirituality for the benefit of future generations.

In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribal communities, message sticks are used to relay information and invitations from one group to another.

Made from traditional timber, Black Wattle, these message sticks convey an invitation for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the Anglican Church to work in partnership in achieving the aims of the Indigenous Education Policy.



“...For all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

Galations 3:28



A Message from the Archbishop

This policy document is grounded in Holy Scripture, which is foundational to our Anglican tradition and the Ethos Statement for Anglican Schools¹.

Queensland Anglican schools are committed to achieving outstanding standards of education for young Queenslanders. The rich traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history, and spirituality are an integral part of this commitment.

In forging a partnership between Anglican colleges and schools and Indigenous communities, we offer our children the best of both worlds. We draw together the Anglican Church's long-held reputation for excellence and the holistic learning processes passed on from generation to generation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

The Indigenous Education Policy is designed to enhance educational opportunities for Indigenous students and to encourage all people to learn about different cultures, building partnerships with, and respect for, each other.

School Councils, staff, parents and students of all Anglican schools are asked to embrace authentic partnerships and reflect these in the whole curriculum [encompassing the curriculum, co- and extra-curriculum, and the hidden curriculum].

The vision can become a reality through the Grace of God as we create a brighter future for all Australians in the new millennium.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Brisbane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Archbishop of Brisbane

¹*An Ethos Statement for Anglican Schools in the Province of Queensland [1996]*

Indigenous Education Policy Statement

All Anglican schools, regardless of the number of Indigenous students enrolled, are asked to embrace authentic partnerships in Indigenous education by:

1. implementing staff training and development focussing on cultural awareness in terms of curriculum, teaching strategies and effective cross-cultural communication;
2. developing, through strategic plans, curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs that are inclusive and reflective of our stated beliefs. Consultation and collaboration with Indigenous students, parents and community groups are essential to this process and suggested strategies include ...
 - constructing social, emotional and physical environments which create a sense of welcome and inclusion;
 - forming an Indigenous Education Committee;
 - involving Indigenous people in the educational decision making process;
 - inviting Indigenous students to lead worship in keeping with their culture;
 - acknowledging and participating in cultural festivals;
 - inviting Elders to be story-tellers;
 - developing units in Religious Education which promote an understanding of Indigenous spirituality and its relation to Christian faith;
 - designing specific support structures for new and continuing Indigenous students and their families;
 - developing policies and protocols for responding to racist behaviours;
 - promoting opportunities for our Indigenous students and their families to get together with those from other Anglican and neighbouring schools; and
 - developing a data base of local Indigenous history, tribes and cultural practices.
3. ensuring governing bodies are exposed to and educated in issues affecting Indigenous people;
4. providing opportunities for parents to learn more about those issues affecting Indigenous people;
5. supporting an Anglican "Foundation" to increase Indigenous student access to schools;
6. encouraging the employment of Indigenous staff; and
7. increasing the retention rate of Indigenous students at Year 10 and then to the completion of Year 12.

Beliefs

This policy is based on the following beliefs, which are firmly founded in the teachings of the Scriptures:

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them. *Genesis 1:27*

The Lord our God, the Lord is the one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength ... and your neighbour as yourself. *Mark 12:29-31*

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, all rejoice together with it. *1 Corinthians 12:26*

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. *2 Corinthians 5:18*

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. *James 2:17*

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness" who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 4:6*

There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. *Galatians 3:28*

Building on this foundation, Queensland Anglican schools are fully committed to the belief that truth, knowledge and justice will break through the barriers constructed on misinformation and ignorance. We assert that the cultures, histories and traditions of all people must be respected.

*"But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream"*

Amos 5:24

Vision

Our schools will be the “light bearers” of these beliefs. We enfold all of our students equally and are united in our commitment to reconciliation between all people and with God.

Through this **Partners in Indigenous Education** policy, our vision is to create an environment where Indigenous students are empowered to achieve their full potential, confidently pursuing future education and employment opportunities.

To achieve this vision, we have developed an integrated and inclusive approach to learning, where all cultures are valued and respected. Our curriculum is enhanced by enthusiastic involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, students and community leaders. We invite Indigenous parents to participate in all aspects of school life.

Above all, we encourage our teachers and students to share their beliefs and demonstrate a willingness to learn from the experience of others.

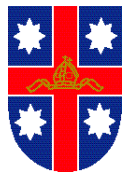


“To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace”

Luke 1:79



Partners in Indigenous Education is a policy initiative of the Queensland Anglican Schools System.



For further information regarding opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, contact the Anglican Schools Office on telephone 07 3839 0882 or facsimile 07 3839 0879.

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